

"The Mission of the Church: Church-Centric & Salvation"

Kevin DeYoung

Kevin DeYoung's message emphasizes the centrality of the church and salvation (soteriology) in God's mission, contrasting it with the idea of a nation-centric or civilization-focused mission.

1. **The Church's Mission:** DeYoung underscores that the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is about making disciples from all nations, not establishing Christian nations. The focus is on bringing individuals to Christ rather than transforming nations as political or cultural entities.
2. **The Scope of God's Mission:** DeYoung highlights that the story of the Bible centers on God redeeming a people for Himself, culminating in the church as the bride of Christ. This mission is about salvation and reconciliation with God, not primarily about societal or cultural restoration.
3. **Biblical Interpretation:** By examining passages like Matthew 28, Romans 8, and Revelation 21-22, DeYoung demonstrates that God's work is centered on saving sinners, building His church, and ultimately restoring creation. Nations and civilizations are not the central actors in this story but are impacted as the Gospel spreads.
4. **Countering Misunderstandings:** DeYoung addresses misconceptions about the Great Commission, clarifying that "discipling nations" refers to reaching people from every nation, not establishing formal Christian nations.
5. **The Cosmic Context:** Using Romans 8 and Revelation 12-22, DeYoung explains that creation itself waits for the redemption of God's people, and the ultimate end is a new Heaven and new Earth where God dwells with His redeemed.
6. **The Church's Role:** DeYoung calls believers to focus on the church's God-ordained mission: proclaiming the Gospel, making disciples, and building Christ's church. This mission is assured of success and is the means through which God's glory is revealed to the nations.

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Small Group Questions

1. **Understanding the Great Commission:** Read Matthew 28:18-20. DeYoung argues that the Great Commission is about making disciples from all nations, not creating Christian nations. How does this understanding shape your view of missions and evangelism?
2. **The Church as Central:** Read Matthew 16:18. Jesus promises to build His church. What does this verse teach about the church's role in God's mission? How does it encourage you to participate in the church's work?
3. **God's Focus on Redemption:** Read Romans 8:18-21. DeYoung explains that creation longs for the redemption of God's people. How does this passage challenge the idea that societal transformation is the ultimate goal of the Gospel?
4. **The Cosmic Scope of God's Mission:** Read Revelation 21:1-3. What do these verses reveal about God's ultimate plan for His redeemed people? How does this eternal perspective impact your understanding of the church's mission today?
5. **Avoiding Mission Drift:** DeYoung warns about focusing too much on societal or cultural restoration. How can we ensure our efforts in missions and ministry remain centered on the Gospel and making disciples?
6. **Proclaiming Salvation:** Read Acts 4:12. DeYoung emphasizes that the church has a unique role in proclaiming salvation through Jesus Christ. How can you personally engage in this mission in your daily life?
7. **Participation in God's Story:** Read Revelation 22:17. God invites all to come to Him for salvation. How does this invitation inspire you to share the Gospel with others, regardless of their background or nation?
8. **Reflecting on Priorities:** DeYoung challenges listeners to focus on the church's mission rather than cultural or national aims. Are there areas in your life where your priorities need realignment to reflect God's mission?