

“LOOKING AHEAD”
“First Things First – Week 3”
(Proverbs 29:18)
January 15, 2012

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

Why we exist as a church:

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them as you go in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

The vision we received from the Lord:

Our vision is to become a church where every participant is:

- *Loving God through authentic, joyful, daily worship.*
- *Loving people through consistent participation in a small growth group.*
- *Serving both through active ministry, both inside and outside of our church walls.*

Simple? YES !

Easy? NO !

Our vision helps us to FOCUS on our mission.

Our vision offers a clear and SIMPLE pathway for every single person to align themselves with God's will for their lives.

And, it allows each individual to know exactly where they are on their own faith journey with Jesus. The steps:

I. First, we must love GOD.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37-38

How can you show your love for God?

- 1. ACCEPT the gift of Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.**
- 2. Worship the Lord God authentically, joyfully, daily.**

II. Second, we must love PEOPLE.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:39

- 1. INTRODUCE them to Christ.**
- 2. Teach/disciple them.**
- 3. Enfold them in a SMALL group.**

III. Finally, we must SERVE both God and people.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:26-28

Our goal, our vision, is for each of us to become more like CHRIST every day. That means we MUST serve.

... faith, by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. James 2:17-18

The Christian life is a life of continually BECOMING ... more like Jesus: ... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13

Faith in and the knowledge of Jesus should DRIVE us to a life of serving God and others, both inside and outside of our church walls.

The opportunities are ENDLESS !

- 1. Give them aide (Faith in action, food pantry, other.)**
- 2. Teach their children & youth. (GNC, Sunday, Wednesday – see Dianne!).**
- 3. ?**

What is your NEXT step?

Loving God - Loving People - Serving Both