

Workshop: The Pastor Communicating the Vision

I. The **Ideology** of the Pastor communicating the vision.

In his book "The Power of Vision" George Barna defines vision as "the clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to his chosen servants based upon an accurate understanding of God, self, and circumstances."

Success in fulfilling the vision takes a lot more than merely coming up with a list of ideas.

We must as Pastor's and Leaders take time to establish goals for the coming year or years.

Each goal should point you in the direction of the vision God has for the church, he clear mental image of a preferable future, you have studied out through Biblical ecclesiology, study, prayer, and fasting. Therefore once we have a clear picture and understanding of God's vision for the church, to be successful in ministry pastors and leaders must be proactive, rather than reactive.

You have a plan and a process rather than simply reacting from week to week and day to day to every circumstance that pops up.

Once you have the vision, the challenge now is to communicate it, and get people to play their part in it.

God caught Abraham's attention with his vision for him in [**Genesis 12:1** *Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*] (the Abrahamic Covenant).

God uses Moses to communicate his vision for his people, Israel.

Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Deuteronomy 8:7 "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; 8 "a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; 9 "a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 "When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

Jesus - Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Senior Pastor typically has the deepest experience from a theological perspective, from practical Christian-living experience, maybe from several church experiences, and so forth. So in a church it's typically the pastor who is asked to draft a vision plan.

II. The **Biblical** mission for the Pastor communicating the vision.

The Bible identifies six basic goals to which the church and its leadership should commit their energy.

1. **Glorify** God – (**Romans 15:6, 9; Ephesians 1:5, 6, 12, 14, 18**)
Recognizing God's glory must be the driving force behind each decision, effort, and program of the church and its leaders.
2. **Edify** the members – (**Ephesians 4:11-16**)
Edification is the chief internal goal of the church. It is an active not passive activity by the leaders and the members. In achieving this mission, the church also glorifies God.
3. **Purify** the Church – (**Ephesians 5:26-27**)
Purity is an area of church life that is in serious disarray today.
 - a) There is **positional** purity – the Bible says that the church and all believers stand totally pure before God simply because the church is hidden in Christ.
 - b) There is **practical** purity – this is the daily responsibility and exercise of everyone, including the leaders.
 - c) There is **corporate** purity – It is the responsibility of the church and its leaders to provide the environment where this divine purification can work itself out.
4. **Evangelize** its context (**Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16**)
The mission and goal of evangelism is for the church and its leadership to communicate the gospel of Christ to the world. This communication should cause men to acknowledge and glorify God and repent of their sins and accept Christ's substitutionary work.
5. **Restrain** evil and **Enlighten** the World (**Matthew 5:13-16**)
The church is to be an influence and impact that shows the true way to a world that is in darkness. The Scriptures make it clear; the church will never accomplish this goal by separating itself from the world.
6. **Promote** that which is good. (**Galatians 6:10**)
This mission of the vision focuses on individuals both inside and outside the church. The goal calls the church to be a positive role model of what is good in God's sight to people in the world.

These six features make up the essential nature of the church and its responsibility to God, itself, and the world.

III. A **Strategy** for the Pastor communicating the vision.

1. **Write** the vision
2. **Preach** the vision – Stewardship, theology, Books of the Bible, Leadership, Family, Discipleship, Evangelism, Ethnic issues, Preaching, Calendar as a tool for communicating vision, Sermon Series as a way of communicating vision.
3. **Pray** the vision
4. **Practice** the vision
5. **Organize** the vision – Book of Nehemiah
6. **Post** the vision – Literature, Banners, Emblems
7. **Teach** the vision – Jesus and the Disciples (**Matthew 28:16-20**)

8. **Share** the vision – Community Partners, Neighborhood, Internet, Website, Missions
9. **Market** the vision – Social Media formal, informal conversation, stories, bulletin, framed poster, brochures

IV. The Benefits of the Pastor communicating the vision.

1. Increases team or ministry spirit because everyone plays off of the same sheet of music.
2. Increases functional clarity required for growing the church or organization, solving problems, orienting new staff, communicating effectively, and making wise decisions.
3. Reduces organizational frustration, tension, and pressure by putting the vision in writing.

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