



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH h u n t s v i l l e

Cultivating a Missions Mindset

Conviction 5: Salvation is secured by faith alone in Jesus as the crucified and resurrected Lord.

God's love for sinners was preeminently displayed in the sending of His Son to die in the place of sinners. Jesus came in the flesh as the fulfillment of Old Testament Messianic promises. This Messiah was to come through the lineage of Abraham (Gen 12:1–3), from the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:8–12), a son of David (2 Sam 7:13), through a virgin birth in the city of Bethlehem (Is 9:1–7; Mic 5:1–15; 7:7–13). He was foreseen by the prophets, confirmed by the apostles, and vindicated by the Father (Matt 3:17; Rom 1:2–6; Heb 1:1–3; 1 Pet 1:3–12). The substitutionary death of Christ and His subsequent resurrection prove the appeasement of God's wrath against sinners who exercise repentant faith in Christ (Lk 24:47; Jn 3:16; Rom 3:27–28; 4:1–25; 10:9–13). People are saved by faith alone in the crucified and resurrected Christ, not by any meritorious work they do that no person should boast before God (1 Cor 1:18–31; Eph 2:8–9).

Conviction 6: Faith in Christ's saving work requires hearing and believing the gospel.

In Romans 10, Paul expresses his longing for the salvation of Israelites. The Apostle explains Christ has fulfilled the demands of the Law and all who believe in Him will be made righteous (Rom 10:4). Paul then speaks to the universal scope of salvation, stating that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Rom 10:13). He then asks a series of rhetorical questions, elucidating the necessity for people to hear the gospel by the mouths of approved messengers: "How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher . . . faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom 10:14, 17). Consequently, it is necessary to assess, equip, send, and sustain missionaries to teach the gospel, so people can respond in repentant faith (Ac 4:12).

Conviction 7: People must repent of their sins, submitting their lives to God.

God demands repentance from sin and submission to Him in obedient faith. Among the first words of Jesus' earthly ministry was a proclamation of repentance: "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matt 4:17). Among Jesus' final words to His disciples was a charge to preach repentance: "and [Jesus] said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem'" (Lk 24:46-47).

Conviction 8: Christ has commissioned His church to participate in His redemptive plan.

God has charged His church with the responsibility and privilege to assist in carrying out His sovereign plan of salvation. The church's primary mission is set forth in the Gospels (Matt 28:16-20; Mk 13:10; 14:9; Lk 22:44-49; Jn 20:21) and confirmed in the book of Acts (Ac 1:8; 8; 14). The foundation for the commission is Jesus' own authority. The content of the commission is for disciples to be made of all nations by going, baptizing, and teaching converts to obey all Christ commanded. The church's mission requires evangelism and education, and both are to be valued, promoted, and exercised with equal significance. The church will accomplish its mission by prayerfully mobilizing its resources and equipping its people to advance the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.