

Revisiting Vision: Relevant in Approach

Various Texts

Who Cares?

- We can have all the biblical knowledge in the world
- We can experience the power of God in our lives
- We can have great worship music & preaching
- We can have great programs for men, women, youth, & kids
- We can have a great building
- But if we don't connect all that to the world we live in, who cares? (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- The Church that cannot connect the truth of the Gospel to the world in which they live ceases to be the Church
 - We are at best a social club
- If we cannot show our neighbors that our beliefs have real influence on how we live, then we are only promoting a philosophical theory
 - Not a real Savior who loves and can change us and others
- Nobody cares how much we know unless they know how much we care

Heaven Meets Earth

- Jesus is our model for relevance
- In His incarnation, He met us in our brokenness & humanity
- He did not insist on people changing before they came to Him
 - But rather, He called them to repentance as they followed Him
- He ministered to the real-world needs of people by feeding them, healing them, and being with them
 - Something that made the 'religious' of the day very uncomfortable
 - Something that He used to make the connection between physical needs & spiritual truth (John 6:26-29; Luke 5:27-32)

Just like Jesus

- We are called to meet others where they are and lead them to where they need to be
 - Both those who know Christ
 - And those who do not yet know Him
- We are called to meet the real-world needs of people to show them the love of Christ in practical ways (Jas. 2:14-16; Matt. 25:31-46)
- This includes:
 - Meeting financial needs
 - Providing practical training
 - Ministering outside the walls of the church
 - Using the building for more than just our comfort & convenience

So What?

- Are we connecting the truth of the Gospel with how we love and minister to others in practical ways?

- What could we do both individually and corporately to meet people where they are?
- Do we see needs that we can be a part of meeting, earning us the right to be heard by our neighbors and community?

Meditation Verse: *1 John 3:17-18*

Personal Applications