

Vision 2014

Today I'm going to share about the vision of Freedom Reigns in Christ Church for 2014. We have done a vision casting service toward the beginning of the year for the last 5 or so years. Casting vision gives you the opportunity to hear where we are headed as a church.

It is necessary and important. I am sure there are several of you that have no idea what the vision of Freedom Reigns is. This is why I'll take important, critical time to share it. If I had a special meeting, many of you might not come!

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

The word perish means to ignore, let alone, avoid, neglect, cause to refrain. So without vision or direction, the people ignore, avoid, neglect or refrain from accomplishing the mission!

Vision is important because it's like giving each of you a compass and a common destination. The vision will explain where we want to go and how we plan to get there.

You see vision modeled throughout scripture. God's people see the needs around them, they know the present state but desire a greater future so they seek God's will and wisdom.

I believe that here at Freedom Reigns in Christ Church, we have a much greater future than what our present state is. God has a specific plan for this body of believers, and each one of you have an opportunity to play your own specific part, a part that is just for you!

Prayer is required for vision:

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

We need God's plan. Vision gets us to focus collectively on God's plan instead of our own. How many of you have heard of churches where they have one issue after another because this person or that person stirs up trouble because they are pushing their own ideas?

They need to know the vision. They need to know what the church is striving towards, what the goals are. If your agenda doesn't support the vision, it very well might not be embraced by the leadership. We need to be on the same page!

Vision gives us this common target! With a common target, we know what we are aiming for. If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time!

So the first thing I want to cover is who we are. We are Freedom Reigns in Christ Church.

We are a non-denominational church (which sort of is a denomination) whose core beliefs can be found right in our very church name. Freedom Reigns in Christ Church

Freedom Reigns -

There is freedom, great freedom available to the sons and daughters of God. This is something that we can really grab hold of, for real.

Where do we get this from?

2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

John 8:36 (NKJV)

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

What are we free to do? We are free to run, we are free to dance, we are free to live for Jesus! That's what the song "I am free" says.....Really guys, that's pretty much it.

Most unbelievers have this misconception that being a Christian is terrible because you have to abide by all these rules and you can't have fun anymore. That's a lie straight from the pit of hell!

Right now, this is the best that my life has ever been. No kidding. My life is so much better than when I always just "did what I wanted".

Praise Jesus that I don't walk around condemned about my past mistakes, because I'm a new creation and the old things have passed away! I no longer have to be ashamed of the things I do or be afraid I'm going to get caught.

I don't have to work and try so hard to be the life of the party or the center of attention (it's hard work). I'd rather make Jesus the center of attention and focus on others instead of myself.

I've never been so free in my life as I am right now this very moment. And I most certainly do what I want. I serve the Lord. Not because now I have to, but because I want to, because He deserves it, because I want to please Him with my life. I'm not bound by rules or religion, I'm captivated by love!

In Romans chapter 6, Paul talks about how everyone is either a slave of sin or a slave

of righteousness.

If you are a slave of sin the end is death, but if you have been set free from sin, having become a slave of God, your fruit will be holiness and your end will be everlasting life!

For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

The very thing that Jesus came for was to set people free!

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

In Christ -

This proclaims our position in which we have the right to the above freedom! This freedom reigns In Christ because Jesus is who sets us free!

You can't have the freedom unless you have Jesus. He is the most important part. It is because of His death, burial, and resurrection that is possible to have freedom today on this earth.

If you have put your faith and your trust in Christ, that is your rightful position....in Christ.

Romans chapter 8 says that if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Jesus is sitting on the throne, He is victorious! That is His position and when we are in Him, it is also our position.

In Christ you are declared righteous (justified) Rom 3:24

In Christ you are made righteous (sanctified) 1 Cor 3:14

This is why we proclaim that Freedom Reigns in Christ! Amen!

We cover all of this in much greater detail and depth in our membership class. If you have yet to become a member and are interested in doing so or want to know why you should do so, talk to me or one of the elders.

Let's look at God's mission for this house. This is something that I want each of you to commit to prayer. Seek the Lord and ask Him to show you how you can do your part in fulfilling this mission.

What has God called us to do?

MISSION STATEMENT:

Making Disciples, for God's Glory, and for His Kingdom

Making disciples is our mission as a church because it is what Jesus commanded us to do!

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

So let's make disciples! Let's advance the Kingdom of God for the glory of God!

How do we, as the church, plan to fulfill this mission?

VISION STATEMENT: (on the back of your bulletin)

By God's grace and for His glory, we believe God has called Freedom Reigns in Christ Church to be a dwelling place for the Spirit of God and a hospital for the hurting and broken.

Too many churches today ignore or reject the Holy Spirit. We WILL NOT be one of those! We welcome the Holy Spirit to move in this place, in our hearts, and through us.

This is the only way that we can minister to those that are hurting....by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is not one thing good that we can do on our own.

It's only by the grace of God and everything we do, we do to bring glory to the name of Jesus!

Psalm 147:3 (NKJV)

He heals the brokenhearted
And binds up their wounds.

ALTAR/PRAYER TEAM

- we pray in faith for the Holy Spirit to work in your life and situation

ELDERS

- we are here for you if you need guidance, prayer,

MARRIAGE COUNSELING

- Jason and Sherri or me and Kristi will meet with you and pray with you

Freedom Reigns is committed to God honoring worship and to the preaching and teaching of the unadulterated, authoritative word of God.

If you have been here very long, you know that we are a house of praise and worship. We love to worship Jesus! We do not put a limit on worship time. It is the most important part of the service. By our praise and worship, we proclaim the greatness of our God.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Psalms 150:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Praise the Lord!
Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in His mighty firmament!
2 Praise Him for His mighty acts;
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!
3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;
Praise Him with the lute and harp!
4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
5 Praise Him with loud cymbals;
Praise Him with clashing cymbals!
6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

We worship Jesus because He is worthy, because He is holy. It's about Him, who He is!

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

"Depend on it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God." ~ Charles Spurgeon

When we teach and preach at Freedom Reigns, we teach and preach TRUTH! You will not get a sugar coated message. You will get the bible. Sometimes it will sting but it will always lead you to Jesus!

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,[a] for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

- worship, preaching, Sunday school

Freedom Reigns is committed to advancing the Kingdom of God through the salvation of the sinner, and seeking Holy Ghost revival.

Advancing the Kingdom is why we desire to see the church grow, not so we can have more givers, not so we can win a popularity contest, but to see the lost saved! We set our sights on the Kingdom, not the temporal things of this world!

We desire a genuine Holy Ghost revival in St. Elmo! We pray: Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

If you come to our prayer meetings, you will hear people pray this way. We desire a Spirit led reviving of the church.

Do you realize the difference between the church in the book of Acts and the modern church?

Acts chapter 2, is well known for what happens in the first couple of verses.

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord[a] in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Amazing....powerful.....but what about the rest?

They shared the gospel with boldness. They devoted themselves to studying the Word, fellowship, and prayer.

Daily they were in the temple....in unity. God added to the church daily those who were being saved!

People were being healed of sickness and disease. Those that were demon oppressed and possessed were set free!

Many signs and wonders were done but most importantly people were being saved by the masses.

THAT is why we are committed to seeking Holy Ghost revival!

PRAYER MEETINGS

- we pray for revival, we pray for the lost

PREACHING

- we preach truth and the truth can set you free!

Freedom Reigns is committed to seeing healing and deliverance move the saint to a place of freedom from sin and into victory in Jesus.

Too many people come to Jesus only to walk around with their head down in defeat. Part of this is because they need healing and deliverance and most often they are not even aware of it.

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Jesus didn’t just come to forgive but to free us FROM our sins. If you have become new in Christ, the old things (every single thing since the beginning) has passed away.

You can have freedom FROM your sins, freedom FROM the enemy!

ALTAR/PRAYER TEAM

- we believe that we can pray with you at an altar and the Holy Spirit can heal or deliver you!

COUNSELING - elders, marriage

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Freedom Reigns is committed to loving people, making disciples, and equipping them for the work of the ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

YOUTH - children's church, nursery, Wed night, Sunday night, etc

- our goal here is to disciple young people, not to just read them bible stories or hang out

- March 2 we will be moving grades 7-12 to Sunday evenings at 6:30. We will be meeting at the parsonage. Our goal is to develop relationships with these young people, train them up to be young men and women of God, make an eternal impact

- Wednesday nights we teach prek-6 how to worship and pray, do activities with them, love on them, and teach them the Word of God!

- areas of need are group leader, kitchen, van driver, please help if you are able!

MENS GROUP

- we as men meet to pray, discuss the Word of God, encourage and build one another up

DEACONS

- are to lead by example in serving the church, training up future leaders

LIBRARY

- we have many books that can help shape and mold you, encourage you, train you.....just don't let them be a replacement for the bible!!!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- cleaning, taking care of the house of God, making it presentable and desirable for people to come worship here

- Please sign up for cleaning at least once every couple of months!

MEDIA/SOUND

- through the internet we are able to minister and equip people anywhere in the world

Freedom Reigns is committed to influencing the world through evangelism, and local, national, and international missions.

We have to, have to, have to influence the world! I am tired of the world influencing the church, it's time for the church to influence the world.

You can do this! I have a simple way for each one of you to influence the world for the cause of Christ. Act like Jesus.....all the time. Don't compromise when you don't feel like standing for righteousness,

1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

This isn't really as hard as people make it.

To be holy implies being "set apart" and therefore "different (distinguished/distinct)," or

"other"NOT like everyone else, but instead ONLY like one, JESUS!

One way or another, you are influencing others. Instead of influencing them in ways that don't matter, influence them for the Kingdom!

A most of you can help with this is by adjusting your facebook habits. When you are on there liking every random thing that people post, intentionally like or share things that are on the church page or scripture that others post.

Share about your church on there, share what God shows you, share about His goodness.

Now the hard part....DON'T SHARE your argumentative opinions about things that don't matter. Seriously! Be an encourager, not a scoffer or a mocker!

MISSIONS

- Locally we support the Food Pantry and Ministerial Alliance
- Nationally we will be going on a mission trip to NYC this summer, you can find info about this out in the foyer
- Internationally we support Fabian Gretch in Iraq, Jeff and Maryann Stone in Israel, and Adam and Kate Jones who are preparing to go to China
- We are looking toward more local missions as well as an international mission in 2015

So that is our vision and some ways we are currently fulfilling it.

But for a vision to work, it has to be owned by you, the congregation. You have to pray about it. You have to participate in it.

You have to help fulfill the mission: Making Disciples, for God's Glory, and for His Kingdom

We can plan all day long but the reason we are a church body, is because we need all of you to do your part for this church to succeed in fulfilling our mission.

Today I want to encourage and challenge you to evaluate yourself, are you doing your part? - Should you sign up to clean?

- Should you help with the youth on Sunday morning (children's church or nursery), Sunday night, Wednesday night

- Should you go on the mission trip to NYC or help provide for others to go?

- Are you praying for revival? Are you praying for the lost to be saved? Should you be attending prayer meetings?

- Have you been sitting in the pew during altar calls when you know you should be getting prayer? Have you let pride get in your way?

- Have you been putting off becoming a member of the church? Why are you hesitating to make the commitment?