



Eden
Baptist Church

purpose statement



THE **PURPOSE STATEMENT** OF EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Introduction

Authentic believers live to exalt the splendor of God's majesty by experiencing their deepest pleasure in Him. This relationship is graciously initiated by God at the moment of a believer's divine re-birth and is progressively experienced in this life through the believer's submissive and active fulfillment of God's will on earth (1 Cor 10:31).

The model for this life-purpose is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the divine and quintessential pattern for authentic humanity (Eph 5:1; John 14:8-10; Col 2:9). Since the foundational purpose of His earthly life was to bring glory to God by joyfully fulfilling His will (John 17:4; Ps 40:8; Heb 12:2), this quest defines the supreme human ambition.

It must be maintained that obedience unto the glorification of God is not accomplished by slavish acts of duty, but by finding our supreme joy in the person of God and the new life which He graciously provides. Neither is such obedience a subjective matter in which we merely respond to our better instincts and noblest emotions. Rather, the fulfillment of God's will necessitates a joyful and active submission to the divinely inspired Scriptures which reveal the content of that will (John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21).

For this reason, EBC is founded upon the inspired truth of God's written Word. The Scriptures are not an ornamental feature attached as an addendum to our teaching and programs. Neither is God's Word treated as applicable only to formal discussions of theology. Rather, the doctrines of Scripture serve as the controlling center of all that we undertake and of all to which we aspire as a local fellowship of the redeemed.

While there is more than one way to legitimately summarize the purpose of a God-magnifying church, the words of Christ in Matthew 22:36-40 are deemed particularly appropriate. Summarizing the moral essence of God's will as revealed in the law and the prophets which He came to fulfill, Jesus proclaimed that we are to love God with all our being and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Love for our fellow man takes on unique expression depending upon the relationship of that man to Christ. We relate to the believer as a fellow-participant in eternal life. We relate to the lost as one in desperate need of eternal life.

It must be emphasized that the active love of God and man is humanly impossible apart from the effectual power of God. This indispensable, divine enabling of the believer is effected through the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit who progressively produces Christ-like righteousness in the experience of the believer who is yielded to Him (Rom 6-8; Gal 2:20; 5:22-24).

In light of these considerations, it is not our ultimate purpose to succeed financially or grow numerically. It is certainly not our purpose to merely entertain, create popular programs, or cater to the expectations of church "shoppers."

The mission of EBC is to magnify the splendor of God in the joyful fulfillment of His will on earth in union with Jesus Christ by pursuing:

- *a growing intimacy with God,*
- *the loving service of one another, and*
- *the faithful evangelization of the lost.*

A Growing Intimacy With God

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your understanding” – Matt 22:37

Through Prayer

To continually progress in our communion and fellowship with God through prayer in the name of Jesus (John 14:13-14; 16:24)

To experience an ongoing attitude of prayer as well as routine and spontaneous seasons of prayer (Dan 6:10; Matt 6:9-13; Luke 6:12; Eph 6:18; 1 Thess 3:9-10; 5:17-18)

To nurture a balanced prayer life involving praise, thanksgiving, intercession, petition, and confession (Ps 18:1-3; Dan 2:17-23; Matt 6:9-13; 2 Cor 12:8; Eph 1:15-19; Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:18; 1 John 1:9)

Through Worship

To lead a life of spontaneous worship which flows from finding our deepest personal joy in God (Ps 34:1-3,8; 36:7-9)

To express our adoration for the person and work of God in song and through the spoken word, in private and family devotion and in the assembly of the redeemed (1 Chr 16:8-36; Ps 5:7; 95:6; 98:4-6; 145:4-7; Col 3:16)

To demonstrate our love, gratitude and devotion to God through sacrificial giving to the purposes of His cause through us (Deut 8:10-20; Ezra 1:1-11; Prov 3:9; Mal 3:8; 2 Cor 8-9; Jas 1:27)

Through the Word

To experience progressive, sanctifying transformation into the likeness of Christ by means of obedience to Holy Spirit illumined study, meditation and memorization of God’s Word (Acts 17:11; Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; 63:6; 119:11,15-16,97,148; Jas 1:22-25)

To learn the truth of God and to submit to the exhortations based upon that truth in the public reading, teaching and preaching of God’s Word (1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:2)

The Loving Service of One Another

“Love your neighbor as yourself” – Matt 22:39

Through Prayer

To petition God for one another’s spiritual stability and progress and for one another’s physical needs (Acts 12:5; Eph 3:14-19; Phil 1:9-11; Col 1:9-12; Jas 5:14-15)

To encourage one another by means of the dynamic of community prayer (Acts 1:14; 4:24ff; 16:25; 20:36)

Through Defense of the Faith

To expose false teaching as an affront to the glory of God, as a threat to the spiritual well being of God’s people, and as a test of their devotion to the Lord (Deut 13:1-4; Gal 1:6-9; Jude 3)

To warn believers against the erosive effects of false teaching and to call them to uncompromising faithfulness to the truth (Acts 20:27-31; 2 John 9-11; Rev 2:14-16)

To promote spiritual discernment among God’s people unto the detection of false doctrine and love of true wisdom (Eph 4:13-14; 1 John 4:1)

To avoid an unequal yoking together with those who promote false doctrine (2 Cor 6:14; Rev 2:20-24)

Through Promotion of Unity

To endeavor to maintain the spiritual unity of our common life in Christ through the promotion of peace and the avoidance of hostility (Matt 5:9; 18:15, 21-22; Rom 14:19; 1 Cor 1:10; Eph 4:1-3, 32)

To avoid the self-promoting, ego-centric passions of the flesh, humbly deferring to one another's interests and meekly promoting one another's honor (John 13:1-17; Acts 20:24; Rom 12:10; Eph 4:1,2; Phil 2:1-11)

Through Compassion

To minister the comfort of Christ to those who grieve or suffer (Rom 12:15; 1 Pet 3:8)

To meet the legitimate needs of those unable to provide a particular necessity of life for themselves (2 Cor 8; Jas 2:15-17)

To lift up and encourage the spiritually weak (Rom 15:1-2; 1 Cor 8:9-13; Gal 6:1-2; 1 Thess 5:14)

Through Corporate Edification

To encourage one another by means of faithful and consistent participation in the assembly (Heb 10:24-25)

To honor the God-ordained pattern of authentic male and female responsibilities within the assembly (1 Tim 2:8-14; 3:15)

To submit to spiritual training with a view to active participation in the church's function as a healthy body through diversity of effort in accordance with divine giftedness (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:12-31)

To promote one another's spiritual well-being by means of admonition, exhortation, encouragement and spiritual songs (Rom 14:19; 15:1-3,14b; Col 3:16; 1 Thess 5:14; 2 Thess 3:14-15; Heb 3:13)

To exercise biblical church discipline seeking the restoration of the erring believer—by means of repentance and forgiveness—to full fellowship in the assembly (Gal 6:1-2; 2 Tim 2:25-26; 2 Thess 3:14-15)

To nurture God-honoring families who enjoy the fruits of Spirit-filled living in accordance with God-ordained relational patterns (Gen 2:18-25; Deut 6:6-7; Eph 5:21-32; 1 Pet 3:1-7)

To honor the godly leadership of the assembly (Gal 6:6-8; 1 Thess 5:12-13; 1 Tim 4:12; Titus 1:9; 2:15; Heb 13:17)

The Evangelization of the Lost

“ . . . make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them . . . teaching them to keep all the things I commanded you . . . ” – Matt 28:19-20

Through Prayer

To pray earnestly for the world-wide progress of the gospel (Matt 24:14; Rom 1:5,16; 15:20; 1 Tim 2:1-2)

To petition the Lord of the harvest to send evangelists among all the world's people-groups, particularly those who remain unreached (Matt 9:37-38)

To petition God for the success of the gospel through the ministry of specific evangelists (Col 4:2-4)

Through Support

To encourage, commission, and support the evangelistic efforts of members from within our assembly (Acts 13:1-3; 14:21-28)

To render aid to specific evangelists who serve throughout the world and to promote within the assembly an intimate knowledge of their needs, progress and successes in the gospel ministry (Phil 1:3-5; 4:3,15-18; 3 John 5-10)

To pursue a war-time austerity which seeks to optimize the use of human resources unto the furtherance of the gospel (Acts 20:33-35; 2 Cor 8:1-5; 11:23-27)

Through Proclamation

To live above reproach in winsome purity before the lost so as to model the wonder of saving faith in Christ (Matt 5:16; 1 Cor 9:22-23; 2 Cor 6:3-10; Col 4:6; 1 Pet 3:1-4,15-16)

To pursue a life-style which is intentionally evangelistic—consistently nurturing ties with unbelievers so as to gain opportunities to proclaim the gospel (1 Cor 9:19-22; 1 Pet 2:12)

To enter open doors of opportunity by skillfully, fearlessly, humbly, and accurately proclaiming the salvation message to the lost in the power of the Spirit (Acts 2:38,41; 4:29; 8:25; 20:22-24; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 2:12-13; 16:8,9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3-6; 2 Tim 1:8; Phil 6; 1 Pet 3:15)

To preserve the purity and integrity of the gospel, allowing no false teaching or misrepresentation to taint the message either in its private or public presentation, whether through direct statement or inference (2 Cor 4:1-2; Gal 1:6-9; Phil 1:27)

To encourage new believers to identify with Christ in baptism, to grow in discipleship, and to fellowship with the body of Christ (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; 1 Cor 11:23-32)