

# The Why

The “Why” of Latah Valley is simple and straight-forward. But it is also complex and must be communicated by any circuitous means available. In short, we endeavor to communicate the love of God which has been revealed to the world through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. To state this clearly and succinctly is to reiterate the essential content of the historic church’s confession for two millennia. *“In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself”* (2 Corinthians 5:19). Coincidental with this effort to communicate the “gospel,” however, Latah Valley finds itself amid the froth and foment of a collapsing Christendom wave. We can no longer assume that people, living in Spokane, Washington have a functional knowledge base of the Bible’s essential claims. Nor may we assume a common vocabulary when it comes to giving expression to various spiritual experiences. Moreover, within the confines of the church sub-culture, where the Bible’s authority and vocabulary hold sway, an us- versus-them mentality hardens and thwarts any genuine effort to understand and ultimately love the curious, but estranged, neighbor.

With these social dynamics in mind, Latah Valley intends to foster mutual, inter-subjective dialogue *at the threshold* between the institutional church and the wider culture to which we are called. As per Jesus’ instruction of *“every scribe trained for the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 13:52), we will elicit “new” interpretations alongside of “old” and seemingly intransigent texts. Both the old and the new constitute the “treasure” of the household, which must be brought out in public. Therefore, we will encourage the believer to engage questions that arise from first-hand experience as well as on-going world events. We will encourage the ardent seeker to remain open to the possibility of an answer arising from the tradition passed on to us.

We see the need for this dialogue to be critical for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom as the fragmentation of post-modernity continues unabated.