

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Wrestling with the Nature and Mission of the Church Today

Since 2005 I have been wrestling with the question, “what is the church?”. For many this isn't much of a question; church is where we go on Sunday's for worship. But, as a pastor, I've longed to make sense of what we are doing and why we are doing it. Without denying the important place of worship in the lives and practices of believers, most of what I see in the practice of church is a striving for existence without a real understanding of why. That question and that experience led me to an M.Div program at Tyndale Seminary called the In-Ministry program (later 'the Church in the City'). This program was centred around answering biblically and theologically what is the nature and mission of the church.

Foundational to the work, in addition to 'kingdom of Jesus' theology, was *Paul's letter to the Ephesians* and the book, *Missional Church*, edited by Darrell L. Guder. During my 12 years of ministry at Northview I have been trying to apply my convictions about the church by leading our community towards a deeper understanding of our nature and calling to be the church for the world. I began this work by working through Ephesians in 2014. Now, as I prepare to finish my work with Northview, I want to complete my work by revisiting the letter alongside reading *Missional Church* once again.

My hope in returning to these themes at the end of my ministry is that I will leave behind me a group of people who are wrestling alongside me to answer the question not just theoretically, but practically. My desire for Northview as I leave is the same as when I arrived, to be the church engaged in the Mission of God within the location God has placed it. As many have noted, God hasn't given his church a mission, but he's given his mission the church. *Ephesians* highlights God's grand design for the church to be witness in the world.

This class will be offered in-person and online (Wednesdays 7:00–8:30 pm) and is open to anyone who would like to participate and learn. Please register your desire to participate with Pastor David: david@northview.sk.ca. As well, please purchase the book, *Missional Church*, edited by Darrell L. Guder.

Date	Text	<i>Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America</i>
March 4, 2026	Ephesians 1:1–14	C1. Missional Church: From Sending to Being Sent
March 18, 2026	Ephesians 1:15–23	C2. Missional Context: Understanding North American Culture
March 25, 2026	Ephesians 2:1–10	C3. Missional Challenge: Understanding the Church in North America
April 1, 2026	Ephesians 2:11–22	C4. Missional Vocation: Called and Sent to Represent the Reign of God
April 8, 2026	Ephesians 3:1–13	C5. Missional Witness: The Church as Apostle to the World
April 15, 2026	Ephesians 3:14–21	C6. Missional Community: Cultivating Communities of the Holy Spirit
April 22, 2026	Ephesians 4:1–16	C7. Missional Leadership: Equipping God's People for Mission
April 29, 2026	Ephesians 4:17–32	C8. Missional Structures: The Particular Community
May 6, 2026	Ephesians 5:1–20	C9. Missional Connectedness: The Community of Communities in Mission
May 13, 2026	Ephesians 5:21–33	Open forum discussion: Let's talk church and pray
May 20, 2026	Ephesians 6:1–9	Open forum discussion: Let's talk church and pray
May 27, 2026	Ephesians 6:10–24	Open forum discussion: Let's talk church and pray