The Vision For The Future

Adam Willingham · Philippians 3:12–14

INTRODUCTION

- The future of this church is going to come, whether we plan for it or not. And so what we need to do is intentionally shape the future of where this church is headed.
- There are three types of people as you think about planning for the future. There are the caretakers, there are the undertakers, and there are the risk takers.
- There's two aspects of vision here. One is a grateful appreciation of what has been, and secondly, a realistic dream of what could be.

1 Dependence Versus Detachment

Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 12:21–23

- The true visionary and the true Christian realizes that he cannot accomplish anything significant all alone. He needs the help of others, and the others is the local church.
- Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, striving together for the faith of the gospel.
- No matter who you are, no matter how talented you are, or capable you are, or spiritually minded you are, or independent you are, you need everybody else here.
- It is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- Every member brings something to the table that is valuable.
- It requires humility to accept that you need the help of others.

2 Mission Versus Maintenance

Luke 19:10; Ephesians 4:12–16

- A visionary thinker always has a goal and has a mission before him that is clearly defined and that he is always moving towards.
- The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- Our number one goal is to go to heaven. And what's our number two goal? Bring as many people with us as we can.
- Legitimate growth is the conversion of souls. That's the kind of growth that we're really interested in.
- Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ.
- The overarching mission of the church is to glorify God by spreading his kingdom.

3 Involvement Versus Inactivity

Proverbs 20:5

- Risk takers do more than dream, they act.
- A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water. But a man of understanding draws it out.

- You need others. But the converse of that is also true. Others need you.
- The leaders are not here to do the work for the church. We are here to put tools in your backpack.
- God expects every joint, every individual part to cause the growth of the body.
- We need to be careful that we don't think of it as some hierarchy, but we need to think of it as a circle of caring fellowship.

4 Thermostats Versus Thermometers

Romans 12:2

- A thermostat is a device that actually controls the environment. It influences the environment. Whereas thermometer simply conforms to the environment.
- As a Christian, we are to be thermostats, not thermometers. We are not to conform.
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- Neutrality is not an option. Jesus said, He who is not with me is against me.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Let's be sure that we as a people of God are thinking about our future. Not only our own personal future and our eternal future, but as a group, that we think about where is this group headed?**

MY NOTES