

Frontline Student Ministries Mission and the Goal

Intro.

Have you ever thought about why we are named Frontline Student Ministries? Why not Upfront Student Ministries? What does it mean to be Frontline?

I. Definitions

A. **Frontline**

1. The front line is the place where two opposing armies are facing each other and where fighting is going on.

2. The most important and active position in a job or field of activity requiring they are highly experienced or proficient in the performance of one's duties.

3. The frontline is where the action is and people become highly trained.

4. When we talk about being engaged in a spiritual battle where is the battlefield?
The mind 2 Cor. 11:3

You realize that if Satan can get us to believe lies then He can defeat us.

5. So we are called Frontline Student ministries because the frontline is where the battle is fought. It is where what we say we believe is put into action (faith).

B. **Outpost**

Why do we call this room the "outpost"? What is an outpost?

1. a small military camp or position at some distance from the front line, used especially as a guard against surprise attack.

2. a remote location some distance from the front line where rest and training can take place.

3. We gather here weekly to:
- examine the truth to see if we are believing Satan's lies and to adjust our lives to the truth. 2 Cor. 10:4-5
-to learn how to live victorious lives- lives that please our commanding officer.

4. The temptation is to try to stay in the outpost away from the frontline and not engage in the battle. What is the problem with this mentality?

It is ultimately impossible to disengage in the battle. You are in the battle. The question is whether you are actively engaged or not.

5. So that is the objective for our Wednesday night gatherings.

C. The **mission**

It is interesting that even as I teach this lesson that the 20th anniversary of 911 is this Saturday and the USA has just withdrawn all their troops from Afghanistan as of August 31.

1. when you think about the mission that God has called Christians to what kind of thoughts come to mind?

2. I believe that the mission that God has called Christians to involves a number of different roles.

a. The most important role is to be a **disciple-maker** Read 2 Tim. 2:1-4
What does that mean?

- (1) Help others place their faith in Jesus
- (2) Help others to grow/follow Jesus
- (3) Help that person to bring their friends to Jesus
- (4) Train others to reproduce and make disciples for themselves

b. We are to be **salt and light** Matt. 5:13-16

(1) not just to preserve (salt) and fight against evil and help people see their sin (light) (negative)

(2) but to live in such a way to make people thirsty (salt) and to help people see Jesus (light) and desire a relationship with Him. (positive)

(3) the only way that can happen is to be around people, to have intentional relationships with people. To be living an attractive life so people want Jesus.

Live in such a way as to “make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.” Titus 2:10

3. We can’t accomplish the mission God has given us unless we are sharing the good news of the gospel and living accordingly.

4. The **picture that I have** is a group of highly trained, courageously bold group of students who are engaged in the battle by telling others about Jesus. They are on the frontline.

5. Weekly they need to come off the frontline to the outpost, away from the battle to be refreshed, get more ammunition, and to be encouraged to stay in the battle. They are trained and equipped with ammunition to engage the enemy. Then sent back to the frontline. The most effective soldiers are the ones who have already had some combat experience.

D. The Goal: the glory of God

1. Why do you think that I didn’t say the goal was to make disciples?

2. Do you think it is possible to win people to Christ and make disciples and not accomplish this goal?

3. Let’s say that a pastor wants to build a really big church and so he is working really hard to win people to Christ and train them, but his goal is to make a name for himself. Is he making disciples? Yes. Is he doing it to the glory of God? No

4. Why is living to the glory of God the right goal for all of life?

a. Any goal that you ever set that you have no control over being able to accomplish is not a good goal.

(1) Is it possible for you to win someone to Christ so that they become a reproducing Christian? 1Cor. 3:6-7 no!

(2). if we are not careful as Christian's we can serve God and do it for our own glory and not God's glory. This can be true of any area of life. This is not pleasing to Him.

(3) Can you live your life to the glory of God? 1 Cor. 10:31
Yes, but only with God's help.

b. Is the mission important?

Absolutely, but we have to be careful that we don't allow the accomplishment of that mission to be the thing that defines us or gives us significance.

We must never forget that it is only in our relationship with God that we find our true identity and significance. It is not what we do- that defines us. it is what Christ has done on the cross that defines us. (Phil. 3:4b-9)

c. We were created by God to bring Him glory.

(1) Isa 43:7 "Everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made."

(2) Psalm 23:1-3 "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness **for His name's sake.**"

Who is it all about? It is all about God and His name.

(3) Rom. 11:36 "For from him and through him and to him are all things **To him be the glory forever. Amen.**"

(4). Psalm 115:1 "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory."

5. Why is this such a big deal?

a. Because you are whatever you love. You are whatever you live for. Whatever you are seeking after to bring you glory is really your god.

b. How often do we serve God and do good **not** for God's name but for ourselves? So we can feel good us.

c. How often do we obey God to try to make Him indebted to us so He owes us? And when He doesn't do what we want we get upset with Him?

d. If you really want to know if you are serving God out of love for God, then He will not be a means to an end but in end in Himself. You will continue to seek His glory even when He doesn't do what you want Him to.

Illustration.

In College you take music appreciation and have to listen to Vivaldi to get an A in the class. Listening to this music is a means to an end- an A. Let's say that now though you learned to enjoy Vivaldi's music so that you listen to it not. It is no longer a means to an end, now it is and end in itself. You just enjoy his music.

6. Read Psalm 115:1-11

- a. The nations say, "Where is God?" He isn't doing what they want
- b. The psalmist responds in 115:3 "Our God is seated in heaven and he does whatever he pleases."

c. So what do the nations do in response?
They create their own God. They want to be able to control their gods so they can do whatever they want. They want their gods (idols) to bring them glory.

d. How often do you want God to serve you? How often have you made God to be the way that you want him to be? How often do you want God to bring you glory?

e. Read 115:8 Those who make their own gods will find that they are impotent to do anything because they aren't real gods.

f. Notice the psalmist ends 115:9-11 "Trust in the Lord."

Why is this such a big deal?

Because if we aren't living for God's glory but are living for our own glory, even when we are being religious, even when we are doing good, even when we are sharing the gospel or making disciples we aren't truly serving God, we are serving ourselves and we will miss God-who is the point.

The whole point of all of life is God- having a relationship with Him, not to make much of you, but to make much of Him. That is why we serve on the Frontline. That is why we want to tell others about Him. That is why we want to grow in a relationship with Him because He is worthy and He is amazing, He is glorious, and we want others to know Him as well.

But some of you will say, "it is scary to trust God and live completely for His glory." I understand but I want you to know that fear is not from God but Satan.

Think about Jesus for a moment. Why would you fear surrendering and trusting in Him? Do you think He is going to take advantage of you?

He went to the cross for you not because you were good but because you were not good
He went to the cross for you not because you were trying to live for God's glory but because you will living for your own glory.

Rom 5:6-10 says

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we

were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more shall we saved through his life."

Do I want a group of students who are engaged on the frontline? Absolutely
But more than anything I want a group of students who's goal is to do their all to the glory of God.

Application

How many of you would say that you have been living your life to bring God glory?

How many of you would say that you have been living more for your own glory but tonight you are repenting and with God's help you want to live to bring glory to God?

How many of you would be willing to commit to praying and asking God to help you be intentional on the frontline with at least one person this fall that needs Jesus?

