



(Paul) I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.

1 Cor. 9:22-23 (Ph)

Thank you for showing interest in our student ministry. Our team is so excited about the opportunities that we have to reach out to the thousands of teens in our area. I believe that student ministry is one of the most exciting ministries to serve in. I may be biased, but here are just a couple of reasons why student ministry is the place to be

WHY STUDENT MINISTRY?

1. The **OPPORTUNITIES** are great!

We have listed a few things that we feel are priorities in creating environments that allow students to ask questions, search for answers, feel safe, welcomed, and cared for, all the while creating a place that they can call home and have fun.

2. Students need **GODLY ADULT ROLE MODELS!**

When I think back to my teenage years there were several adults that I went to church with but not many of them invested in my life. In fact, it wasn't until I was 17, when my first ever youth pastor, showed me what it truly meant to be a Christ Follower.

3. It's exciting and challenging, but mostly **HUMBLING** and **REWARDING!**

I have to be honest; some things that happen in student ministry are very challenging. Students can stretch our knowledge and patience. But it always excites me to see how God moves in their life. It is humbling to think that the God of the universe would use people like you and me to influence students.

4. They are **INFLUENTIAL!**

Marketing experts have known this for years. MTV's marketing strategy focuses on the 13-15 age group knowing that if they can appeal to them now, they will have their attention later.

We have the greatest news and we get the privilege of sharing that with teenagers that go to the greatest mission field in the United States . . . the public school!

5. It is a ministry that **NEVER ENDS!**

Not to scare you, but there is always going to be one more student, one more event, whether at church or at school, one more conversation with a parent, one more letter to write, one more comment to leave on facebook, one more friend to meet, one more _____
_____ (you fill in the blank).

As you can see, student ministry has to be done by a team. Together, we can make a difference!

6. Time is **RUNNING OUT!**

"For years, church leaders have heard the claim that nearly nine out of ten Christians accept Jesus as their savior before the age of 18. If that statistic was accurate in the past, it no longer depicts U.S. society. The current Barna study indicates that nearly half of all Americans who accept Jesus Christ as their savior do so before reaching the age of 13 (43%), and that two out of three born again Christians (64%) made that commitment to Christ before their 18th birthday. One out of eight born again people (13%) made their profession of faith while 18 to 21 years old. Less than one out of every four born again Christians (23%) embraced Christ after their twenty-first birthday. Barna noted that these figures are consistent with similar studies it has conducted during the past twenty years."
George Barna.

Within Grace Community Church there are several different ministries that work to fulfill the overall purposes of the church. Our Student Ministry (Fusion) is only one of dozens that implement various programs and methods to accomplish our goal of fulfilling the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Within our Student Ministry we have various ways in which we seek to serve our church, cherished families, middle school and high school students, and our community. In this booklet you will learn:

- Our purpose statement
- Our potential audience
- Our planned values
- Our process of moving students towards spiritual maturity
- Our programs
- Our provided opportunities
- Our statements of faith

I. OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our Student Ministry has a unique purpose statement that we want **EVERYONE** to know.

Our Student Ministry Purpose Statement is developed from the five Biblical purposes of the church.

"Fusion exists to **REACH** non-believing students, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians, to help them **GROW** in their faith, and to challenge the growing to **SERVE** in a ministry and **HONOR** God with their life."

When people know our purpose they will better understand why we do what we do. Will you please make a commitment to memorize our purpose statement?

What does this purpose statement mean for you?

REACH: Who am I trying to reach for Christ?
CONNECT: Who is my small group of believers?
GROW: What am I doing to show my faith?
SERVE: Where is my place of service?
HONOR: How does my life honor Christ?

Let's take a more detailed look at our purpose statement.

REACH

Your Action-Step
FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM
FIVE FRIEND FOCUS

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill ... Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. Matt.5:14-16 (TM)

CONNECT

Get in a **SMALL GROUP**

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love of one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13: 34-35

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. James 5:16

GROW

Develop spiritual **HABITS**

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love--like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love. Eph. 4:14-16 (TM)

SERVE

Discover your **S.H.A.P.E.** and find a **MINISTRY**

*God creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.
Eph. 2:10 (TM)*

He (God) handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with His gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. Eph. 4:11-13 (TM)

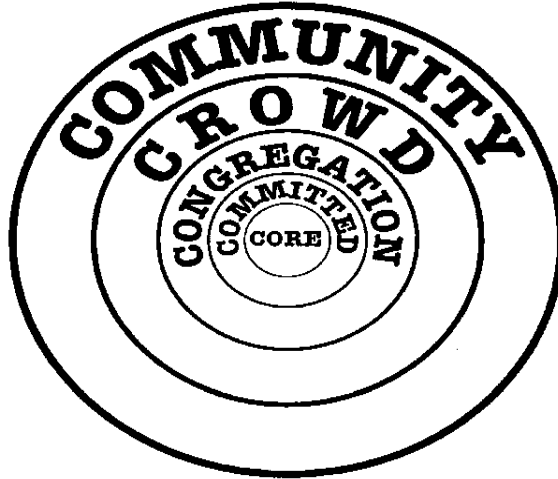
HONOR

Change your **LIFESTYLE**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.
Rom. 12:1*

II. OUR POTENTIAL AUDIENCE

One of the elements of fulfilling our purpose statements is to identify the potential audience of students. We do this by recognizing five different groups of students.



COMMUNITY

- A Community student is committed to **NOT ATTENDING** church.

CROWD

- A Crowd student is committed to **ATTENDING** church.

CONGREGATION

- A Congregation student is committed to a **SMALL GROUP**

COMMITTED

- A Committed student is committed to **HABITS** necessary for spiritual growth.

CORE

- A Core student is committed to **DOING MINISTRY**

When you combine our purpose statement with the potential audience of students, you'll see our goal is to reach the community and help move them toward the core.

Which audience would you consider yourself to be a part of?

III. OUR PLANNED VALUES

Our planned values help communicate and define our purpose statement. If you imagine our purpose statement as the “cake,” our planned values would be the “icing.” We feel strongly about these values and want them to be reflected in our Student Ministry. These values came from our student and adult leaders.

FUSION Student Ministry Planned Values

- *Relational **APPROACH**
- *Encouragement
- *Laughter & **CELEBRATION**
- *Acceptance
- *Transparency
- *Involvement of **STUDENTS**
- *Outreach oriented
- *Numerical **GROWTH**
- *Spiritual growth
- ***HOME LIKE**
- *Intimate
- *Professionalism
- *Strategic **FOLLOW UP**

Which of these values do you feel most strongly about?

We want you to help us maintain these values within our Student Ministry. We want to continue to discover ways in which we can evaluate the effectiveness of these values. Here’s one example of some questions we might ask:

ACCEPTANCE -- Do students feel accepted before, during, and after the meeting?

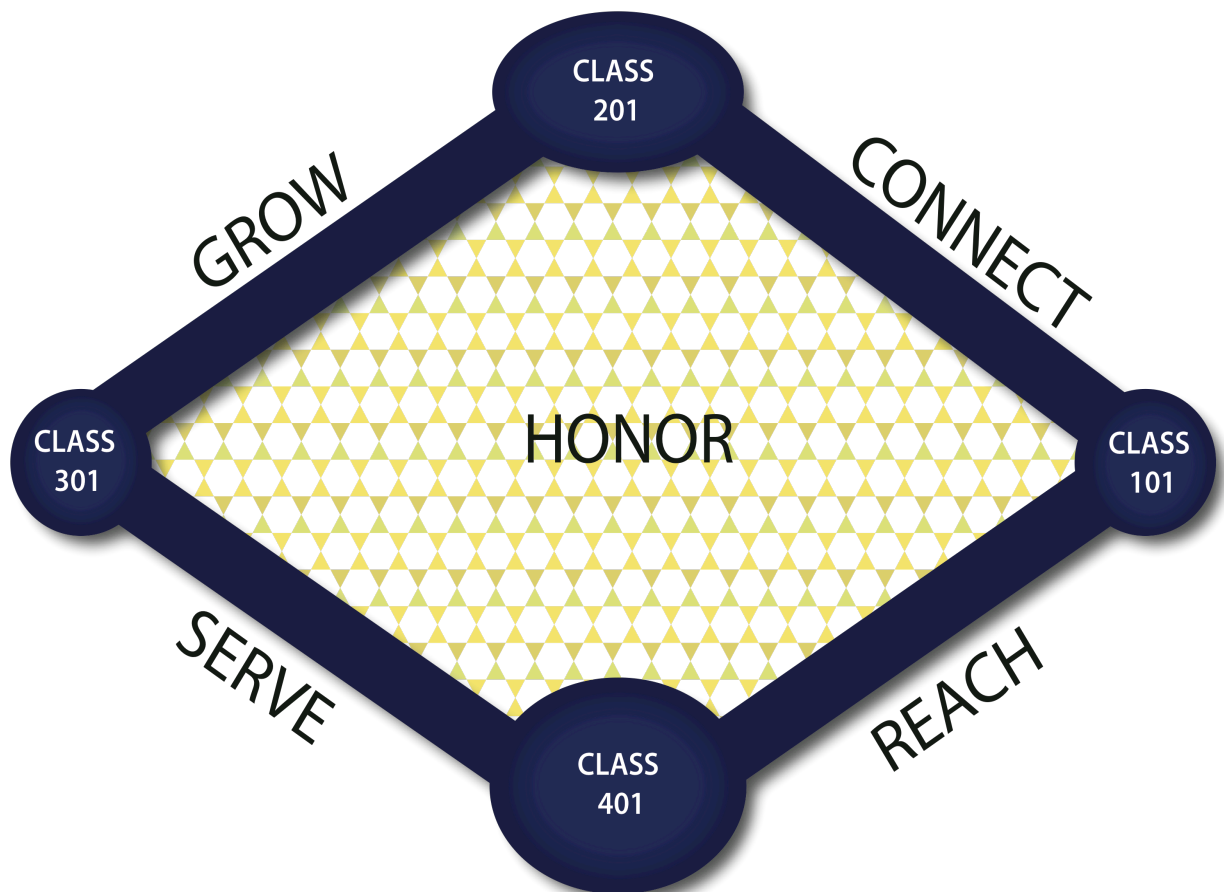
1. *Are all students greeted in the same way without condition to dress, looks, attendance, etc..?.*
2. *Does the spoken message isolate students of a particular group, school, race, etc..?.*
3. *Do students leave the meeting with the impression their presence was appreciated by someone?*
4. *Is there an expressed attitude from the leadership that shows concern over a student's personal life?*
5. *Do members go out of their way to meet students, learn their names and ask about their personal lives?*

IV. OUR PROCESS

The process we use gives us a “big picture” of our Student Ministry. The baseball diamond allows a way in which we can attempt to measure growth and maturity. Students can see where they fit into our programs, what’s ahead of them, and what they can do to help others along the process.

We want you to understand that this process is not the only way to measure growth and maturity. It’s also a process that’s not without error. For example, if someone completes all the programs and classes we have set up along the base paths but never displays a faith and/or intimacy with Christ, the process is meaningless.

We want this process to encourage growth by challenging students to take the next step.



V. OUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS WITHOUT A PURPOSE WOULD TURN OUR MINISTRY INTO: **CHILD CARE**

Here at Fusion, we do things different! When most people think of Student Ministry they think of programs. But with Fusion, our programs only exist to support our purpose, to help reach our audiences, and to reflect our values.

Fusion's Core Programs:

- 1. 5 FRIEND FOCUS* (Reach)**
2. ONE Night
- 3. WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES* (Reach/Honor)**
4. Summer Camp
5. New Believers Class (Fresh Start)
6. Life Hurts God Heals
- 7. CLASS 101** **[Commitment to membership]**
- 8. SMALL GROUPS* (Connect)**
9. Back 2 School Retreat
- 10. CLASS 201** **[Commitment to maturity]**
- 11. HABITS* (Grow)**
 - Hang time with God (Quiet Time Journal)
 - Accountability with others (S.A.G. Five)
 - Bible Memorization (Hidden Treasures)
 - Involvement in the church
 - Tithing Commitment (Bank of Blessings)
 - Service (Ministry Teams)
12. Spring Retreat
13. Mentoring
14. Missions Monthly
15. Bible Institute
- 16. CLASS 301** **[Commitment to ministry]**
- 17. STUDENT LEADERSHIP* (Serve)**
18. Ministry Teams
19. Ministry Team Leader
- 20. CLASS 401** **[Commitment to missions]**
- 21. Mission Trip**
 - *Fulfills the 5 biblical purposes

CAMPS

Summer Camp	Summer	Community/Crowd
Back to School Retreat	Fall	Crowd/Congregation
Mission Trip	Summer	Congregation/Committed
Disciple Now	Spring	Committed
Leadership Training	All	Core

TEACHING

Community	Typically no teaching, possibly evangelistic message
Crowd	Topical & series oriented
Congregation	One Minute Bible Curriculum--mixed between biblical events, select passages, biblical characters, etc ...
Committed	Books of the Bible and Service Opportunities
Core	Biblical Leadership and Opportunities to Lead

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE STUDENT MINISTRY PROGRAMS

1. Be **SUPPORTIVE** of them.
2. Be a **PARTNER** in them.

Example: Weekend Worship/Small Groups

- *Greet
- *Serve
- *Participate (sing, applaud, share, listen, etc...)
- *Engage with Students

3. Encourage Students to bring friends to the **APPROPRIATE** programs.
4. Pray for the program's **EFFECTIVENESS**.

VI. OUR PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES

We have several provided opportunities with in Student Ministry. Some of them have direct contact with teenagers, while others may not. However, each of them is important. If you have an idea for a ministry talk to us and lets see if we can get that started!

Weekend Worship Service

Are you friendly and able to talk with Teenagers? Could you facilitate a round table discussion, or create a welcoming atmosphere for a specific section during Worship Times? Do you like to hang out, play games, or work in the café? This is the place for you! Interested?

Small Groups

Do you have a home? (be a host home) Like to lead a small group? (be a small group leader) Like to teach? (be a Coach) Want to care for other leaders? (be a division leader) This is the place for you!! Interested?

Student Ministry Teams

Do you have a talent or skill? You could provide much needed leadership and encouragement to our students by heading up one of our Student Ministry Teams? We have a place for you! Interested?

Creative Arts

Are you creative? Like taking pictures, writing, shooting video, making videos, graphic design, stage design, acting, or have marketing skills? We have a place for you!

Discipleship Tools

Have a heart for growth? Want to help provide resources for students? Are you willing to edit, make copies, resource our HABITS Shack with tools for students? We have a place for you!

Parent to Parent

Do you, or have you, had a teenager? Are you willing to encourage and meet other parents? Maybe help gather resources or plan events that help parents raise teenagers or even lead and Small Group Parents of Teens? This is the place for you! Interested?

Event Planning

Like to plan events? Help organize students and leaders? Are you creative and resourceful? Then this is a place for you! Interested?

Volunteer Support

Don't want to work with students but Adults. Are you willing to pray, write encouraging notes, listen, maybe even volunteer at an occasional event? This is a place for you! Interested?

Event Sponsor

Can you drive a van? Fun Spirited? Willing to meet new teenagers? Help events run smoothly? Then this is the place for you! Interested?

VII. OUR STATEMENTS OF FAITH

About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. There is only one true God, the God of the Bible. Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:13, 14

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; I Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:13, 14; Titus 2:13

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. II Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth and the sole and final authority for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

About Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God, called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2

About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. John 10:29,30; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; I Peter 1:3-5

About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. John 3:16; 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 1:8, 2:44,46