

Vision for 2010 Part 2

Review:

***Review from Last week:

In early November of last year, the leadership body of Real World got away on a leadership retreat.

Why a vision statement? Why can't we just "do church" and be done with it?

The problem that you quickly run into with that thinking is first that the church can't be everything to everyone, and second that everyone's definition of "doing church" is different. Just those 2 issues create an environment to become stretched too thin and stop being affective in anything.

***According to one definition:

A vision statement outlines what an organization wants to be. It focuses on tomorrow; it is inspirational; it provides clear decision-making criteria; and it is timeless.

***Old vision statement

To promote the reality found in a relationship with Jesus Christ to a world searching for that which they have not found in the shallow rules and empty promises of religion, human traditions, and worldly principles.

***New vision statement

Making God Real, Relevant, and Relational

***One part of the process of crafting this new vision statement is defining who we are.

Who is Real World?

***Real People, Real God, Real Life

So last week we began to unpack these 3 principles and answer the question "how do we do it" for each of these 3 characteristics.

***How do we make God Real?

1. He has to become real in our life

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Unless He is real to us, how can we expect to make God real to this generation of people?

Through prayer

Through worship

Through devotion

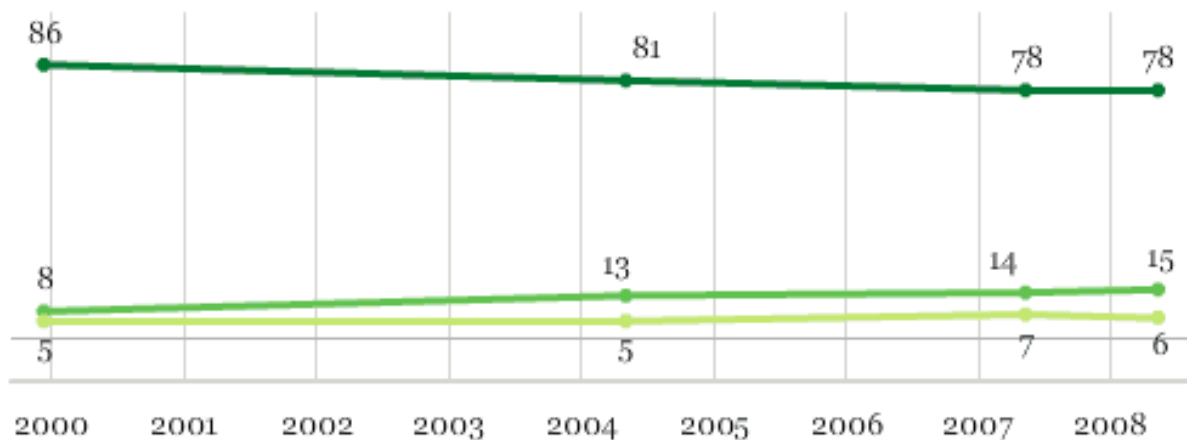
***2. As He becomes more real to us, they will see it.

So today we are going to continue and finish out the last of these 3 characteristics that God has given us.

***Now, as we discussed last week, the problem that we are trying to solve is not a belief in God in this culture.

Which of the following statements comes closest to your belief about God -- you believe in God, you don't believe in God, but you do believe in a universal spirit or higher power, or you don't believe in either?

■ % Believe in God ■ % Believe in universal spirit ■ % Don't believe in either



Gallup Poll Social Series: Values and Beliefs, May 8-11, 2008

GALLUP POLL

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The problem that we have is because the church has failed so miserably in adapting to our changing culture people don't think God is relevant because they no longer think the church is relevant.

And because they no longer view the church as relevant, our explanation of who God is carries less and less weight.

Now, truth is subjective, movable, customizable to my life, moldable to my circumstance, irrelevant.

***Definition of irrelevant is not related, not applicable, unimportant, not connected

Josh McDowell was a college student who thought Jesus was just another religious leader who set up impossible rules to live by. He thought Jesus was totally irrelevant to his life.

Then one day at a student union lunch table McDowell sat next to a vibrant young coed with a radiant smile. Intrigued, he asked her why she was so happy. Her immediate reply was, "Jesus Christ!"

Jesus Christ? McDowell bristled, firing back:

"Oh, for God's sake, don't give me that garbage. I'm fed up with religion; I'm fed up with the church; I'm fed up with the Bible. Don't give me that garbage about religion."

But the unfazed young coed calmly informed him,

"Mister, I didn't say religion, I said Jesus Christ."

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***If Jesus Christ was who He claimed to be, and He did die on a cross at a point of time in history, then, for all history past and all history future it is relevant because that is the very focal point for forgiveness and redemption.

Josh McDowell

***How do we make God relevant again?

***1. He has to become relevant to us again.

The church has to become the place where the power of God operates again.

The church has to become the place where the love of God is poured out again.

The church has to become the place where the Gospel message is lived again.

We WILL be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

I was talking to a pastor friend of mine this week, and his comment stopped me in my tracks

“Jim, I’ve been a Christian baptized in the HS for 27 years, and I have yet to see a blind eye opened or a deaf ear unstopped in the churches I’ve been part of.”

I refuse to believe that the problem is GOD!

***2. When they see He is relevant to us, He can become relevant to them.

***How do we make God relational?

***1. He has to become relational in us again.

When you introduce 2 friends that haven’t met, you introduce them based on your relationship with them.

I remember taking my wife to my first office party at work and introducing her to everyone that I had been working with.

As I introduced her to each of my co-workers, she said a similar comment.

“Jim has told me a lot about you.”

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Because when I came home from work, a lot of times I would talk about my co-workers and what they did and what they said and the funny things and the sad things.

By the time I introduced Laurie to a lot of these people, she knew them through me.

How to you talk to people about Jesus? Savior, Friend, Lord?

The problem with a lot of us, is that we've reduced Christ to another flavor of solution.

The problem there is that most folks, when they are trying something, don't really put their whole trust in what they are trying...

It's the difference between living with someone and marrying someone.

2. When they see our relationship with Him, they will want to meet Him.