



# WHAT DRIVES US?

## THE MISSION OF LIVE WITH PURPOSE CHURCH

Week #1

### “EMBRACING A CULTURE OF HONOR”

– Pastor Ryan Lapp

#### So, why are we taking the time to talk about our Drivers?

The reason is simple. How can we expect to pull together as a team (as a family) if we don't really understand where we are trying to go, or what we are trying to do, or why we are trying to go there or do that! :)

**Amos 3:3** makes it easy to picture when he asks...

*“Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?”*

*A wise person I know said it this way recently...*

*“It's hard to link hands if we haven't linked hearts.”*

- Understanding What Drives Us helps us to link hearts, so we can link hands

*Essentially, our Core Drivers help to keep us focused as we move forward together.*

\*Here is an important side-note to remember...

- The root of every church's mission statement, vision statement, or Core Drivers **MUST** be the reaching the lost and making disciples who obey Jesus' commands.
- Everything we do should come out of a heart to see those who are not living in relationship with Jesus enter into relationship with Him.
- Everything we do should lead people towards a transformed life in Christ!

\*\*According to Jesus, every one of His followers should be following His mission statement of “go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”

- That's Matthew 28:19-20, for anyone taking notes...

So ultimately these mandates are at the root of our Core Drivers here at Live With Purpose Church, as we all work together to help each other be faithful servants of Christ

- What to do if you have questions about our Core Drivers?



## TODAY WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON DRIVER #1

### "Embracing a Culture of Honor"

"It's hard to link hands if we haven't linked hearts."

- What does it mean to say that we are Embracing a Culture of Honor?
- What does it look like to live, work, & enjoy life together within a Culture of Honor?

*Let's look first to Scripture...*

**Read - Romans 12:3-10**

**Read: Romans 14:1-8**

- Embracing a Culture of Honor means that we don't live for ourselves or even die for ourselves, but we live and die to honor the Lord!
- Essentially (and you might want to make a note of this right here...) we all need to go from "Me" to "We"
- Embracing a Culture of Honor means that we think less about what's best for "me" and think a little more about what "we" need
- One practical example of this can be seen in a healthy marriage, though you could also see this in a healthy team, or a positive work environment...
- In a healthy relationships, everyone is working for the greater good, and many times sacrificing some things that would be "best for me"
- When we Embrace a Culture of Honor, we care about each other, and "take delight in honoring each other"
- That means we encourage each other in word and deed!
- That means we build each other up with our words!
- That means we prioritize "we" over "me" sometimes!
- So the opposite of Embracing a Culture of Honor is when someone decides that "me" is more important than "we"
- Whenever someone decides that their needs, their goals, and their callings are more important than the needs and goals and calling of the family, team, or business, they have stopped Embracing a Culture of Honor, and are prioritizing themselves above everyone else

*Now, I want to be clear about one thing as I wrap this up...*

Embracing a Culture of Honor, and a spirit of unity, in no way means that we support a watered-down, self-serving interpretation of Scripture!

It also does not mean that we accept every wind of doctrine that comes along.

And it does not imply that we agree with allowing the things the Bible defines as sin to continue operating in people's lives!

At Live With Purpose Church we intend to be, and contend to remain:

- Bible-based
- Holy Spirit-led
- Purpose-driven

*And we will be and do those things within an environment where we are Embracing a Culture of Honor*

**Read: 1 Corinthians 12:18-31**

From – Pastor Danny Silk of Bethel Church in Reading, CA:

1. We don't need to cut off body parts in order to be

- The only time that actually makes sense is if there is a disease or a cancer that would eventually kill the entire body.
  - It's easier to cut people off (who hurt us, or disagree with us)
  - It's more difficult to be disciplined through the differences, to look for the best in people, and to walk together toward wholeness and unity.
2. Most people run away (from hard things).
  3. Most people won't face the maturity required (to work together in spite of differences of opinion).
  4. Honor asks for forgiveness when there is offense, and honor extends forgiveness.
  5. Fear causes us to want to control others instead of getting involved in the healing and restoration process with others.
  6. Imposed boundaries are healthy, and help teach us to set our own personal boundaries.
  7. Honor requires high levels of love, trust, and respect. And these things must be mutual.



Week #2

## “ENCOURAGING FAITH IN ACTION”

- Pastor Joe Sharp

### Video/Audio

<https://www.livewithpurposechurch.org/media/sermon/what-drives-us-the-mission-of-live-with-purpose-church-encouraging-faith-in-action/>

### Introduction / Setup:

- **The key word I want to focus on today is “ENCOURAGING” as we look at driver #2**
- We desire as a ministry to see the true greatness God created you for to be birthed through our union!
- Talk about the goal in this series it to help us all “go deeper in our understanding of each driver and how to put it into practice”. **It is a part of going deeper with God and one another in 2018 church!**

**PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION: Talk about “Child Jumping into Pool”**

**Point 3** - *Your next steps are filled with divine purpose if you'll trust God fully and step forward. He made you for a unique reason at this time in history for a reason!*

- Your next steps allow us to see into Heaven and gain wisdom on how He wants us to invest into you and the steps He is directing you to take (This is at the core of our ministry DNA and is unique)
- Nothing is more encouraging to us as Pastors than to see you step out of the boat, trusting God fully, faithing your way through fear and taking your next steps as the Holy Spirit directs you...
- **Bible Story – Read – 2 Sam. 23:11-12** – (Amazing Story of One Believer’s Faith in Action)

**Point 1** - *I believe the Holy Spirit wants to encourage us today to “encourage one another” to take action upon our faith!*

- We have seen this begun more in 2018 & want to continue to encourage you to build relationships as led with one another, discuss your Kingdom dreams, pray for each other & encourage them into action!
- We challenge you to spend time with each other and going deeper into prayer for one another.

**Point 2** - *The Holy Spirit is also inviting us today to realize more deeply that our faith is truly ignited by action!*

- Greatness in our lives always starts with a first step! Don't be overwhelmed with the finish line – each step is a part of the journey forward
- Our faith in action allows the Holy Spirit to bring forward beauty through our lives that align with our Heavenly Father's divine purposes for our unique lives (why he made us!)
- Practical idea on taking action – Begin with spending time before you go to bed each night asking God to give you dreams of who He has called/made you to be.
- Today's Core Scriptures –. (Read – **James 2:14 NLT and AMP**, then from read **James 2:14-26 NLT**)

• **Personal stories / testimony: (Agree with God for what is possible church!)**

1. Trusting God going beyond 2 kids, now I see His divine purpose in warrior princess.
2. Sharing heart about KC Park and making pledges as a family and my companies without any guarantee of financing because of faith, do different than planting church, KC, Conestoga



Week #3

## “EMPOWERING DISCIPLE MAKERS”

- Pastor Ryan Lapp

### Video/Audio

<https://www.livewithpurposechurch.org/media/sermon/what-drives-us-part-3-empowering-disciple-makers/>

### Empowering Disciple-Makers

- You cannot be something if you do not know what you are trying to be.
- You cannot make something if you do not know what you are trying to make.
- **How do you know if you are really living like a disciple of Jesus?**
- **How do you know if you have really made a disciple of Jesus?**

My goal for today is that all of us leave with a clearer picture of what a Disciple is, so we can be effective, empowered “Disciple-Makers”.

- Let’s start off with “WHAT IS A DISCIPLE”?

First, let’s look at what Jesus asked His disciples to do, then we will look at the dictionary definition as well.

Read: Matthew 4:18-22 NLT

- So we see here that Jesus is calling us to do what?
  - \*Answer: “follow Him”

Now here is another variant of the same concept.

Jesus is sending His disciples somewhere, and there are people who have other ideas about what following Him looks like...

Read: Matthew 8:18-22 NLT

- **You see**, Jesus isn’t promising you that everything in your life will be perfect when you follow Him!
- **And here’ something else to make note of:**  
You don’t get to follow Jesus on your own terms!

\*\*Some of you may be asking, “What do you mean by that Pastor Ryan?”

Let’s take a look at the dictionary definition of Disciple for some insights...

**Definition of Disciple - from Merriam-Webster**

1: one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another

a: a convinced adherent of a school or individual

Another dictionary defines “disciple” as a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.

So a disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus.

*By definition then, in order to truly follow Jesus, to become a disciple, a person must: (please write this down) (note paper is on the table)*





- **First** accept the teachings and commands of Jesus. *\*This is revelation, the awareness of sin in a person's life. This is blind eyes being opened by Jesus!\**
- **Then** be convinced that the teachings and commands of Jesus are true, and that He IS the son of God, the Messiah. *\*This is where true repentance, salvation, and transformation begins, as a person dies to themselves and takes up their cross to follow Jesus! Baptism is a symbol of the new life they are stepping into with Jesus in the lead.\**
- **Then** begin to apply the conviction of the truth of Jesus' teachings and commands in daily life. *\*This is where old habits and patterns start to change. This is where old ways of thinking and talking are molded and shaped and changed into a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come!\**
- **Then** assist in spreading the truth about the teachings and commands of Jesus to others as they go about their daily life. *\*This is the final stage of the transformation, where multiplication occurs, because you now have something that you WANT to share with others! You want everyone to experience for themselves this life of true freedom that you are living.\**



*\*Essentially it boils down to this: Accept - Apply - Assist*

To dig a little deeper into what a disciple of Jesus is like, let's look at Scripture again...

**Read: Matthew 9:37-38**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS A WORKER IN THE HARVEST FIELDS

**Read: Matthew 10:1**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS ACTS & SPEAKS WITH THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS, AND THE HUMILITY OF KNOWING THAT THEY CAN DO NOTHING APART FROM HIM

**Read: Matthew 14:19-20**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS DISTRIBUTES WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED, BUT ALSO HELPS GATHER THE LEFTOVERS. THEY ARE ALWAYS DISTRIBUTING AND GATHERING.

**Read: Matthew 14:33**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS WORSHIPS HIM AS THE TRUE SON OF GOD

**Read: Matthew 15:12**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS ASKS HIM QUESTIONS
- SIDE NOTE: *Sometimes even disciples of Jesus can feel offended. Sometimes being a disciple of Jesus means that the people you want to be accepted by don't accept you anymore...*

**Read: Matthew 16:13-16**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS KNOWS WHO JESUS IS, AND ISN'T SWAYED BY THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS

**Read: Matthew 16:24-25**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS GIVES UP THEIR OWN WAY, IN ORDER TO FOLLOW JESUS

**Read: Matthew 19:23-26**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS ASTOUNDED BY THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS, AND GETS TO BE A WITNESS TO GOD MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE

- Listen: *If the teachings of Jesus aren't blowing your mind anymore, if you aren't astounded by the things Jesus has commanded us to do, then maybe your walk with Him has become a little too safe. Maybe you have reduced what it means to be a disciple of Jesus to a form or level that is comfortable for you...*

**Read: Matthew 21:1-7**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS DOES AS JESUS HAS COMMANDED

**Read: Matthew 28:18-20**

- A DISCIPLE OF JESUS "GOES", "BAPTIZES", AND "TEACHES" (MAKES DISCIPLES)

**I did a tiny bit of research on Monarch Butterflies (because I like the picture of the transformation of a person's life, that a butterfly represents so beautifully, and this is what I found...**

1. A typical adult Monarch will live about 4 weeks as an adult (meaning it can reproduce and lay eggs)
2. A typical adult Monarch can lay at least 27 eggs each day
3. Doing the math: (even being conservative, and assuming the Monarch takes some "rest days" each week, and only lays eggs 5 out of 7 days)
  - 4 weeks means 20 days of eggs, at 27 eggs per day, for a grand total of 540 eggs laid in the lifetime of 1 Monarch Butterfly



## *\*The point of this little study is...*

Once you reach the “disciple” stage of your walk with Jesus, you begin to “assist” in spreading the Good News about Him, and to reproduce by leading other people to Jesus!

But maybe some of us are feeling like “I’m not ready to make disciples yet. I’m not perfect. And I’m certainly not qualified to lead anyone to Jesus.”

- I get that. I really do.

**But you can’t always wait to get started doing something until you become an expert at it. You educate yourself, YES, but at some point you have to just start trying with the knowledge you have, and do your best.**

(I am using the physical example of the Monarch to make a spiritual connection here, so stay with me)...

- The monarch goes through a growth and transformation process BEFORE it starts trying to reproduce.
- Once the monarch emerges from that growth & transformation process, it does not worry about whether it is “ready” to reproduce or not, it just gets on with it. Literally. LOL
- **We have a lot of people here who would like to be parents some day, or who are either new parents or experiencing the new dynamics of adding another child to their family.**
- **When you are becoming a parent for the first time, or adding to your family, you don’t really know what it’s going to be like.**
- **There is NO WAY TO GET EXPERIENCE outside of just going for it!**
- **You can’t get a degree in procreating or parenting, it’s just real-world experience.**
- **Yes, it can be scary. Yes, it can be messy. Yes, it can be frustrating.**
- **Yes, you will feel like a failure many times. But you will do your best, and you will learn from your mistakes!**
- Don’t wait to start making disciples until you determine you are ready!

*Listen... There is one big difference between you and a Monarch (well, among the MANY differences...) and that is*

- After reproducing, the monarch leaves it’s offspring to fend for themselves.
- When we MAKE DISCIPLES of Jesus, we shouldn’t move on immediately and leave them to fend for themselves! You wouldn’t do that with your actual children, right?

*In order to truly be a disciple-maker, you have to be committed to walking with someone, and sharing your life with them, just like Jesus did with His disciples...*

And that is exactly what we want to be about here at Live With Purpose Church. Walking together. Sharing our lives. Spreading the Gospel of Jesus.

## **SO I NEED TO ASK YOU ALL A SERIOUS QUESTION BEFORE WE LEAVE TODAY...**

- After hearing the definition of a disciple of Jesus (one who ACCEPTS His teachings, APPLIES His truth, and ASSISTS in spreading all of this to others), can you truly say that you are living as a disciple today?
- **If you can’t, I’m going to challenge you to be like those disciples that Jesus called, who dropped everything and followed Him. If that’s you today, I want you to come up to the front (right now while I’m speaking) as a symbol of your commitment to do whatever it takes to become a true disciple of Jesus, and an Empowered Disciple-Maker.**



Week # 4

## “EMBRACING A CULTURE OF HONOR”

- Pastor Joe Sharp

### Video/Audio

<https://www.livewithpurposechurch.org/media/sermon/what-drives-us-part-1b-embracing-a-culture-of-honor/>

### Introduction / Setup:

- **OPEN IN PRAYER** .... “then remind people of the PDF of a past sermon series on this topic for you to reieww”
- Question for People to Answer Live - “How would you describe embracing something?”
- **Intro** - Review again **the new church driver's sign** with church - “so we know what drives us”
- The key word I want to focus on today is “EMBRACING” as we look at driver #4
- Word of Encouragement: I see a beautiful house of servant's already - **Newer families have noted how impressed they have been by our authenticity, generosity, and servant culture - KEEP GOING CHURCH!**

**Point 1** - *We mon't go deeper with the concept of embracing a culture of honor that honors Jesus, if we mon't give up pride, our need for our own way in life, and our selfish ways desires*

- (Read - Mark 8:34 NLT)

**Point 2** - *Jesus came to serve not be served. Some of your greatest discipleship comes through serving and loving others as God's hands and feet. God can use it to take us beyond anything we ever could dream of!*

- **Scripture Reading** - Phil. 2:1-5
- Practical ways to Embrace a Culture of Honor:
  - Intentionally investing in newer members/families in our ministry. Love them, connect w/ them in deep ways and in blessing/honoring them you operate in a culture of honor
  - Pray about ways we can corporately bless other local churches/ministries and share with Pastor Ryan/I. Go ahead and EXPAND out to them on a Kingdom treasure hunt!
    - ILLUSTRATION: Talk about “An Accordion” - We are meant as a family (not just pastors) to function like this accordion that brings beauty forth as it expands
  - What is our PATH for people to evolve/grow spiritually? - **Go through our orientation class - NOW-NEXT - BEYOND** or see a pastor.
  - **Personal testimony/examples** of how I try to live out of a culture of honor:
    - Wanting to always honor Jen and making big decisions with her
    - Wanting to honor my partners in business by making decisions together and desiring unity



**Point 3** - *A culture of honor that is growing deeper in their ability to embrace it, brings great honor to those God has called and appointed into leadership roles.*

It has been beyond words for me to watch you embrace the Lapp family including enabling us to pay him well, and truly honor them as the word of God tells us to do. I am humbled by you all family.

- **Scripture Readings** – Romans 14:8 / 1 Tim. 5:17-18 / Galatians 6:6
- Practical ways you can bless/honor us as leaders taking next steps in 2018's theme...:
  - Plug in if you have set on the sidelines in small groups, prayer gatherings, etc.
  - Build/grow deeper personal relationships within the families represented here, on your own
  - Pray into, journal & share what H. Spirit shows you of Gods desires for our ministries next steps
- **As leaders within honor:** we are elevating/investing into ladies of faith (next steps) - as His daughters



**CONCLUSION** - *Honor Pastor Ryan at the end (altar - All lay hands)* stepping forward into all of the unknowns with full-time ministry role evolution, and bless him as Holy Spirit continues to mold and shape him.





Week #5

## “EQUIPPING FOR CULTURAL IMPACT”

- Pastor Ryan Lapp

### Video/Audio

<https://www.livewithpurposechurch.org/media/sermon/what-drives-us-equipping-for-cultural-impact/>

### “RUN WHAT YOU BRUNG!”

#### What do we mean by saying we want to Equip people for Cultural Impact?

We want to come alongside you, help you understand what your gifts are, help you find practical ways to practice using those gifts, and help to develop you as a person!

- I don't know exactly what it will look like for you to be equipped in the specific area of your calling.
- What I do know is that whatever God tells you to do, and wherever God tells you to go, you will need to represent Him well in it.
- That means that you will need to be equipped and trained in how to make sure every area of your life lines up with Scripture (not that you will have achieve perfection, but you are striving toward it wholeheartedly).
- As you step out into your calling you will face opposition - people and spiritual forces that come against you personally, and against the work God has called you to.
- You might think, “Who would oppose something like humanitarian aid to displaced people?” Or, “Who wouldn't agree that it's a good idea to offer school aged kids the opportunity to hear about the Bible while they are at school?”
- Don't be surprised that not everyone is as excited about what you are doing as you are.
- If you think it's going to be easy, smooth sailing the whole way, let me tell you right now... It will not be smooth sailing the whole way!
- You are going to have to endure things, both external and internal, that will cause you to want to give up on the call of God in your life.
- Our desire is to be a place that prepares and equips you to handle these challenges in ways that represent the Lord well. That is our mission.

*\*You might say, “But I don't have this or that, so I can't do what I think I'm supposed to do.”*

*\*You might think, “I can't come to Jesus until I get everything fixed in my life.”*

#### YOU JUST HAVE TO GET

**STARTED.** (Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu, who lived from 604 BC-531 BC, said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” - OR - “The journey of a thousand miles begins beneath one's feet” - OR - “Even the longest journey must begin where you stand”)

#### YOU JUST HAVE TO SHOW UP.

Some people have the ministry of showing up. Be willing to show up and support what someone else has invested time and prayer into. When it's your turn to plan something, and invest your time and effort, you will appreciate that people show up, on time... but that's not what we are focused on today)

#### MAKE THE MOST OF THE LITTLE THAT YOU HAVE!

(Use what you've got. Don't focus on the things you think you don't have.

Let God add those things to your life as you show up, start the journey, and “Run What You Brung!”)



-Use the analogy of a racing driver...

Some people think they can't get started in the race until they have all the top-of-the-line gear, the most powerful motor, the best suspension set-up, etc., etc...

When you "Run What You Brung", you learn how to push yourself to get the absolute best out of every inch of the course, out of your machine, and out of yourself!

This training is the "proving grounds" starts to attract the attention of the sponsors, and the manufacturers.

People start noticing how much heart you have, and how much effort you have invested into developing yourself.

They wonder how you have been able to be successful at all with such limited resources, schooling, and pedigree.

Then they start wanting to partner up with you!

Now your resources start to grow, and you are able to go faster. Your ability to help others grow increases, as you require more support.

But you might have hurt yourself or others if you didn't get practice and experience and develop your skills at the lower levels BEFORE you had all that gear propelling you forward; all those bells and whistles.

*\*Let's look at 4 real people in the Bible who are examples of this for us...*

(widow with the small coins & the boy with the fish and bread, David tending the sheep and delivering food to his brothers, and the widow Anna who blessed Jesus in the temple)

• Read: Mark 12:41-44

• Read: John 6:5-13

• Read: 1 Samuel 17:12-19

• Read: Luke 2:36-38

**\*HOW ABOUT A MODERN DAY EXAMPLE?** *Someone we can see and know (and follow on social media...)*

6 months ago, back in April, Chris & Ana Cozzone can't visit and hang out with us at our CONNECT Group. Mel & Nancy introduced us to them (thank you Mel & Nancy), and led a little question & answer session with the Cozzone's.

These people (and their ministry in the Philippines) are great examples of how we can just get started, and trust God to provide what we need in order to do what He has called us to do!

As Nancy mentioned a couple weeks ago, Chris and Ana work with street children, but their facility was only a Day Center, meaning the kids had to go back to the streets overnight. This didn't line up with their heart for these kids, so they started praying and asking God about the possibility of a boys home, so they could have a safe place to spend the nights. Ana mentioned that she felt silly looking at property's that fit their needs, because they were so far beyond the budget they had!

**But God... (Everybody say, "But God")**

- Ana had seen a beautiful house in a good neighborhood that was the size they needed, but she assumed that it would be too expensive, or that the owner would not allow them to rent it as a home for street kids.
- But she prayed and asked God about it, even though she felt like it was impossible. And she went and talked to the owner...
- Not only did the owner allow them to rent the house, but she gave them a reduced rate also, so that they were able to afford it!

**\*Pray about it! Ask God about it! Then follow His lead, even if it feels impossible!**

*What you are lacking, He will provide. But you have to be faithful to start...*

*Be faithful in small things, so you can be trusted with more!* Read: Luke 16:10-1

Let's worship the Lord by declaring to Him again that we truly belong to Him, not holding anything back, ready to get started right now, right where we are...

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