

Freed to Love Out of Vision not History

February 27-28, 2021 / Chris Johnson

Vision = the faculty or state of being able to see or the ability to think about and plan the future with imagination or wisdom.

CrossWalk Church's vision is to be a _____ for the _____. This means that we desire to be – by God's grace and power – a church that unchurched men, women and children love to attend.

³⁴ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
John 13:34-35, NIV

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
Romans 12:9, NIV

God's vision for us is that we are motivated to love by His _____ instead of our _____.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **Romans 12:10-12, NIV**

God's vision for us is that we are so warmed up by His _____ for us, that we are _____ in our love to others even if they are _____ in how they treat us.

¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud,

but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. **Romans 12:13-16, NIV**

God's vision is that each of us plays our _____ in _____ with one another.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:17-21, NIV

God's vision for our church is that we are free to love even our _____ because love will _____ in the end.

³⁴ Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. **Luke 23:34, NIV**

Jesus makes our _____ part of _____ which has changed our _____ forever! Who needs to hear the difference Jesus' story has made in yours?

MEMORY VERSE

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. **John 13:35, NIV**

My next step: Jesus has freed me from my history to share the love of His story with others. I will look for opportunities to share Jesus' story with others.

What's your next step today?
Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Groups

Freed to Love: Out of Vision not History

Getting Started: Share some history with your group in answer to this question: What has Jesus been doing recently in your life or at CrossWalk? (Our story with Christ and what he has done for us is our biggest witnessing tool.)

Going back to Sunday

What truth from Sunday's message was most impactful for you? How has the truth made a difference in your thinking, your emotions, or your words and actions this week?

Read John 13:34-35

³⁴A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35, NIV

List some ways that we, as Jesus' disciples, love differently than the rest of the world?

How might this attract someone who is unchurched?

Read Romans 12:13-16

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Part of our ability to love others is being able to notice when someone has a tension, a transition or a trouble in his or her life. Are you noticing anything like that in someone you know who is unchurched? (*Follow up question is on the next page.*)

What are some ways you might be able to reach out? (Hint: These verses we just read might be helpful.)

Read Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21, NIV

Why are these verses so hard to put into practice?

How can we get better at living this out?

My Next Step

What is one next step you will take to invest in someone this next month in an effort to show them the love of Jesus?

Doing Life Together

Easter is April 4! Check out our Easter Invest and Invite event on the Church Center App and begin to pray for the unchurched person that you would like to invite to worship with you on Easter.

Prayer

Pray together as a group for about 10 minutes. Many groups do this in a circle format, allowing each person in the circle to pray or pass as they wish until all have had a chance to pray.

Reminders

1. Sign up for the Lent Bible Reading plan on the Church Center App.
2. Our Midtown campus is moving back to worshipping on Sundays at Camelback H.S. starting March 7.
3. Stop in at the Volunteer Ministry Fair on March 7 between services at our Laveen campus.