

## Flipping mission and ministry.

Often, we talk about mission as if it is a mystic thing. A thing done by very spiritual people or specially gifted people. Let's be realistic, mission takes special focus and commitment.

Ministry on the other hand seems to be quite achievable. Usually locally based, it falls within our perceived spiritual gifting and it's not as life changing.

I want to do some flipping about here. It all comes from this cross of words behind us.

## Ministry and mission. (Photo of back wall)

I mucked about with the concept of the cross a bit. You could say mission without ministry falls flat, or you don't have any hanging space if you just do ministry.

What has been impressed on us over the last month by firstly Tim and Lindy then Open Doors then A21, then by Cameron from Baptist world aid is that, alongside what was said by the speakers we heard from Revive, and get this carefully,

## Our ministry is needed for others to do their mission.

What we predominantly do through our missions budget is provide (and thus minister) for others to do mission.

And boy are we good at doing it. We give 10% of our offerings, we support a couple of kids through Kids Church, we give each year to Baptist World Aid gift appeal, we send people on school short term missions, and a bucket load of people support various mission organisations and more kids, just look up the back at our kid support map.

## (Photo of Map from notice board)

In essence, we have made our mission to minister by our gifting these organisations and people with resources. **A great mission, a Great ministry.**

So what's the flip. Well if we are to show logic here. Our mission is quite often actually ministry, the mission is our ministry. Sometimes yes.

Let's see,  
kids church is as much a mission field as anywhere, those kids need Jesus,  
Scripture likewise and sometimes more so,  
play group, yep mission,  
youth group,  
men's women's ministries. Yep.  
The list goes on.

## Big thing here –

**You can't divorce God's ministry from God's mission.**

Right at the outset of mission month we heard Tim and Lindy mention

## Matthew 28:19-20

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Question: What is the main point of the passage.

**For many years we have emphasized the Go.**

In the Greek, I think **The emphasis is actually on the make disciples.**

Is disciple making a ministry or part of mission, is teaching mission or ministry, is baptising ministry or mission?

**To totally compartmentalise these things is impossible.**

**To prioritise them is equally impossible.**

Look at another popular passage.

**Acts 1:8**

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

A question here, what is the point of the two statements?

1. **You will receive power.**
2. **Be my witnesses.**

We often get caught up with the where but linking the two verses is primarily saying:

**You will have the power you need to witness for Jesus.**

The where aspect, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and all the ends of the earth are the explanation of how to. The main point is you can be witnesses with God's power.

**Location isn't as important as we think.**

One thing as we go back to Matt 28:19.

There is a logical use of Greek Rhetorical structure here. (The accepted writing format of the time) And when I have read contemporary scholars translate this from Ancient Greek it comes out as:

**"As you go" make disciple of all peoples,**

In Greek Rhetorical structure your big point is usually first and the explanation follows.

We do it backwards, our big points are at the end. I think with the Greek era we are talking about if the first point wasn't a ripper they didn't listen. Best bit first.

Then there is progression, it instructs us how to.

**Baptise them = bring them into the church**

**Teach them = give the information to live by.**

Then the closer – the encouragement.

**Remind them I am with them like I am with you.**

We see this pattern all through the New Testament.

**Big point, How to do it and encouragement.**

What we call mission or ministry are just part of the process, they are part of the same sharing of Jesus.

**Mission and ministry is all together in one package.**

So I want to keep flipping things.

Another passage quoted this time by one of the Revive speakers.

**Colossians 3:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I did a bit of work on this from my greek New Testament.  
I translated it this way.

Which thing you may be doing, either word or work, do it with Jesus character expressing gratitude to God the Father through Jesus.

MM, how would you say it? Take it home and write it in your own words. What does this verse say to me. Actually, we've been opening up our use of our phones on Sunday night. So if you want, rewrite it and send it to me.

Homework!!!!

Rewrite Colossians 3:17 in your own words.

And end it to:

[revjohn@bathurstbaptist.org.au](mailto:revjohn@bathurstbaptist.org.au)

Mission and Ministry are not to be compartmentalized, neither is church and life.

It is all part of God's process.

Let's continue to minister to those doing mission

And

Let's do mission as we minister.