

## Vision Sunday

August 7, 2016

### I. Intro — My love for my children

- A. 3 John 1:4 — *“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.” (NASB)*
- B. John 13:34-35 — *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
  - 1. Pastorally strong: When love and care are the fiber of our church...
  - 2. Evangelistically compelling: in a culture where church is often dysfunctional

### II. A church devoted to prayer

- A. Prayer cards
  - 1. At a glance — just say them to God
  - 2. At rear of auditorium near bulletins on your way out (1 per family)
- B. Content
  - 1. **Unity & Community**
    - a) That we would have unity amid diversity such that people would pursue loving community with those whom they may have nothing in common but the gospel.
    - b) That transparent, meaningful relationships would become normal and remaining anonymous would be strange.
    - c) Thoughts on being known:
      - (1) Typically, people allow themselves to be known only when their pain grows bigger than their pride.
      - (2) By that point, it's almost always too late.
      - (3) This is why we want you to be known NOW
  - 2. **Leadership & Teaching**

- a) That faithful elders would use Scripture to train members to do the work of ministry;
  - (1) People in our church need to be empowered to use their gifts
  - (2) Prayer min., Titus2, teaching team, special needs, evangelism...
  - (3) Talk to us!
- b) That the church's primary teachers grow in dedication to God's Word even when no one's watching.
- c) That elders would remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.

### 3. Discipleship & Maturity

- a) That a culture of discipling would form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of the Christian life.
- b) That hopes for political change would be outstretched by the hope of the new creation.
- c) That adult members would disciple the next generation (teenagers and children) and not just leave it to programming.

### 4. Mission

- a) That the church would share the gospel this week and see more conversions. (My 15-yr-old: "Dad, what's the best way to share the gospel? Because, like, if I'm a follower of Jesus I need to be doing that.")
- b) That members would invite friends to our church — primarily friends who do not yet know Jesus or aren't involved in a local church.

### 5. Particular Needs

- a) That a building would be given to Renewal Church in the precise part of town where God wants us to anchor down and focus on mission.
- b) That giving would be faithful, as well as joyful and sacrificial.
  - (1) Philippians 4:10-20:

*I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. 14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

(2) Contentment as a church — size and financial status

(3) We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us as a church

(4) Share in one another's trouble...even in your church's

(5) We are partners together in the gospel...in giving and receiving

(6) Increasing fruit (credit: our giving directly effects gospel fruitfulness)

c) That God would lead our church (if it be his will) to join a network of churches that are gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered, missionally faithful, and highly relational/cooperative.

d) That our members would be faithful participants in the rhythms of community life of our church.

C. Prayer ministry — every Sunday from 10-10:25 in W104

### III. Upcoming

A. Midweek

1. Our union with Christ, being one with Jesus, answer the following questions:

a) Who am I?

b) Where am I headed?

c) What am I here for?

- d) What can I hope for?
2. Nursery
  3. Klubhouse: As parents build community on Wednesday nights our elementary children are going to be building community as well. Robert wants our kids to get to **know one another, share their highs and lows, have fun and laugh together, and pray together**. There'll be **fun games, small groups, and teaching time**. This semester, the teaching time will be going deeper in what we are doing on Sunday mornings - which is going through the **Jesus Storybook Bible** as well as discussing and illustrating our church's 3 values of **Gospel - Community - Mission**. But it will be more **interactive** allowing the kids to ask more questions.
  4. The Lift: this has become an integral part of the week for most of these kids...since we're spread out all over the city so many of our students don't go to school together so it's easy to feel **alone**. So we love our Wednesday evening gathering where we can be together- to **encourage** each other, **worship** Jesus together, and **dig** into the word. **We want to teach our young people what it looks like to love Jesus, build community with each other, be good friends, and look forward to being together. We want them to be able to take a load off-shake off the pressures of the week and just be themselves and have fun**. And when they hit the doors on the way out, they know how to go back to their schools and spread the **gospel**.
- B. Politics Series — August 21-October 16 (8-weeks)
1. Anxiety and fear
  2. Our responsibility, first as Christians, then as Americans
- C. Parenting Series — October 23-November 20 (5-weeks)
1. Parenting Conference with Tim Holler — Oct. 22

2. Topics...
  - D. Night of Worship — Friday, September 9th
  - E. Advent Series — November 27-December 18 (4-weeks)
    1. Meaning of
    2. Christmas Eve (Rather than Sunday-Christmas Day service)
  - F. Community Groups — Putting what we learn to practice