

Revisiting Vision: Open to Change

Various Texts

Openness as a Biblical Principle

- Change is often uncomfortable, disruptive, and met with natural hesitation—both in our personal lives and within church communities
- God is constantly doing new things, calling His people out of comfort zones and into growth
- Being open to change requires shifting our trust from our own familiar routines to the dynamic, active leading of the Holy Spirit

Open-Handed

- This is rooted in the biblical principle of God being our provider (Phil. 4:19)
- Not holding onto anything as our own (1 Tim. 6:17)
- Helping provide for the needs of others (Jas. 2:15-16; 2 Cor. 8:13-15)

Open-Hearted

- Seeing others as God sees them
 - As created in His image (Gen. 1:26-27)
 - As those God loves (John 3:16)
- Accepting others as God accepts us (Rom. 15:7)
- Welcoming others
 - Regardless of what they struggle with (John 8:1-11)
 - Regardless of what they look like (Jas. 2:1-9)

Open-Minded

- Letting God change our perspective (Isa. 55:8-9)
- Willing to try new things for the sake of being more effective in how we minister to others (1 Cor. 9:19-23)
- Open to Correction: Being humble enough to let God show us where we might be wrong
 - Like Apollos (Acts 18:25-27) & Peter (Acts 10; Gal. 2:11ff.)

Communal Openness

- **Tradition vs. Mission:** Honoring our heritage without letting tradition become an idol that hinders the mission (Mark 7:8)
- **Flexibility in Ministry:** A healthy congregation must be willing to adapt its methods without changing its message (Acts 15)

So What?

- Where is God asking us to step out of our comfort zone?
- How can our church family better welcome new faces, fresh ideas, and shifting community needs while remaining anchored in Christ?

Personal Applications

- Ask God what old habit or mindset you need to release
- Commit to praying for vision and a spirit of joyful adaptability as we seek to be the Church God wants us to be

Meditation Verse: *1 Corinthians 9:22b*