

Revisiting Vision: The Need for Vision

Various Texts

The Mission of the Church

- Who we are as the Church is centered in our mission & purpose
- The Church was always meant to be a force for change in the world
 - Starting on a personal level
 - Then transforming families, communities, nations, and every corner of the world
- After all, the call of the Church is to storm the gates of Hades (Mt. 16:18)
 - Remember, gates don't move; which means we are called to do the moving!
- We are called to make disciples in every setting in our lives (Mt. 28:18-20)
 - Jesus' command is not to GO
 - It is to make disciples *as we go*
 - Not in our own strength
 - Not by our own means
 - But, with God empowering & directing us

The Enemies of Transformation

- The problem arises when we forget who we are meant to be
 - When we let comfort, tradition, or personal preference get in the way of being the change agents that God desires us to be
- If we are unable or unwilling to let God transform us, then we will be ineffective to be the hands & feet of Christ in the world
- This lack of direction leads to fruitless living & aimless ministry (Pro 29:18)

The Solution

- Let God:
 - Define who we are
 - Set our agenda
 - Empower the work
 - Take credit for the fruit
- It comes down to valuing what God values
 - And letting those values define who we are and what we do

The Values that Define Us

- We seek to be a community of loving, praying disciples of Jesus who are GRACIOUS
 - Grounded in Scripture
 - Relevant in Approach
 - Authentic in Nature
 - Compassionate in Attitude
 - Intentional in Action
 - Open to Change
 - United in Purpose
 - Spirit Led
- These values may not be who we currently *are*
 - They are who we *need* to be and *can* be with God's help!

- They are not laid out in order of priority
 - But rather in a way that makes it easier for us to remember
 - They are all important and interconnected

Loving, Praying Disciples

- The first step is to make sure that we are indeed disciples
 - Disciple: A dedicated follower of Jesus
 - Not just believing in Jesus
 - But actively, devotedly following Him
- This means living like Jesus (1 Jn 2:3-6)
 - Empowered by the Spirit (Mt 3:13-17)
 - Loving others the way He loves us (Jn 15:12)
 - Praying like He prayed (Mt 6:10)

So What?

- Are we ready to let God transform who we are as the Church?
 - Letting Him grow us into who He wants us to be

Meditation Verse: *Matthew 28:19-20*