

Shoulder to Shoulder
Bible Study
Lesson 6

The Power of Priorities

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church
We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



Book: *Shoulder to Shoulder: Strengthening Your Church
by Supporting Your Pastor*

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You have seen the priorities of The Mount Zion Church since early this year. The intentionality we have had around this vision we have as a church continues to be the central focus of our church. As with any organization, we can either “Be about it” or simply “Talk about it”, and the true test of whether we are “Being about it” comes in the doing of these 4 aspects of our 2021 directives. The church you belong to, The Mount Zion Church has 4 and only 4 Priorities we are following, but these fall under 5 Key Priorities that all Christian churches must embody to effectively do what Christ calls us to do.



I. Leadership

You have been called to leadership. The Mt. Zion Church is a structure whereby we follow Christ as our head, follow our pastor as the physical leader, and then accept leadership roles under the directive of our pastor. In addition, Christ has called each of us to be leaders in the various places where we reside.



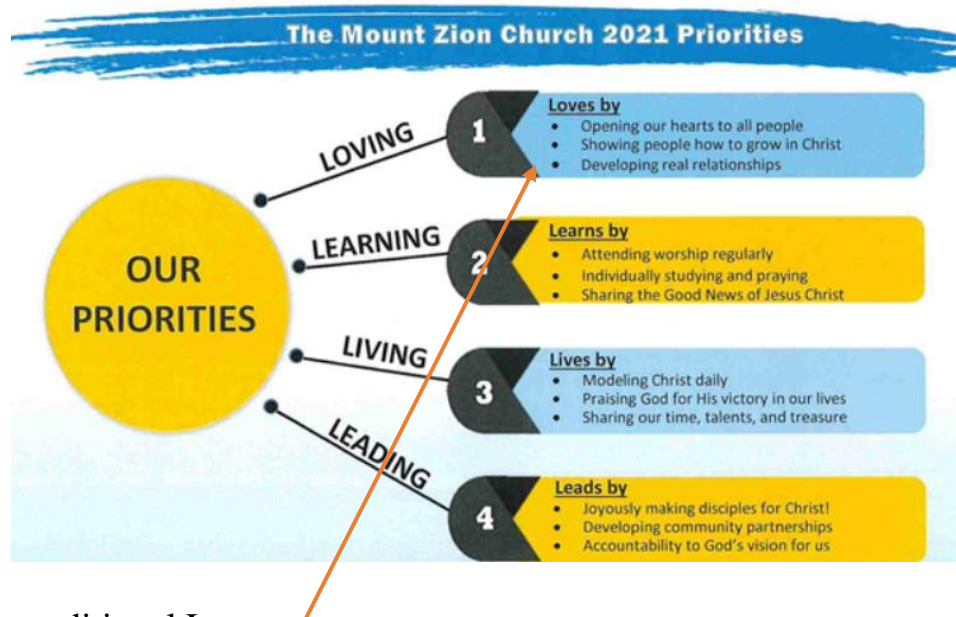
Key Understanding: Leadership is not about title. Rather, it requires followers. Leadership in Christ really means **influence**. Are you influencing people for Christ? This is the simple question of your leadership. If you are not influencing people for Christ then you are under-utilizing your spiritual gifts. All spiritual gifts give opportunity to influence people to hear about Christ.

1. How do you use your gifts to share Christ with others?
2. Who are you using your gifts to influence right now?

Advanced level question: Of the people you are influencing, how many of them do not know Jesus as savior or are disconnected from the church?

As a church, the Leadership Priority indicates that we will joyously make disciples for Christ. Are you leading in this area?

- A. You can be taught how to do this!
- B. You can be a teacher of others in this area as well!



II. Unconditional Love

Priority # 2 teaches us that we must have unconditional love. This is shown through our relationship to God. See 1 John 4:7-11 and Matthew 22:37-39.



Key Understanding: The Mt. Zion Church is founded on the understanding that everyone is welcome to our church. We do not care the person's background or issues. We are open to all people. This is the basis of love. Yet, true love does not leave people broken or outside of the will of God. Our love of all begins with open door and proceeds to helping everyone understand their place in Christ. This means that we help disciple (make them learners) people so they can progressively become more like Christ. Over time, this will be expressed in changed attitudes, changed behaviors, and changed habits.

Love also is expressed in the ways we love ourselves. We must also be disciples (learners) who are growing in Christ. As we grow, we begin to embody Christ. This is shown in how we treat ourselves and how we think about ourselves.

1. When was the last time you took an inventory about how you treat yourself?
 - a. Do you see yourself as Christ sees you?
 - b. Do you treat your body the way Christ would want you to treat it?
 - c. Do you develop your mind the way Christ would have you develop it?
 - d. How can you love you better?



IIA. First-Time Guests



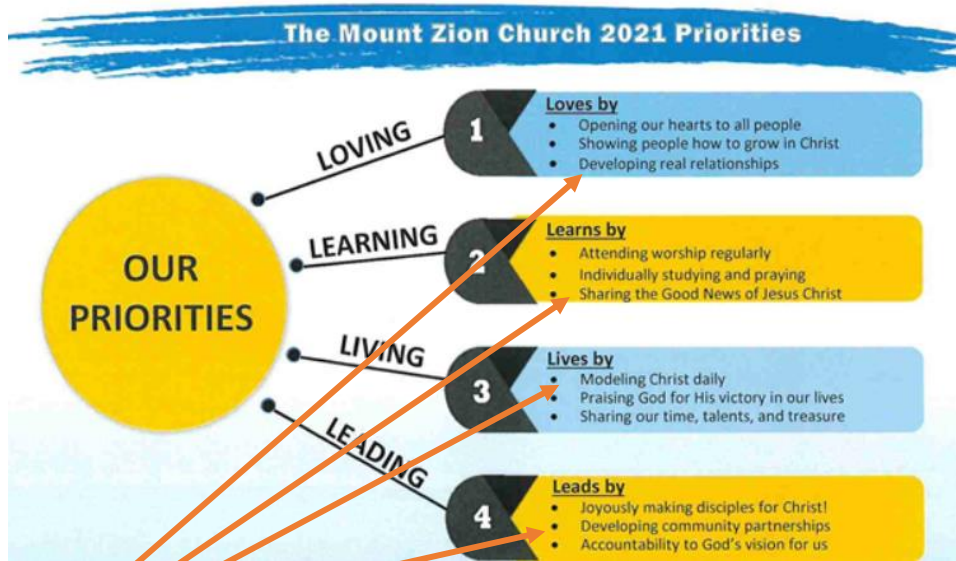
Key Understanding: The Mt. Zion Church does not just love others. We have a focus for the way we treat first-time guests. The goal is to have first-time guests.

When was the last time you invited someone to your church? (Be honest)!

- If you are not inviting people to your own church, where you are fed, where you praise God, and grow why not? **THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SUGGESTS SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE. EITHER YOUR CHURCH NEEDS TO CHANGE OR YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR VIEW AND ATTITUDE ABOUT YOUR CHURCH!**

How can we treat first-time guests better?

- What do great hotels do?
- What do great restaurants do?
- What is the vibe of great service industry institutions?
- How do the people act in these places?
 - Welcoming vs. overbearing
- Chick fil-a attitude about customer service!



IV. Evangelism



Key Understanding: **EVANGELISM** is **EASY!** The reason you think evangelism is hard is simply because it is a big word. The etymology (word origin) of the word evangelism based on the way we use it today, comes from Medieval Latin “evangelismus” which means to spread the good news. While it is always related to the good news of Jesus Christ, let’s take all the difficulty out of it by first focusing on the action versus the definition.

The action of spreading good news!

Choose one good thing happening in your life and write it down here:

Now, tell your neighbor or share with the group the good thing happening in your life. Take 1 minute.



Key Understanding: You have now just shared good news. Good meaning something that is positive. News literally means a new thing that is happening. It is a plural form of the word new when used as a noun. What is new? Or These things are new. And we shorten it to say, here are the new things or here's the news. That is why the "news" are a group of new things that have happened since the last time you read the paper, listened to the radio, or watched the TV. Thus, good news is simply the group of new, good things that have happened to you!

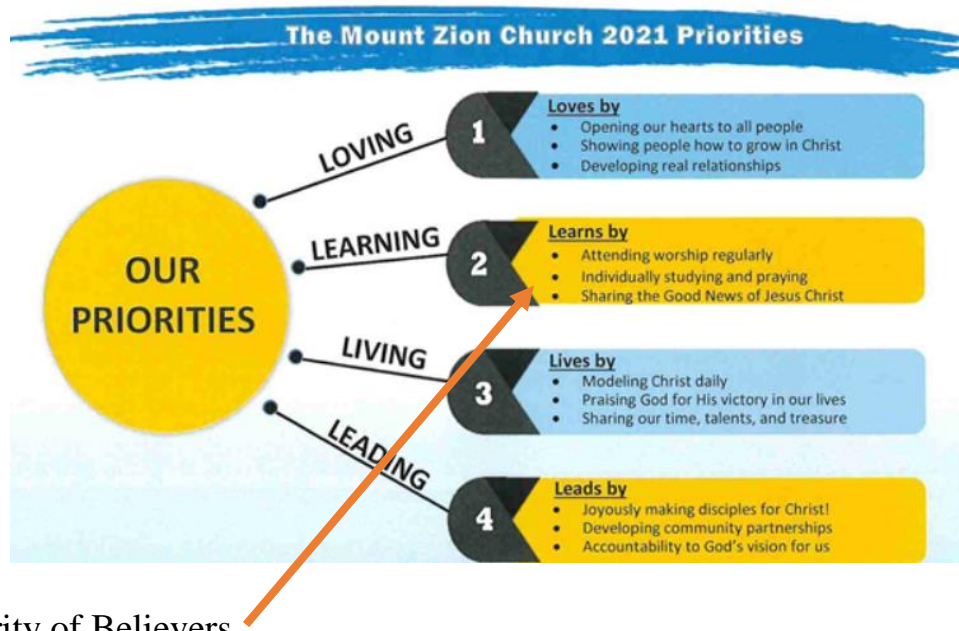


BIG QUESTION: What good news do you have that you can share about Jesus working in your life? Don't you dare give a churchy answer! None of that "he woke me up and started me on my way"....

Where can you share the good news?

1. Elevator, Restaurant, Grocery store, etc.—For example, ask the person in the elevator how they are doing and they will ask you the same. When you answer, give them a 20 second sermon.
 - A. My day is going, give them the real answer.
 - B. Follow it up with and I am praying that it gets better or have prayed that it gets better.
 - C. If you have a long elevator ride, ask their name, and tell them you are going to pray for them and do it in 5 seconds.
 - D. Get off the elevator and wish them a good day.
 - E. The next time you see them, ask them how things are going.
 - F. Ask if they have a church or know Jesus.
 - G. Invite them to The Mount or to view us online.

This is true evangelism...



V. Maturity of Believers

See Hebrews 5: 12-14

By this time....



Key Understanding: You will never consistently do a thing until you commit to consistently doing that thing. As it relates to your spiritual growth, you cannot grow if you are not spending time reading and studying the word of God daily.

1. Do you have a set time to read, study, and pray? When is it? 15 minutes a day.
2. Do you have an accountability partner? Who is it? Have one conversation a week.
3. Do you have a topic to study? What is it?
4. Extra Credit: What is the theme of the scriptures our church is reading this week? It is your church. Shouldn't you know?

PROCESS



METHOD YOU CAN USE!

This takes 10 minutes.

JUMP Method

J-just read the passage (1-2 minutes)

U-understand the passage by writing down whatever stood out to you (2 minutes)

M-Write down the message that God is giving you and what should you now do?
(3 minutes)

P-pray over your understanding and any other concerns you have for the day (2-3 minutes)

Closing thought: If you embrace these 5 priorities, how can they help your church to become what Christ has designed for us to become?
