

**Worship Our Sovereign Father  
Mission, Vision, and Values Part 2  
Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
By Ryan Perry**

**Scripture**

**Colossians 1:15–17**

***[15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. [17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

**Romans 8:14–17**

***[14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.***

**Let’s Pray**

**Introduction**

Illustration:

When Tyanne and I bought our home back in 2015, we were excited to finally have a permanent place to raise a family and set down roots. However, we also knew that it needed work if we were going to live there long-term.

At the time, the house had two bathrooms, which was great, but only two bedrooms, so it was going to make it hard for our family of 5 to fit in the space as the kids grew. So for about a year, the two older ones shared a room, Asher slept in our room, and I took on the task of turning our fairly unfinished basement into a family room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and two storage rooms.

Now look, I had never done this kind of work before, so, as you can imagine, it was a very slow process. However, I drew up plans, got the necessary permits, bought the required tools and supplies, framed and insulated the whole thing, and then was fortunate to have the help of others to bring my vision to the finish line.

But as tedious, slow, and arduous as the process was, it was worth it because I loved my family, and I wanted them to have a house that could hopefully become our lifelong home.

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Last week, we began a six-week series focused on our new mission, vision, and values as a church.

We had the privilege of hearing Dan Butterfield share about God's faithfulness to this church over the past 36 years, and we spent time unpacking the new mission and 5-year vision that we believe God is calling us to pursue as a church. Here is what we learned:

## **Mission**

**Loving God and inviting people to follow Christ.**

## **5-Year Vision**

**We are a growing household of God that equips and sends backyard missionaries into the Coulee Region.**

At LEFC, we believe that we are supposed to be loving God as our first and highest goal. But secondly, we are supposed to be inviting people, both inside and outside the church, to follow Christ.

And it is our hope that in 5-years we will become a growing family of God that loves, equips, and sends one another to share the love of Christ right where we live. **Because we want people to experience the life, joy, and freedom that we have graciously been given by God.**

However, if we are going to become a family of backyard missionaries, it's going to take more than just talk.

It will require us to have a practical plan of action and a core set of values and convictions that will inform and guide our actions as we endeavor to be salt and light in the Coulee Region.

If you remember, we already discussed the plan for 2026.

### **1. Begin with prayer.**

This will involve forming a prayer team that will pray for our congregation and how God will advance the gospel beyond these walls.

### **2. Form a vision implementation team**

This group will think through what we need to be doing as a church, so that each person can be equipped to **"love God and invite people to follow Christ"** right in their own backyards.

### **3. Backyard missionary training**

We will be developing a plan so that each person can be trained in building relationships and sharing Christ with the lost.

#### 4. Table Fellowships

As a church, we will begin by planning one or two outreach-focused meals or gatherings where we can invite people who don't know Jesus or are not connected to a faith family. It's our hope that each of these steps will help us to accomplish one main goal this year.

**One Year Goal:**

**We will begin to take ownership of this mission and vision.**

**Which means that each of us will identify and work toward taking our next step as backyard missionaries.**

**So that's the plan for 2026.** But if we are going to accomplish these goals and move closer to living out this mission and vision, we also need a set of convictions and values that help us to get there.

Because our values not only highlight our strengths and what's important to us, but they also serve as a guide for what we need to be doing as a church to accomplish our goals, both now and in the future.

So today, we will begin by unpacking the first and most important core value of the 5 that we came up with. It's this:

We are about:

##### **Value 1**

##### **Worshiping our Sovereign Father**

As a committee, we love this value because it highlights three things that are really important for us as a church.

**One**, that our highest calling is to worship God. **Two**, he is sovereign over everything. **Three**, he is our loving Father.

You see, when I got to plan and build my basement for my family, it was hard, I messed up a lot, and I definitely needed a lot of help. But I willingly and joyfully did it because I loved my family, and I wanted them to have good things.

Similarly, we serve a God who sovereignly creates and ordains everything, but he does it perfectly and without fail. The reason he does it, first and foremost, is for his own glory. And yet, he also does it because he is our perfect Father, who loves us and is working for our best as his children. **Therefore, the only right response for us as his people is worship.**

This brings us to our main point for this morning:

**Main Point: We worship God because he ordains all things and has adopted us through Christ.**

And as we break down this value and main point, we are going to see that there are three main ways that, as a church, we are called to worship God as our Sovereign Father.

We are called to:

**Proclaim the Triune God who ordains all things.**

**Love the Father who has adopted us in Christ.**

**Live before him with reverence and awe.**

As a committee, we identified these three calls to action because each of them not only helps us to rightly worship God and trust him with our lives, but they also produce gratitude and joy as we remember what he's done for us, and are used by God to invite others to follow him as their one true and Sovereign Father.

So let's begin by looking at this call to "proclaim the Triune God who ordains all things."

### **1. Proclaim the Triune God who ordains all things.**

Illustration:

Around the same time that I was working on my basement, there was another major construction project happening in our area. **It was the I-90 bridge project.** Now, I know that it was a huge pain for a lot of us because we had to go all the way to Dresbach and back just to get in and out of La Crescent. But I loved driving by that area.

I loved watching the workers take out one bridge while simultaneously building another. I got excited as I tried to imagine what the finished ramps and traffic flow would look like. And I was admittedly in awe of the fact that one person or group of people could have the knowledge and skill to bring it all together.

Because of this, I remember talking to my wife about it all the time. "Hey, did you see what they got done this week?" "I wonder what the off and on ramps are going to look like?" "Can you believe they put in a walking bridge?" "I can't imagine the time and energy it takes to keep this whole project moving forward and on track."

I was like a kid in a candy shop for the first time, and I couldn't help myself. I was so blown away by how it all came together **that I needed to tell someone.**

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And yet, as amazing as the I-90 bridge project was, and as skilled as the workers were who brought it all together, it pales in comparison to the triune God of the universe who ordains all that we see and all that we don't see.

**But what exactly are we saying when we tell people that our God ordains everything?**

To answer that question, let's look at Colossians 1:15-17.

***[15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. [17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

Now, I realize that these verses are specifically talking about Jesus and what he has done as God. But when we unpack them, we can see 3 things that actually apply to all that God is and does so that we can begin to understand his ordaining power.

### Our God created Everything

As it says in verse 16, all things in heaven and on earth, all things visible and invisible, and all rulers and authorities are created by and for God. This is one of the most well-attested truths in scripture, and there are literally hundreds of scripture references that make this clear.

Every speck of the entire created order has been made by God. The stars, galaxies, planets, trees, animals, people, societies, governments, authority structures, etc... are all made and fashioned by him.

And if we go back to the opening verses of Genesis 1 we can see that every part of God was involved in the process.

***[1] In the beginning, God (Father) created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) was hovering over the face of the waters.***

***[3] And God said (Jesus, the Word of God), “Let there be light,” and there was light.***

This means that the complete triune God deliberately and creatively put everything together. He gave it order so that it would work a certain way, and he is the one who cares for and rules over all that he has made.

Because he doesn't just create everything, he also sustains it.

### Our God sustains everything

#### **Colossians 1:17**

***[17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

#### **Psalm 55:22**

***[22] Cast your burden on the LORD,  
and he will sustain you;  
he will never permit  
the righteous to be moved.***

The triune God of the universe is continually working to maintain, support, and keep his creation working properly. **As it says, he is the one who holds it together.**

This is something that, on the one hand, he does for all of creation, while at the same time, taking special care to sustain those whom he has rescued and redeemed. **Because our God cares for us, as his people, and will never let us go.**

Finally, if he creates and sustains everything, it also means that he has a plan for all things, including us.

Our God has a plan for all things and all people

### **Proverbs 16:4**

***[4] The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.***

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

***[11] For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.***

Everything that happens in all of creation, whether good or bad, seen or unseen, is part of God's sovereign plan. **A plan that is centered on his own honor and glory and involves saving and prospering a people so that they will know him, worship him, and will flourish in his kingdom.**

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This is what we mean when we say that our triune God ordains everything, and it is the grand activity that he has undertaken in his creation.

### **Application**

And, as a church, it is our joy-filled duty to proclaim his sovereign care and control over all things. Because he is not only worthy to be talked about and worshiped, but this grand view of God is vital to our growth as believers and to our ability to invite others to follow him.

- It gives us a big and trustworthy God that we can follow.
- It humbles us by reminding us that everything happens according to his plan and not our own efforts.
- It comforts us in suffering, knowing that in all things he is powerfully working for our good.
- It fuels our prayer life because we know he hears us, is in control, and can change circumstances with a single word.
- It grounds salvation in his grace and makes it a gift.
- It produces a zeal to make him known. Because he is powerful, he is for us as his people, and he is one who will make our mission and invitation fruitful, as he sovereignly draws people to himself.

And yet, if we are going to be a church that rightly worships and proclaims our sovereign God, then we will also need to be **loving him as our Father who has adopted us in Christ.**

## 2. Love the Father who has adopted us in Christ.

### Romans 8:14–17

*[14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

#### Illustration:

The main reason I shared the opening story about finishing my basement for my family was to give you a picture, albeit an imperfect one, of how God lovingly plans, creates, and does all things for the good of his people.

However, one part of the story that I didn't fully share is that I reached a point where I was at the end of my knowledge, I was running out of money, and I felt stuck and unsure if I could see this project to the finish line.

**But then a miracle happened.** Some friends felt compelled by the love of God to gift us the necessary funds to hire a contractor so that the project could be completed. I want you to know that to this day, that is one of the greatest gifts I have ever been given.

And no matter what happens between now and eternity, I will always love them and be forever grateful for the love, kindness, and care that they have shown to my family.

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#### Text:

And yet, as much as I was blown away by that gift, there is a gift that should inspire an even greater and lasting love within my heart. **It's the gift of adoption and sonship that we have been given by the Father through Christ.**

You see, like our friends, God saw that we were all in great need. We were enslaved to sin, we were unable to free ourselves, and we were headed for hell and eternal destruction.

Now, he could have left us there and said, **“So sad, too bad. You're a sinner, you broke my law, and you deserve what's coming to yah.”**

But he didn't. Instead, he was compelled by our sin to send his son Jesus Christ to live, to die, and to be raised to new life so that he could be our substitute and endure the punishment we deserved.

As a result, he not only gave us his perfect and right standing with God, but Romans 8:14-17 tells us that he did a few other things as well.

He freed us from slavery.

As Paul writes in the first part of verse 15: **[15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear...**

### **Galatians 5:1**

**[1] For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

We are no longer slaves to sin, meaning that we are set free from doing things that dishonor God, that ruin our lives, and lead to death. Because the Father willingly sent Jesus pay the price of our freedom.

And he did it, because he loves us and wanted to adopt us as his children.

He adopts us as his children

As it says in Romans 8:15-16:

**[15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

**Let this sink in for a moment.** You and I are full-fledged and forever children of God. This means that Jesus, the Son of God, is our brother, and that we are loved by the Father in the **same way that he loves his only begotten Son.**

And because of this, he will never leave us nor forsake us, and we get to share a great and eternal inheritance with Christ, **because the Father has made us his heirs.**

He made us his heirs

### **Romans 8:17**

**[17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**

Like Christ, we get to inherit and share everything that belongs to God, including a forever relationship with the Father who loved us by giving his Son for us.

### **Application**

If the highest purpose in our lives were merely to talk about a God who creates everything, who keeps it together, and has a plan for it all, we would be left with a few questions:

Does he really love us and care about us? Is he really working for our good? Does he actually want anything to do with us or are we like lab rats in his great science experiment?

This means we wouldn't have any hope of an eternity with God, and it would be hard to convince ourselves and others that they should want to know and follow him.

But our sovereign and Triune God has done way more than just ordain the world and our existence. The Father sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us so that we could be his forever children. And Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to seal us, as God's children, and to be our guide until the Father calls us home.

Which means that our lives should be overflowing with gratitude and love to God for who he is and all that he has done for us. Because God's faithfulness and love for us are free, and it is what compels us and will compel others to worship and follow him.

As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

***[14] For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. [15] And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.***

Therefore, as a church, if we are going to faithfully and fully proclaim and worship our triune God, then we need to be grounded in love. His perfect and immense love for us as his children, and with it, our humble and grateful love for him.

**Because the love God has for us and our response of love for him is what will compel us to live our entire lives before him with reverence and awe.**

### **3. Live before him with reverence and awe.**

**Hebrews 12:28–29**

***[28] Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, [29] for our God is a consuming fire.***

Illustration:

When my kids were young, one of my favorite parts of being a dad was coming home and playing with them. Whether it was legos, cars, wrestling, tea parties, trains, or dolls, it didn't matter. Because it was my opportunity to be with them and to let them know that I loved them.

However, my kids also know that I'm more than just the playful dad who loves them. I'm also the one in authority who lovingly makes rules and disciplines them for their good. Now, I have to admit they don't always feel that way, and the main reason that they even see me as a loving authority figure is that my wife did a lot of work to instill that within them when they were young.

But nonetheless, they know that I love them and have authority over them for their good.

Text:

The same is true of God. He loves us, he adopted us through Christ, and he wants to be close to us. As Jesus says in John 14:23:

***[23] “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”***

And yet, he is also our great ruler and king, who, according to Hebrews 12:29, **“is a consuming fire.”**

When it says that he is a “consuming fire,” that’s covenant language from Deuteronomy that reminds us that God is perfect and holy, that he judges and destroys sin, and that he lovingly purifies and disciplines his people.

Therefore, we, as his children, are called to live every moment of our lives full of **reverence and awe.**

We are to have a deep and humble respect for God, an enduring love for him as our Father, Savior, and Guide, and we should be filled with wonder and amazement because we recognize that he is a supremely powerful and holy God who chose to know us and love us, when he easily could have done away with us.

When we live this way, it not only honors God, but he uses it to produce lasting fruit in us and through us.

- It leads us to worship God in ways that please him.
- It deepens our assurance and security, knowing that we have received an eternal and unshakable kingdom (Heb. 12:28).
- It fuels our desire to seek holiness and follow God (Phil 2:12-13).
- It draws others to God.

As Jesus says in Matthew 5:16:

***[16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.***

## **Conclusion**

Brothers and sisters, I hope you can see why we want to be a church that **“worships our Sovereign Father,”** and why we believe that this should be our first and greatest value.

The only reason we gather as a faith family is that the almighty God, who created and sustains everything, sent his beloved son to die as a ransom for us.

Meaning, he loved us, chose us, and adopted us to be his forever children, even though we deserved nothing but his wrath and condemnation.

Therefore, we get to live every day knowing that he holds our lives in his hands, that he is sovereignly working for our good, that he infinitely loves and cares for us, and that he is preparing us for the day when we will be with him forever.

So, let's make it our top priority to **worship him**. To declare boldly that we serve a God who ordains all things. To love him as our Abba and our Father, who has done more for us than we could ever imagine. Finally, to live lives full of wonder and humility before him, so that we would trust him, take joy in him, and so that others would come to know him and glorify him as the only Sovereign Father in all creation.

**Let's pray**