



preacher's podium

“God’s will for His church is a powerful call to unity among the believers as we glorify God by reaching out to the world around us proclaiming His name.”

As I mentioned Sunday in my message, the number one question I have received since coming here is, “**So, what is going to change about Kingsway now that you’re here?**” That’s a great question, and if you give me a few minutes I’ll tell you a little about what’s next. See, this question is really just one more way we are all curious about God’s will.

There’s a good reason really ... You see, God has built within all of us a desire to be fulfilled. The catch is that we can’t find that fulfillment apart from Him. It’s a pretty intelligent design when you think about it. God wants us to know Him and love Him, so he places in each of our hearts a thirst that is unquenchable apart from His living water (see John, chapter 4 for more).

We’ve all tried desperately to find that fulfillment in ways that leave us feeling empty and wanting, but in the end, we were created by God and for God, and this has been revealed through Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:16 says,

For by him {Jesus} all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him {Jesus} and for him {Jesus}. (NIV)

This is the reason I believe and teach with all of my heart that apart from God’s will we cannot quench the deep thirst of our souls. We were created to be in God’s will.

What I love is that the Bible doesn’t leave us questioning how to do that. In fact, Paul goes on in the following verse to tell us, “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church.” (Colossians 1:17)

God’s will for all of us is to be reconciled to God through Jesus’ sacrifice. Here’s the best part: Anyone who has done that is already a part of God’s great plan ... His church!

The question we really ought to be asking is not so much “God, what do you want me to do?”, but more like “God, what are you calling your church to do, and how can I join you in that?”

So, what is God’s will for the church?

Jesus actually addresses this in His prayer while in the Garden of Gethsemane before He offered His life on the cross:

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one — as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them

and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

(John 17:21-24)

How powerful a prayer from Jesus! He’s actually giving us the very plan God has for his body – the church ... “And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me”. God’s will for His church is a powerful call to unity among the believers as we glorify God by reaching out to the world around us proclaiming His name. Now, that’s a purpose I get excited about!

This call is for all who believe in the name of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. However, there are a lot of great churches doing great things for God’s name. The next step for Kingsway is to seek God on the specifics. That’s why I want to ask you to join me in these next two crucial steps:

1. Pray! Join me in praying this often as you think of it, “Your will be done, Lord. Nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else. Give us complete knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

2. Kingsway’s leadership needs to hear from you. We believe that God has placed in our church a unique “DNA”. There are too many opportunities and great ways for us to serve God, and simply not enough resources (time, money, or people) to meet even half of them. So, we want to develop a plan based on the information you provide. This will allow us to build on our current strengths, as we pray and dream about the vision God is giving us. Let me stress that the information you give us is vital to the ongoing discussion and planning for the future of Kingsway.

Please take a few moments and go on to our Web site, kingswaychurch.org, and click on the link that says “TCI”. The Transforming Church Index (TCI) is a special survey created just for churches and is a useful tool for helping churches dream and prepare for the great works the Holy Spirit is about to do among them.

Thank-you so much for your love, support, and unity over the last five months! God clearly has great plans and is doing incredible things through Kingsway. “Now, to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20).

In Jesus’ love,

Matt



kingsway

christian church

real • passionate • truth

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return service requested

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**PERIODICAL
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decisions for Christ

- Tiffanee Russell-Cash and Paul and Dana Fruits were baptized.
- Richard O'Dell and Michael Oliver were baptized and placed membership.
- Jessica Crowe, Jon, Melissa and Candice Guy and Madison Weaver were previously baptized at Kingsway and came forward to place membership.
- Michael Garrett, Aimee Harvey, Jeff and Jenny Hoffman, Stephen and Tamera McGinn, Russell and Deborah Phillips, Jerry and Mary Beth Rolfson, James and Connie Siefertman and Anthony and Rebecca Smith all came forward to transfer their membership to Kingsway.

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glimpse of growth

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| Preaching and Praise | 2,347 | <u>General Offering</u> | |
| Bible School | 597 | Weekly Budget | \$98,731 |
| Decisions | 24 | Given this Week | \$70,910 |
| New Members YTD | 27 | Haiti Relief | \$9,194 |
| Surge | 70 | | |
| QUEST | 45 | | |

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