

# SIGNPOSTS OF SUCCESS

## I. Introduction

### A. A Kingdom Definition

1. What is “success”? What does “success” mean to you? How do you define it? How do you know if you’re “winning”?
2. Every person has to have a clear definition of success.

**“I’ve always wanted to be somebody...but I see now I should have been more specific.”  
Comedian Lily Tomlin, *The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe***

3. Genuine success demands *clear direction*.

**“to obtain a desired object, end or goal.”  
Webster’s 10<sup>th</sup> Collegiate Dictionary**

4. “Success” means “attainment”. But attainment of *what?*
5. It would be a terrible thing to spend your life climbing the “ladder of success”, then get to the top and find out the ladder was leaning against the wrong building!

**“Our greatest fear should not be of failure,  
but of succeeding at something that doesn’t really matter.”  
Eternal Perspectives Newsletter, Fall 2003 (Source of Quote Unknown)**

6. Is “success” measured in money?

**“I wish all of this never would have happened. I wish I would have torn the ticket up.”  
Jewel Whittaker, wife of the lottery winner of the largest jackpot in U.S. history**

7. Is success “fame” and celebrity?

**Mel Gibson, Actor and Director of *The Passion of the Christ*,  
speaking to 5,000 pastors at the Chicago screening of the film...**

**“It will probably be savaged by the critics”, he told them. “But I’ve had my career, and I’m bored with it. I created a secular utopia for myself in Hollywood, but it was empty. There are more important things...”**

7. Indeed. But what? (Or who?)

### B. Goal of Today’s Message

1. Today, I’d like to show you a “Kingdom” version of success: 4 “signposts” along the highway to God’s approval, four things that really count for something—what the “successful life” looks like from God’s perspective!

2. These four things just happen to be our Christ Community Church vision for how we see “THE CALL” of God....a call to the “The Kingdom-Driven Life”—a way of living whereby everything is re-ordered and realigned around God’s value system.

### **Christ’s Call**

- *Call to Christ*: Knowing God
- *Call to Community*: Knowing and abiding in the relationships God has given you
- *Call to Cultivation*: To a life-long pursuit of discipleship--becoming more Christ-like and helping others find the way.
- *Call to your Commission*: A discovery and walking out of divine destiny and purpose—your “vocation” in Christ

## **II. Four Signposts of Success: Christ’s Call to “Follow Me”**

### **A. Obedience to the Call to Christ: To Know God**

1. Here’s the great question of life...have you believed in Christ? Have you accepted God’s provision for your sin problem? Have you been “saved”?

**“And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.  
John 17:3 NLT**

2. If you KNOW God and His Christ, you have the cornerstone of all success!  
3. God builds NOTHING into your life until this foundation is laid!

**“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”  
Mark 8:36 KJV**

4. If this is the ONLY claim to fame you ever have, you’re a success!

**THIS IS THE CALL TO CHRIST!**

### **B. The Call to Community: Knowing and Faithfully Abiding In the Relationships God Has Given You**

1. You are born out *of* relationship, *into* relationship and *for* relationship!  
2. Life is about two-way relationships: Vertical (with God), Horizontal (with “Others”), and the Cross is the connecting point.

**God sets the solitary in families...  
Psalm 68:6**

**God has placed in the Body (of Christ) every member as pleased Him...**

## 1 Corinthians 12:18

3. Most of God's grace is "mediated grace"; that is to say, that it comes to us THROUGH others God has placed in our lives.
4. Believers are to become Belongers!
5. We must learn the difference between "life-role" relationships and "organizational" relationships—we can only build legacies on 'life-role' (God-ordained) relationships with family and the church.

### C. The Call to a Life of Diligent Pursuit

#### THE CALL TO CULTIVATION

1. Christ calls us to discipleship, the life of a "learner", following Him into the Kingdom and developing Christ-like character.
2. CCC Mission Statement: People helping people follow Christ, or more specifically:

*Helping sincere seekers become devoted disciples of Christ and His Kingdom.*

3. Something is going to drive our lives, but real success is when God's "thing" directs us!

**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else...  
Matthew 6:33**

4. A sure signpost of success is an "ignited" life, a life of passion and fire!

**And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.  
Exodus 3:2 KJV**

- a. God's first challenge: to get us on fire
- b. God's second challenge: not to let us burn up

5. Oh, how the "fire" marks those on the right path!

**UNICEF surveyed young people in the top 21 most developed nations on how happy and well adjusted their young people felt. The U.S. was next to last! William Falk of "The Week" magazine commented:**

***"I've seen the firsthand emptiness that haunts so many middle-class kids. From an early age, they are taught that life is a relentless pursuit of individual gratification and success, requiring above-average brains and above-average looks. There is no sense of context, community, or higher purpose...we've forgotten to help them answer the question that cant' be ignored:  
What is all this for?"***

**William Falk, The Week, 3/02/07**

6. Contrast this with the life of a Christ-follower, a devoted disciple, committed to the laws of a universe that makes sense because God's laws work!

**Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.  
Galatians 6:7**

#### **D. The Call to Discovery of Destiny and Purpose**

1. The early church had a revelation of the concept of work as "VOCATION."

**'vocation'-from the Latin "voce", which means, "to call."**

2. The primary call, to all men, is "Follow Me".

3. The secondary call, to each one, is individual, personal and unique.

4. Only when we discover our vocation can we find peace and freedom.

5. Discovery principles:

- Knowing our S.H.A.P.E.
- Understanding our Strengths
- Comfortable in our Calling

6. ALL honorable occupations qualify for vocation: housewife, marketplace, career fields, etc.

#### **III. The Call is to Progress**

**And...when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."  
Mark 4:35 NASB**

##### **A. Jesus was always LEADING, always calling His disciples to FOLLOW.**

1. It was a call to SUCCESS, not to failure; He didn't say, "let's row out to the middle and sink!" God will FINISH what He starts!

**I always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,  
For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;  
Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you  
will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.  
Philippians 1:4-6 KJV**

##### **B. It's a Call to *Success, as God Defines it!***

- To know Christ
- To walk with those He's placed us with
- To commit ourselves to spiritual growth
- To help each other discover our calling and commission

##### **C. This is the Vision and Heart of the Church! Who Wants to Go?**