



PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Our mission “to glorify God by making disciples through the Gospel, in community, and on mission” fuels our philosophy of ministry. Therefore, everything thing we do, every ministry we engage in, and every program we promote must align with our great desire to glorify God by seeing disciples made. There are a few comparisons that provide insight to how this practically works:

Width vs. Depth

All of our ministries are not concerned with how many people are coming, but rather with what people are becoming. A concentration on the width of our church means that we lead, disciple, and organize in such a way to increase the bottom line. Yet, a concentration on depth means that we lead, disciple, and organize in such a way to increase our members’ understanding and affection for the Gospel. If we shoot for width, we do not believe the depth is inherently likely, but if we labor for depth we believe that width will come.

Marketing vs. Mission

It is increasingly enticing to approach ministry with a desire to fit a certain style or achieve a certain brand. For instance, the church tries to become that church in a number of different scenarios: the church with a great multimedia approach, the most contemporary style, or the best family ministry. At Providence we approach ministry through the lens of mission. This emphasis causes everything we do to go through a process of testing, “Does this ministry/program/teaching fuel the mission?” If the respective issue fails to do so then it should not be placed before the church body. If the issue does fuel the mission then it should be placed, modeled, and encouraged before the church body.

Entitlement vs. Service

Entitlement can so often work its way into a church through members assuming that the church exists to fit their needs. This can cause a church to cater to individual needs through creating a large number of programs to serve the body. Yet, instead of truly serving the body this only serves the sinful desire of entitlement. Scripture calls us to not serve ourselves but to serve others. And the church is to set this example of service for the community nearby. Humility is the overarching characteristic of the Gospel; therefore, it should be the overarching characteristic of the church and her members.

We hope that this emphasis on deep, missional, and sacrificial ministry brings God great glory through seeing disciples made.