

Le Mars Bible Church Distinctives

Vision statement.

The vision of Le Mars Bible Church is to bring glory to God by:

- Leading people into a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Bringing them into maturity in Him, and
- Equipping them for a life of outreach and service.

Priority of the Word of God. Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and He exercises His headship through His Word, the Bible. We believe that God grows His church as His people hear and obey the Word (John 17:17). We are committed to carefully, thoroughly proclaiming all of the truth that God has revealed to us in His Word, and to unquestioned obedience to all that it proclaims. This is an essential part of the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). We do not believe that doctrine is divisive, but that it is the indispensable foundation for all that we believe and do.

Priority of prayer. We believe in the necessity of prayerful dependence upon the Lord in everything we do, and seek to imitate the priorities of the apostles in Acts 6:4, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.”

Priority of the gospel message. 1 Corinthians 9:23 says, “I do all things for the sake of the gospel.” It is only through the gospel message that God gives eternal life, so all of our outreach to the people around us will have the gospel message at its center. This priority steers us away from social projects that leave out the gospel message, and it steers us away from ecumenism. We gladly partner in ministry with other organizations and churches that share our commitment to the gospel, but we do not partner in ministry with those that teach a false gospel.

Importance of world missions. Acts 1:8 says, “You shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” We believe it is important for us to be involved in supporting worldwide missions to take the gospel to the least reached.

Sufficiency of Scripture for counseling. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” When people face difficult life situations, we counsel them based upon the Word of God rather than upon modern psychology.

Distinct roles of men and women. Men and women stand as equals before God. Without making one inferior to the other, God calls men and women to distinct roles and responsibilities. In the home, men are called to lead and to love like Christ, and women are called to submit to their own husbands (Ephesians 5) and to give priority to their homes and families (Titus 2). At LBC, women serve in many vital roles, including teaching women and children, giving public testimony of what God has done in their lives, and serving on a variety of ministry teams. But, as spelled out in 1 Timothy 2:12, teaching men and serving as a pastor, elder, or deacon are roles reserved for men.

Church discipline. If a member of our church becomes entangled in unrepentant sin, we are committed to following through on the process that Jesus lays out for us in Matthew 18:15-18, which ends either in restoration or in excommunication from the church.

Lordship salvation. We believe that receiving Christ includes yielding to Him as the new authority in one's life and being willing to turn from sin (Luke 9:23-27; 24:45-47). Sanctification does not happen all in one instant, but takes place gradually over a lifetime of confessing sin and growing in our relationship with Christ (1 John 1:8-9). But the Holy Spirit works in the believer so that true salvation does result in a changed life (1 John 2:3-6; 3:14).

The sovereignty of God in salvation. We believe that before the foundation of the world God chose those whom He would save (Ephesians 1; Romans 9; Acts 13:48). This election was not based upon anything that the Lord saw in that person, but upon the will and love of God.

God's sovereign election, however, does not contradict or negate man's responsibility to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord. Neither does it lessen the believer's responsibility to proclaim the gospel and plead with his neighbors to be saved.

Six day creation. We believe in interpreting the Bible literally, according to the original intent of the author. This conviction leads us to believe that God created the world in six literal twenty-four hour days. We believe He created all things thousands of years ago by His Word, not millions or billions of years ago by a process of evolution.