

Integral Mission and The Great Commission

Where should we start?

- “Holistic mission” = whole of human need
 - but what do people *really* need?
- “Church’s global mission”
 - but what is legitimately included in *our* mission?

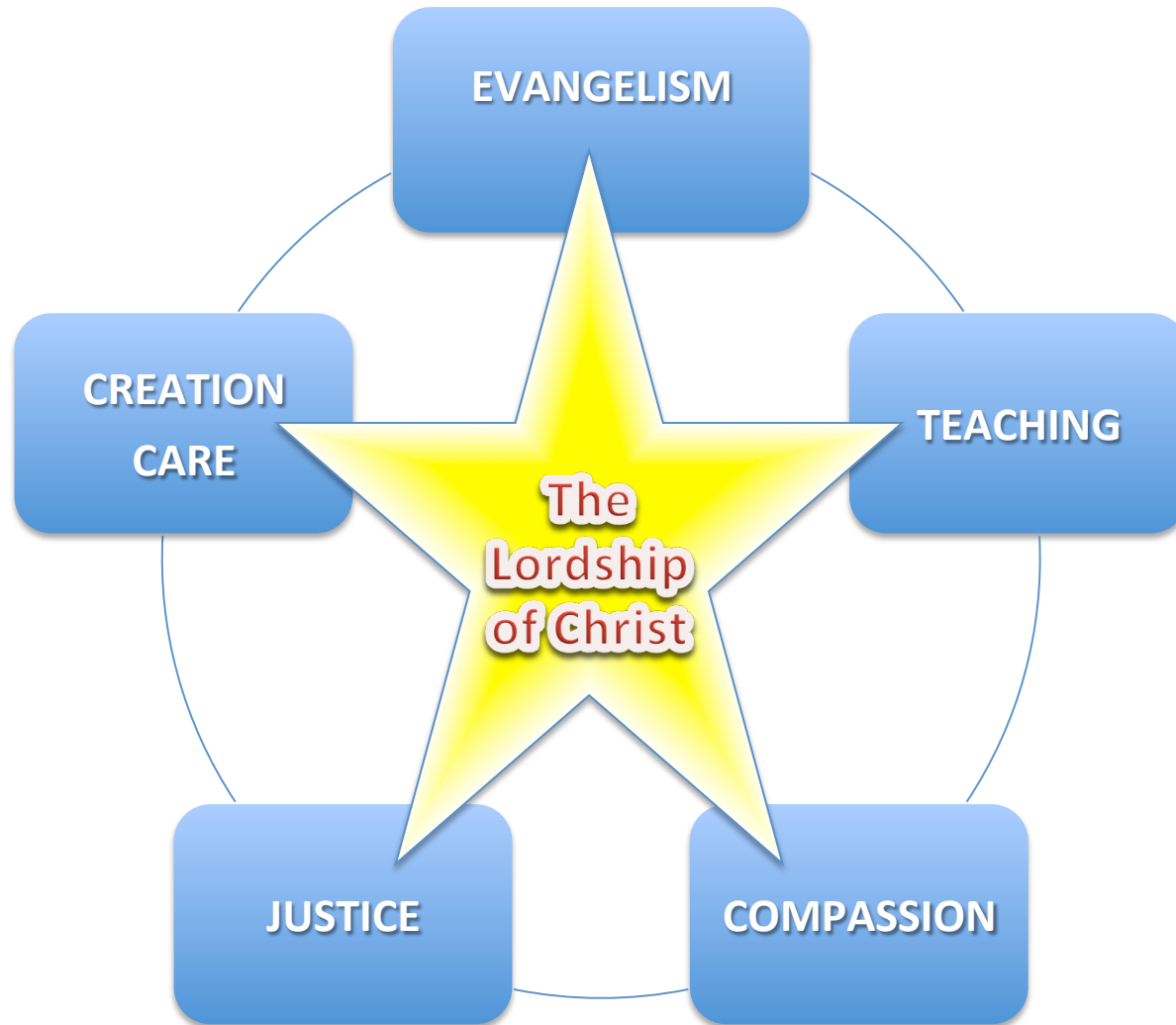
The Mission of God

- What is the great plan and purpose of God?
 - Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:15-20
 - **To redeem the whole of creation**, broken by sin and evil, into the **new creation**, populated by the **redeemed from every culture**, through the **cross and resurrection of Christ**.
 - ‘Whole counsel of God’, Genesis – Revelation
 - Creation – Fall – Redemption – New Creation
- *Cape Town Commitment I.10*

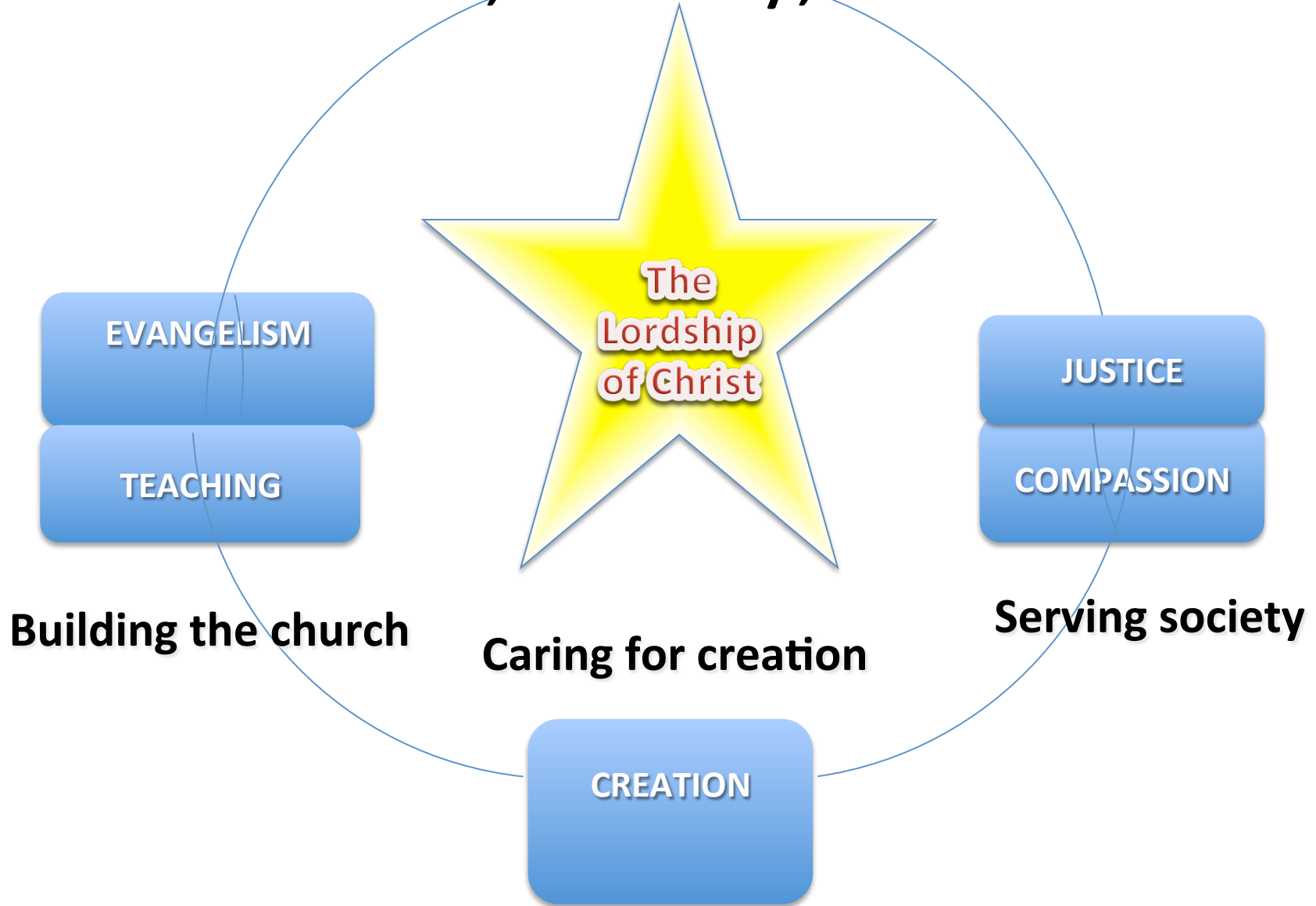
- *We are committed to world mission, because it is central to our understanding of God, the Bible, the Church, human history and the ultimate future. The whole Bible reveals the mission of God to bring all things in heaven and earth into unity under Christ, reconciling them through the blood of his cross. In fulfilling his mission, God will transform the creation broken by sin and evil into the new creation in which there is no more sin or curse. God will fulfil his promise to Abraham to bless all nations on the earth, through the gospel of Jesus, the Messiah, the seed of Abraham.*
- *Cape Town Commitment 1.10*

- *God will transform the fractured world of nations that are scattered under the judgment of God into the new humanity that will be redeemed by the blood of Christ from every tribe, nation, tongue and language, and will be gathered to worship our God and Saviour. God will destroy the reign of death, corruption and violence when Christ returns to establish his eternal reign of life, justice and peace. Then God, Immanuel, will dwell with us, and the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign for ever and ever.*
- *Cape Town Commitment 1.10*

“The five marks of mission”



Church, Society, Creation



Biblical 'holism'

- The **mission of God**, in which we are called to participate, addresses
 - Individual persons
 - Society
 - Creation
- *“All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God’s people.”*
Cape Town Commitment 1.7a

Building the Church

‘Make disciples, baptizing them...
and teaching them...’

1. Evangelism

- ‘gospelling’ the good news of what God has promised and accomplished through Christ
- False ‘holism’ – two wrong ideas
 - Holistic mission = everything else *except* evangelism
 - Holistic mission = everything including evangelism but with *no integration* (bag of marbles)

- The centrality of the gospel/evangelism

- As a hub is central to a wheel, but a wheel needs the rim as well as the hub. (*CTC 1.10*). It is an integrated object.
- No point in asking ‘which is more important – hub or rim?’ You must have both to have a wheel.
- ‘Integral mission’ means integrating all dimensions of our mission around the central, driving hub of the gospel – i.e. the message of what God has done in Christ.
- *CTC 1.10*

Building the Church

‘Make disciples, baptizing them...
and teaching them...

2. Teaching / discipling

- O.T. “oldest and longest program of Theological Education” (Andrew Walls)
- Jesus: 3 years, teaching, teaching, teaching
- Paul
 - His personal example - Ephesus
 - His mission team – Timothy, Titus, Apollos
 - 1 Cor 3:5-9 “one purpose”
 - His goal – maturity in Christ Col. 1:9-11, 28

Church, Society, Creation

