

Church Growth Principles

VISION FOR GROWTH

Growth is Imperative

- Everything God Created with life grows.
 - God's life is in the church – growth is possible.
 - "Church in a Nutshell"
 - John 12:24-25
- "Truly, truly, I say unto you, unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

- "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."
- The church must be willing to leave its comfort zone.

Foundational Elements for Growth

- A. God's Vision for Creation
- B. Vision of the Great Commission
- C. Process of the Vision
- D. Empowerment of the Vision

God's Vision for Creation

- Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness,... "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it..."

- Vision for Growth is Vision for Multiplication
- What is this vision?
 - "A world filled with the people of God's image"
- God gave Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all the same covenant and commandment to be fruitful, increase in number and fill the earth.

- "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29)
- Multiplication is our destiny.
- WE are a multitude - YOU are a multitude!

Vision of the Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus' vision for the world:

"A world filled with His disciples"

- What is God's vision for UK?

"A nation filled with Christ's Disciples"

Process of the Vision

1. Transforming into Christlikeness

Gen. 1:27,28:

"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it..."

- Creation of man in God's Image before the Blessings for Multiplication
- "No multiplication without God's image and likeness"
- They are inseparable.
- "He will only bless what He instituted"

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- A vision for the world in Jesus' words.
- The same vision of God only in different form.
- Genesis 1:26-28 and Matthew 28:18-20 are the same vision.
- Why is it the same?

- Discipleship is following Christ.
- What is the essence of following?

"We become like whom we follow."
- So following Christ is becoming like Him?

- Colossians 1:15

"The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the first born over all creation."
- Following Christ is the restoration of the original vision of God for the world – that the world might be filled with the people of God's image.
- With this thing in mind - the church will be assured of His blessing to multiply.
- He will be with us as we go and make disciples.

2. Small group community relationship

- God created all things in a multitude all at once but for mankind to multiply it was started in a couple.
- On the premise of God given free will to man He wants man to be responsible for connections, communications, relationships, supervision, and submission to ensure the transmission and imitation of God's image for all generation of mankind.

- The Lord used to minister to the crowd but He spent most of His time with His 12.
- His 12 was a preparation of leadership for the coming multitudes.
- Life in the group is essential and powerful for multiplication.

3. Intentional Discipleship

- Great commission is in a command mode.
- You will never know that God answered your prayers to win your love ones and friends until you go and meet them.
- You will never know that God is with you and that you are able to make disciples until you start doing it.

Empowerment of the Vision

“Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7)

- “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)
- There is empowerment of the Holy Spirit when there is a commitment to discipleship.

Conclusion

- Church Growth is possible.
- We have the anointing for multiplication.
- Restoring in the image of God – that is Christlikeness is the key.
- How serious are we in living the life of Christ?
- When God calls us to do anything, He assures us that He will be with us.