

# Will Sanderson

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## ACADEMIC HISTORY

The Master's Seminary  
Masters, Divinity 2016

Union College  
BS, Mass Communication 2013

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

First Baptist Church Roosevelt, Roosevelt, TX Associate Pastor 2016- Present

- Youth Pastor
  - o Responsible for preaching twice a week to the students, leading small group, organizing events, and shepherding students, parents, and leaders.
- College Pastor
  - o Started a college ministry at Texas Tech University.
  - o Preaching weekly on campus, passing out tracks and fliers to students, organizing ministry, and shepherding students/leaders.
- Associate Pastor
  - o Counseling and shepherding parents and church members.
  - o Preaching Sunday school (Once a month), and Preaching Sunday Worship Service (7 Times a Year)
  - o Leading and organizing Sunday school teaching time.

Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA High School Ministry Intern March 2015- Dec2016

- Director of Camp Regen 2015
  - o Responsible for all operations of one-week camp attended by 925 staff and students from Grace Church as well as 22 visiting churches
- Director of Winter Camp 2016
  - o Responsible for planning and execution of 2-day weekend retreat for 150 Grace Church Staff and Students

- Conceptualize and Coordinate Student Events
  - Book and work with venues and vendors
  - Come up with events and activities for 60 to 100 Students
- Program Sunday morning youth group service
  - Produce and publish announcements, along with any corresponding multi-media
  - Coordinate with worship leader, call to worship speaker, audio/visual, and pastor; communicate plans and agenda to all parties before the service begins
  - Responsible for décor of meeting space
- Follow-up Ministry with absent church members
  - Email and call members of Grace who haven't been at church for extended time
  - Report contacts with membership pastor and staff
  - Shepherd issues concerning lack of attendance

Grace Community Church, Logos Institute  
Instructor/Lecturer

2015- 2016

- Instructor for the Logos Bible Institute at Grace Church
  - Christology
  - Contemporary Issues in Theology (Creation)
  - Psalms
  - Job

## Interests & ACTIVITIES

- Creator and host of The Word Unbound Podcast
- Speaker for FCA at Idalou High School
  - Teach group of 20 students at local public high school

# Philosophy of Ministry

Will Sanderson

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## Definition and Purpose

Simply stated, a Philosophy of Ministry is the “what” and the “how” of ministry as it relates directly to the Church. Put another way, it is a statement of the purpose and the process of ministry, which helps guide the implementation and evaluation of said ministry for the glory of God and the edification of the Church. (*1 Tim 3:14-16; 1 Cor. 11:2; 16; 14:33, 37-40; 2 Thess 2:15; 3:6*)

Throughout my time in pastoral ministry, God has taught me many lessons both through successes and failures. The greatest lesson that I’ve learned is that a pastor never “arrives,” and that he must always be growing not only in the knowledge of God’s word, but most importantly in the love of Christ and His Bride – the Church. With this said, let me be the first to say that I am an imperfect man continuously seeking to become a better disciple of Jesus Christ.

This is not an exhaustive document and is therefore intended to present my philosophy of ministry in general terms. My philosophy of ministry derives from the following theological truths.

## The What

### • High view of God

- We must have an exalted view of God as Sovereign (*Psalm 115:3, 135:6*). God must be communicated accurately both in theology and practice. The goal of ministry ultimately is to glorify God and this begins with a high view of God communicated and modeled. We must seek to disciple the Body of Christ to live out their lives and their ministries with a theocentric worldview (*Revelation 4:11; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:10-11*).
- This involves a God-focused, transcendent worship that produces the fear of the Lord and celebration of our salvation (*Philippians 1:18; Revelation 5:12*).

### • The Inerrancy, Infallibility, and Sufficiency of the Scriptures

- Because the Scriptures are both inspired by God and inerrant as outlined on my doctrinal statement (see attached), we must study and apply His Words diligently. What the Bible says, we must follow without argument (*Psalm 119*).

- A strong biblical emphasis protects both the Elder and the Flock from straying to man-centered philosophies or any harmful integration of worldly thinking (*Isaiah 40:8; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Psalm 19; Colossians 2:8; 2 Timothy 3:17; Hebrews 4:12*).
- Since God’s Word is His chosen method to reach, perfect, and mature His people, I strongly believe in in-depth expository preaching with an emphasis on impacting the life of the individual (*Nehemiah 8:8; 2 Timothy 4:2*).
- **A Biblical Understanding of the Purpose of the Church**
  - The church exists to worship and glorify God (*1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 13:15*). We exist to guard the truth and proclaim it clearly and *accurately* (*1 Timothy 3:13-16; Matthew 28:19-20; Titus 2:11-15*). We exist to mutually edify one another as each one exercises his or her spiritual giftedness (*1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12; Ephesians 4*). We exist to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (*Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28-29*). We are to be shining lights in a dark world (*Matthew 5:13-16*).
- **A Biblical Understanding of Leadership**
  - God requires biblically qualified male leadership who must live as examples to the Flock, teach the Body, and equip the saints to do the work of the ministry (*1 Thessalonians 2:4-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5*).
  - Leaders will give an account to God for each member of the flock so we must lead carefully and diligently in the fear of the Lord (*Hebrews 13:17*).
  - Leadership consists of a plurality of men who seek the Lord’s guidance in the care and oversight of the Church (*1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9*).
  - Each elder has the responsibility to lead and feed, guide and come alongside, protect and watch over the precious souls that God has entrusted to their care. This should be a joy and not a burden as the flock submits to their spiritual leaders (*1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 5:14*).

## **The How**

The following are some practical applications of my philosophy of ministry and appear in no particular order. I pray that these thoughts may help you further understand my personal ministry style, again this is far from exhaustive.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the church come straight from Matthew 28:19-20a which says, “<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” These objectives can be stated as:

- Making Disciples- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people, and equipping them to do likewise. This is the primary command of the passage.
- Go- This could be understood as “where ever you find yourself,” meaning that no matter where a person finds themselves, their objective remains the same, namely, make disciples.
- Baptizing- Having people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and following the ordinances Jesus gave to His church in baptism, and after having them follow the other ordinance of the Lord’s Table.
- Teaching- Instructing people on how to live a life for Jesus Christ, and what it means to follow him.
- **Ways these objectives are accomplished**
  - Teaching the Word- God has spoken through His authoritative word, therefore all ministry whether, counseling, small group, teaching, or preaching, needs to be rooted, grounded, and founded in the Bible.
  - Discipleship- Discipleship can be defined and accomplished by “helping others be more like Jesus.” This happens when lives interact, whether it is corporately, in smaller groups, or individually. Discipleship cannot happen without concerted energy and focus, and it happens when biblical relationships are pursued.
  - Evangelism- God has commissioned His people to share the gospel, this includes sharing with people, and equipping them to share it themselves.
  - Events- Conferences, organized events, and casual events serve the purpose of getting people out of their normal routines and lives, to have fellowship with God’s people and to place them where there is Christ focused teaching, discipleship, and community.
  - Equipping Leaders- The Pastor is called to shepherd the flock. An effective pastor pours into those who are pouring into others, effectively duplicating himself, so there can be more, and more effective ministry.

### **General Principals and Views on Pastoring.**

- I strongly desire to model Christ by being “full of grace and truth” (*John 1:14*) and modeling servant leadership with humility.
- Success in ministry ought to be measure by faithfulness to Jesus Christ and His word. Success ought not be measured merely by numbers, baptisms, or professions.
- A pastor will be ineffective and hurtful to his flock if he is not himself seeking holiness, and communion with his Savior.
- Discipleship cannot happen unless the person is a believer, until then it is always evangelism.

- No pastor ever “arrives” there is always growth to be found and pursued.
- The Church should be truth-based, love-motivated, Spirit-empowered, and God-glorifying in all that it does. Every ministry should be evaluated in this light.
- We must always preach the Gospel not merely in outreach but as reality that should be recognized and lived out daily.
- The pulpit (in every context, from student ministries, to Sunday school, to college groups, home bible studies, and Sunday morning worship) drives the church.
- As the men go, the Church goes. Men must be developed to lead in the home and in the Church.
- The Word of God must be central in every activity of the Church.
- Weak preaching makes weak christians.
- Ministry is by everyone in the Body, not merely by paid staff or by a few.
- Pastors should still be seeking to be disciplined and held accountable, both to set an example, and for the sake of his very soul.
- Every pastor should be seeking to raise up the man who will take his place.
- Discipleship must be occurring at many levels in the Church with each person helping others to follow Christ closer.
- Discipleship happens when lives interact. It doesn’t always look like highly intense and structured times (though those are obviously immensely helpful), but discipleship can happen in many ways and times.
- The music ministry of the Church must be God-centered with lyrics that are theological, profound and Scriptural so that the worship may be enhanced.
- The bands that are sung should be held to the same scrutiny of the theologians endorsed from the pulpit.
- God places emphasis on godliness in ministry, we should too, by putting Godly people into every ministry we put forth, from waiting tables (*Acts 6*) to overseers (*I Timothy 3*).
- Church discipline and accountability is essential to be practiced biblically.
- Elders must lead with humility and love as they truly seek to serve and shepherd the flock by word and example.

**Will Sanderson**  
**Personal Statement of Faith**

**On the Bible**

1. I believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice. The Word of God is the foundation upon which this church operates and is the basis for which this church is governed. I believe that the Word of God supersedes any earthly law that is contrary to the Holy Scriptures. (Isaiah 28:13; Nehemiah 8:8; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:21)

**On the Trinity**

2. I believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all things. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Hebrews 9:14)

**On God the Father**

3. I believe in the person of God the Father, an Infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all those who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; Psalm 102:27; John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3)

**On God the Son**

4. I believe in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. I believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, his substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal, visible return to earth. (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; Mark 16:19; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2; John 8:58; John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 1:2; Revelation 1:8)

**On God the Holy Spirit**

5. I believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, Who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ; (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 16:8-11; Romans 15:13,16; Hebrews 9:14)
6. I believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. (John 14:16-17, 16:8-11)

### **On Salvation**

7. I believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, and that all who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ, and that only by God's grace, through faith alone, are we saved. (John 3:16-19; 5:24; Romans 3:23, 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)

### **On the Church**

8. I believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the head and all who are born again are members. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:15-16)

I believe in the local church, which is comprised of baptized believers in a geographical location, who gather for the public preaching and teaching of God's Word, corporate worship through song and prayer, personal edification, the promotion of personal and worldwide evangelism, and the celebration of the ordinances. (1 Cor 1:2; Mt 28:19-20; Heb 10:24-25, 13:7)

9. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the church: (a) full immersion water baptism, and (b) the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)
10. I believe in the laying on of hands for the ordination and/or commissioning of pastors, elders, and deacons. (Acts 6:6; 1 Timothy 4:14)

### **On The Second Coming of Christ**

11. I believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ which is His personal, visible return to earth and the establishment of His millennial kingdom, in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked. (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:11-15)

### **On Heaven and Hell**

12. I believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell and that all those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord, while those who reject Jesus' free gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from the Lord in Hell. (Matthew 5:3, 25:31-34; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4; Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:22, 18:9; Luke 12:5)

### **On the Future of Christians**

13. I believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church where all believers will meet the Lord in the air and be taken out of this world prior to the Tribulation that will come upon the earth. (Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:36; Romans 1:18, 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Revelation 5:7-10, 7:13-14)



### **On Marriage**

14. I believe that marriage has been ordained and instituted by God. This church defines “marriage” as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment.
  
15. I reserve the right to decline the request of any person or persons, that in my judgment, may not be qualified to enter into the sacred union of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons. (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:21-24, Matthew 19:3-6, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4)