

Vision for the Community

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I. Introduction.

- A. Community ministry must be based on selflessness. (Romans 5:5)
- B. Selflessness is important in a philosophy of ministry.
- C. Operating selflessly requires being willing to be unknown.
- D. Competition must be avoided.

II. Paul lived a life of surrender showing willingness to give people up. (Philippians 2:22-24)

- A. Surrender must be to Jesus.
- B. We must surrender what we consider to be our lives.
- C. Community ministry means we must continue to be servants instead of masters. (2 Corinthians 4:5; 12:13)
- D. Surrender requires accountability based on relationship. (Matthew 8:5; John 8:29; Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 13:7)
- E. Surrender requires giving your rights to the sovereign process of whom you will work. Only God can put unique discipleship relationships together. (Isaiah 37:31; 1 Timothy 1:18; 1 Samuel 16:7)

III. Successful community ministry requires sacrifice. (Philippians 2:25-30; Romans 12; 2 Corinthians 4:10)

- A. The price is our life. (Isaiah 43:4)
- B. We must sacrifice an ability to do things on our own.
- C. It is a sacrifice being involved with transitional people.
- D. Our desires must be sacrificed for community ministry.
- E. We must be willing to sacrifice our community ministry.
- F. We must be willing to sacrifice our ability to write people off.

IV. To be a disciple...

- A. One must be born again. The desire to be a disciple is supernaturally given. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- B. One must be teachable. (Proverbs 10:8, 17; 12:1)

- C. One must be a hungry learner. (Proverbs 27:7)
- D. One must not be a know-it-all. (Romans 12:16)
- E. One must have love for others. (John 13:34-35)
- F. One must abide in the Word. (John 8:31)
- G. One must have fruit of character and disciples. (Galatians 5:22-23; Proverbs 11:30)

V. Questions to ask yourself when helping others in order.

- A. What do I want them to know?
- B. What do I want them to be? (Ephesians 1:12; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13)
- C. What do I want them to do? These are skills.

VI. Conclusion.

- A. In community ministry we a parade principle.
- B. Community ministry really works.

Application questions:

1. What is community ministry?

2. What does a successful community ministry look like?

3. How might God be calling you to participate in some way in community ministry? Explain.
