

# The Church in the World

## “Nonnegotiables”

### At the Heart of WOC

- ❖ *Being A Redeeming Place*
- ❖ *Creativity & Innovation*
- ❖ *Extending the Kingdom*
- ❖ *Loving Our Neighbor*
- ❖ *Experiencing God*

## I. Components of a Redeeming Church

### A. A Personal God

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

### B. Grace

John 1:16-17 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22:21 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

Romans 10:4 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

### Results of Grace . . .

1. Grace does not diminish holiness, it extends holiness
2. Grace extends value to all people
3. Grace acknowledges God as our judge
4. Grace will motivate us to holy living
5. Grace exposes self-righteousness, rebellion, and legalism

### C. Our Place “in Christ”

Galatians 3:29 (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> If you **belong to Christ**, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 5:24 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Those who **belong to Christ Jesus** have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephes. 1:7 (NIV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

## II. Creativity & Innovation

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

John 9:32 (NASB)

<sup>32</sup> "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

## III. Extending the Kingdom of God

Matthew 16:19 (NIV)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 23:13 (NIV)

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

### A. Sacrifice

Acts 14:22

strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

### B. Significance

Luke 7:28

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

### C. Service

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Church in the earth. I pray for my brothers and sisters who are suffering for their faith. Send your angels to watch over them. Awaken me to the opportunities I have to be an advocate for Jesus. Grant me boldness to make a difference, the wisdom to respond with your grace and the courage to not turn back. Help me to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he directs and leads. Through all I do may Jesus' name be lifted up and your people strengthened, amen.