



2020 IN 20/20

2020 (the year) IN 20/20 (seeing it clearly)

Part 7: The Issues – Vision: Now & Beyond

Sermon Study Guide

October 4, 2020

Review:

Last week, we talked about human sexuality through God's eyes. God through His son has given us life and the Bible to understand His standards for male and female relationships. We looked at sex and the distortion by man of what God intended to be beautiful. We looked at the perversions that sinful man deems acceptable and how they lead to destruction. In man's wisdom he becomes very foolish and ignorant. (Romans 1:18-32)

The great hope we have as sinful man is a redeemer. Jesus is that man who lived a sinless life and who died on the cross for our sins. We celebrate that we do not serve a dead savior, but that Jesus arose from the grave and that Jesus is alive! (1 Corinthians 15)

It is critical that we - the believers, follow God's standards through the power of the Holy Spirit. Your friends, who do not have Jesus, cannot be expected to live as Christians. They need to confess Christ as their Savior -then they can enjoy salvation and freedom to not sin. (John 3:1-21)

We continue our 2020 in 20/20 series, looking for the vision for our church this year.

- How would you describe this year? What are the highs and lows that you have had? What about Crossroads' vision, how would describe it?

Truth: For Crossroads to move from surviving to thriving - we can no longer afford to be spectators. We must participate, and it takes all of us.

Matthew 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Heart – Soul - Mind

- How are ways that we worship God through our heart – soul - mind?

- How can we become more gospel-oriented?
- What did Jesus do that is an example of putting others first?
- Why is it difficult to put the needs of others before our own?

John 15:12-14

- What makes us Jesus' friends? Are you surprised by this?
- What is Jesus' command to us?

1 John 3:16 & John 3:16

- In the passages above, what do we discover about Jesus's great love for us?

Philippians 2:3

- What is the hardest thing for Christians to give up in America?
- From Philippians 2:3 what is lacking in most believers today?

- How should we as Christians respond to COVID-19?

Truth: The Gospel compels the Christian to put others' needs before our own and to do that means we will at times chart some kind of middle course between two sides of a conversation.

- Instead of unintentionally devaluing or ignoring COVID-19, Christians should be lamenting that 200,000 souls just entered eternity and asking ourselves, “are there things we could be doing as the church for the 200,000 COVID deaths and as of 2017 the 7,708 daily deaths from all causes in the US?”
- To wear a mask or not to. Though churches are exempt from wearing them, Crossroads took the approach that we should wear them. Why do we set aside our rights of not wearing them? How does this support a Christian response to the issue? (Mark 10:42-45)

TRUTH: I am best positioned to expand the Kingdom of God when I am willing to personally limit myself for the sake of believers and unbelievers.

- What are ways to participate in loving God fully with all our hearts?
 - In prayer, do not just ask for what you need, but also ask God on behalf of others for what they need in intercession.

- Advocate for others' needs and spiritual growth publicly. Sacrifice personal preference/convenience and invite others into the family of God.
- It is good for our souls as individuals and as a church to have impact in the world around us.

Matthew 5:14 "Jesus says You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

A city provides shelter, food, and protection. Light dispels darkness and illuminates the path forward. This brings up some questions.

- Does Crossroads impact Pantego and Arlington? How could that impact increase?
- If Crossroads closed its doors, would anyone outside the church notice?
- If you or I stepped into eternity, would anyone miss your or my Christian witness?
- How can we make a spiritual impact on the people God brings into our lives?

Truth: Community spiritual Impact is the hardest thing to measure but is often the best mark of a church's effectiveness for the kingdom.

It is good for our souls to serve others and not expect anything in return. Imagine what would happen if more people in Crossroads practiced that type of radical generosity. To love God fully with our souls, we practice radical generosity in all areas of our lives - time, finances, spiritual gifts, relationships, service.

Mind:

We can never be satisfied with our current state of spiritual growth.

Hebrews 5:12 says, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food.”

- From Hebrews, what kind of food are you eating? Explain.

Truth: There is a duality to the Christian walk - we walk in mastery of some areas while learning to master others.

Hebrews 6.1 says, “Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.” Spectators drink milk, participators eat solid food.

- What is solid food for a mature Christian?

Areas where you can grow deeper in your faith:

- Join the Follow Pathways class
- Genesis / Exodus Class
- Attend the weekly prayer meeting (6 PM & 7PM Tuesday)
- Join Joe in his Bible reading plan
- Jump into a Bible study with the women
- Serve in kids, Next, youth ministry, young adults
- Join us monthly for the men’s breakfast
- Come to the men’s retreat

**Don’t allow yourself to be isolated. Take a risk and join a community group.
Then, invite someone into the community who is isolated.**

Truth: What ties all this together? Mutual submission to the greater calling of the gospel: Jesus to God, Paul to Peter, Peter to Paul, we to the leadership, leaders to those they serve, we to one another.

Application:

We have plenty of opportunities to be the church - but we must move from spectating to participating.