

Who Is Life Song Church? Part 4

Four-Fold Passion of LSC

A passion creates direction and purpose. It compels us to act. It inspires us knowing we have a common goal.

1. Commitments for Christ 2. Creating a God-honoring culture 3. Living the Power of Life Changing Music 4. Reaching the Young and the Young at Heart

Last week we explained why we use the term “Commitments for Christ” instead of “salvations” or a similar term. Jesus is not only our Savior, but also our Lord. Jesus wants our entire heart, not only a portion. If we love Him with our entire heart, soul and mind, we will commit to Him our life and obey Him as Lord.

Matt 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**." 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

2. Creating a God-Honoring Culture

I use to think the most important aspect of creating a God-honoring culture was to embrace His righteousness. Now I believe righteousness is a part, but not the most important part. The most important aspect is to love God and love people. We could be the most righteous person on the planet, but if we do not have love, we have nothing.

“We love people right where they are at.” We trust in the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and change. We can’t change someone, but we can love them with God’s unconditional love and grace believing for salvation of their soul.

1 Cor 13:1-3 *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

Rom 5:3-5 *And not only that, but we also glory in **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Tribulation: Greek, Strong’s # 2347 *thlipsis* (thlip-sis); pressure, stress, crushing, and squashing. The word is used of crushing grapes or olives in a press. Thlipsis is like spiritual bench-pressing because as the world presses in against us with great pressure trying to crush us, we press back! When we are in Jesus, we have the strength to push back. Trials, temptations, and tests are words very similar to tribulation. Tribulation is our spiritual exercise to develop our spiritual endurance and the character of Christ.

A God-honoring culture is developing the character of Christ in us so we can walk in His unconditional-sacrificial love.

Love Strong’s # 26, *agape* (*ag-ah-pay*); an unconditional love that gives of itself without asking anything in return. This is a love of choice and will, not by feelings, chance and emotions. It is a commitment. This is the love God has for us and has been poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. A person can not fall in and out of agape love, as he can with phileo. It is very difficult for God’s agape love to flow through us if we have a **hardened heart**.

Mark 8:17-19 *But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? **Is your heart still hardened?** 18 Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember? A hardened heart will greatly hinder our understanding and how we see things.*

Ps 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.* “Try me” means to test someone through trials and tribulation.

Eph 1:15-23 Paul prays a powerful prayer for spiritual wisdom. We see and understand through the **eyes of our heart**. *18 the eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

Prov 4:20-23 *My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 **For they are life** to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. 23 **Keep your heart** with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*
"Teaching Answers for Life!" LSC Vision.

Perhaps the #1 thing that destroys relationships and hardens our heart is an **offense**.

Offended Strong's #4625 and 4624, *skandalizo* (skan-dal-id-zoe), a snare or stumbling block in the way which hinders right conduct or thought. The noun to which it is related referred to the bait-stick of a trap used to catch animals. It also means to cause to error or sin, to entrap, to entice to sin.

Offended; to hurt somebody's feelings, or cause resentment, irritation, anger or displeasure. Encarta Dictionary

Luke 17:1-5 *Then He said to the disciples, "**It is impossible that no offenses should come**, but woe to him through whom they do come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. 3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."*

Forgiving #5483 *charizomai* (khar-id-zahm-ahee) to do a favor, show kindness unconditionally, give freely, grant forgiveness, forgive freely. The word has the same root as *charis*, "grace." Col 3:13

Matt 6:14-15 *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice to extend God's grace to those around us, because His love and grace is in us. We don't forgive someone because they deserve it, or even because they ask. We forgive out of a grateful heart, because He has forgiven us.

Remember; **unforgiveness** will wreak havoc our life, keeping us in bondage and bitterness.

This is a God-honoring Culture:

Col 3:12-16 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 **But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.** 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Phil 1:9-11 *And this I pray, that your **love may abound** still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and **without offense** till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the **fruits of righteousness** which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Do you have unforgiveness in your heart? Are you offended or hurt by someone? Have you become critical of others? Has your heart become hardened? Are you harboring unforgiveness in your heart? Are you mad at God?

The altar is open and I pray we all listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Bring your burden to the altar of God and He will restore your heart.