

LAW #1: YOU MUST BE ALL ABOUT LOVE!

Have you ever been involved in an event or program where all that's talked about is completing your assigned task list?

How did that feel?

And how long did it take for you to lose all sense of why you are actually going after this goal in the first place?

Such a hard-driving approach absolutely won't work if you are trying to build a missional church!

Here's why:

Love for Jesus and love for neighbor must be front and center in a missional culture.

Jesus famously summarized the commandments as loving God with every part of ourselves, and then to love our neighbor as we do ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40).

Since patterns of growth can be slower at first, you and your team need:

- A sustaining devotion that is drawn from your primary identity as children of the Father
- Ongoing empowerment by the Holy Spirit for mission begins with you falling deeply in love with Jesus

Out of that love for God flows our love for our neighbors, friends, family and colleagues. Our mission is not in the abstract; the people we are sent to have names!

Remember:

Your mission focus is always a who,
rather than a what.

The fear of 'scalp-hunting' is overcome when we root all of our activities in love - for specific people whom we are called to reach with the Gospel at this particular time and place.

APPLY THE LAW:

Are there specific practices you can adopt to ensure that love for God remains front and center in your missional activities?

When are you most tempted to view your neighbor as a project to complete rather than as a friend to love?