

Mission Principle # 1 – The Boss Principle!

Imagine people helping each other, carrying one another's burdens, praying for each other, and building people up in the Word of God. This is the Church. We read about it in Acts, hear about it in history, and have churches throughout the world today displaying this in our increasingly anti-Christian culture. Each month in 2020, we will look at 12 of the Biblical Mission Principles from a course called *Structured for Missions*. As Jesus answered the question of the greatest commandment with love God and love your neighbor, these Mission Principles stem from love.

Where do you start when talking of love? There are many places to start, but only one place that produces fruit: God. "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." *1 John 4:8-11*

There are many ways to love a neighbor, but these articles are not about the *how*. They are the *why* behind how you do things; what underlies every loving action. I would even argue that these 12 principles are the ultimate values of being a Christian.

The first and most important principle to remember is called *The Boss Principle*. "Christ is the Lord of the Church (revitalization, growth, and multiplication), and He has a vision for your new start/church."

How many churches are there in North America? (Jeopardy music...) One. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church! "And God placed all things under His (Christ's) feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way (Eph. 1:22, 23).

When we live in a way that does not have Jesus as our boss, King, Lord, then we forget who the real enemy is. Statistics have been coming out for years reminding us that the Church is shrinking in America. More congregations are closing their doors each year. Eighty percent (80%) of Christian churches in America are in survival mode, which means they can keep the lights on and possibly pay a pastor. Their catch phrase to people is "Please Stay!" because they are afraid what will happen if they lose one more person.

Yet even in the midst of such a bleak time, Jesus is still Lord of the Church! He is in charge! He is the Boss! Elisha knew this well as he lived during a time when there were not many who believed in God.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:15-17)

In order to love properly, we must know the God who is love. And in knowing who He is, we are like Elisha, surrounded by "horses and chariots of fire all around". "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

May the God who is boss, lead us as we share His story of love and salvation to a world that desperately needs to hear.

In Christ,

Brad Urlaub

Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI

Trained leader in Structured for Missions

Short Summary of the course *Structured for Missions* that you can bring to your congregation:

This course is designed to help a congregation to objectively talk through where it is at and develop a plan on how to get to where God is leading you by following 12 Biblical Mission Principles. Our goals with this course are to:

1. Help lead/multiply “dynamic” churches.
2. Increase the survival rate for new churches.
3. Add helpful training for new and existing churches.
4. Encourage and provide a plan for those who have lost hope and direction.
5. Help new churches achieve community transformation.
6. Help ensure reproduction.

Trained leaders: Pastors Justin Laughridge, Jung Hun Park, and Brad Urlaub