

Who We Are and What We Do

Because of His great love and care, God has provided purpose and meaningful existence for humans made in His image. The Great Commission is a commitment to expanding the Kingdom of God by proclaiming the gospel of grace, making disciples in whatever spheres of life followers of Christ find themselves, and the restoration of what it means to be truly human. It explains God's great love for us, His grace, unconditional forgiveness, acceptance, and the redemption of all things through Christ. Becoming a disciple of Jesus means becoming a life-long learner, engaged with Him in the truth He teaches and the mission He leads.

Tom Streeter served for 33 years as the teaching elder of the church he planted in Zionsville, Indiana, and now serves as the fulltime director of *The Institute for Christian Thought*, an organization he founded in 1997 with the aim of calling followers of Christ to a fully-orbed life of thinking and living Christianly. With over 50 years experience in pastoral ministry, and having planted churches in Illinois and Indiana, his work has been characterized by a devotion to worship, community, developing disciples within the context of the local church and a focus upon believers discerningly engaging the world in their various callings. His lifelong studies in theology, the church, and history have included tours focused upon the Reformation in Europe and the First Great Awakening in upper New England.

Judy Streeter and her husband Tom have worked to develop churches that emphasise worship, community, small groups, sound teaching, discipleship, and meaningful engagement with culture. Believing that evangelism and the strength of the church are only as effective as the disciple-making process, she has developed materials to facilitate women in properly nurturing growth in others. Her book, *Disciplemaking: Doing What Christ Commanded*, summarises her understanding and passion in this area. Music occupies a high place in Judy's life in the church and as a teacher and performer. Always ready to travel, she and Tom have led Reformation tours in Europe.

I. Seeing the Bigger Picture

A. II Cor. 5:11-6:10

1. The love of Christ "compels," "controls"
2. "Ministry of reconciliation"
3. "Ambassadors for Christ"
4. "Working together with God"

B. Paul Knew Who He Was and What He Was To Do

II. The Story of Man (Psalm 8:5)

A. Majesty of Man

B. Devastation in the Garden

C. New Man in Christ

III. Transforming Aspects of the Gospel

- A. Unconditional Forgiveness
- B. Immeasurable Grace
- C. Union with Christ
- D. The Fullness of the Spirit

IV. Commissioned by Christ

- A. Purpose and Meaning
- B. Workers Together with Him

Suggested Reading:

Worldly Saints by Leland Ryken
Echoes of Eden by Jerram Barrs
In His Image by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey
The Majesty of Man by Ronald Allen
No Little People by Francis Schaeffer
Romans by John Stott
Love is Now by Peter Gillquist