

LEGACY: Simplicity and Purity of Devotion
Sunday, December 4, 2016

* Legacy: Something that exists now because of actions that took place in the past.

I. The Foundation, Focus and Future of Magnolia

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT)

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes

A. Within the “message” of the cross of Christ, is contained the enablement and ability of God!

1. The Gospel message is not one of a nice moral lifestyle, or the encouragement to be a nice person.
2. The message of the Gospel is the literal “container of divine ability” to live the life that God desires for each of us!
3. We were originally created in His image and through redemption we are recreated in His image!

2 Corinthians 5:17(NLT)

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

4. When Paul says the Gospel is the “power of God” unto salvation, the Greek work used is dunamis.
5. It means; ability, mighty deeds and marvelous works.
6. What that says to me is Magnolia exists and ministers by God’s abilities, His mighty deeds and marvelous works!

B. Magnolia was founded on the message of the cross, has been sustained by the message of the cross and will move into the future by the message of the cross!

1. This is our ultimate LEGACY!

2. As we move forward may we not be distracted as Paul warned the Church in Corinth..." from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ!"

II. The ministry of any local church is only possible by the Lord's presence and enablement!

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- A. If we do not minister by God's enablement, we are simply spreading good ideas or high morals!
- B. We are an extension of God in the world! Or as some have said, "We are His heart, hands and feet!"

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

1. The Church of Jesus Christ isn't just another benevolent organization!
2. We are called and enabled to be an extension of God on earth!
3. We must not be distracted by challenges or differences but rather strengthened by our diversity!
4. Lives around us are dependent on our relationships with one another!

III. This is my desire for all of us!!

Colossians 1:9-11 (NLT)

9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. 11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy.