

Main Idea:

Why is believing and being apart of the vision of your church important...

1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Questions That Need Answers:

- 1. What does it mean to be behind your church, as much as your Pastor**
 - 2. What is the backbone of the vision of Be Love Co.**
 - 3. How does discipleship happen?**
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What does Apple have to do with this?

- Here is a question worth approaching, what made Apple successful vs unsuccessful... The simple answer is Steve Jobs, but we know its not simply that.
 - A person can change nothing on there own, and honestly the crazy thing about Steven Jobs, is he owned a technology company and couldn't do any of the physical work. No degrees, no anything.
 - What made Apple what is was and what it is, is Vision. It wasn't people buying into a person, it was buying into a purpose and a reason.
 - That is what I want us to set our minds to tonight, is reason, purpose, and vision.
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What is your reason for being here?

If we are simply here because we enjoy the pastor, that is good, but we will end up coming just to receive. If we believe also in the vision of the church as much as we believe in the Pastor, thats where we find the ignition to change our city.

What is our vision again?

- Now later in this emphasis, we will discuss the outward language we use, such as believe, become, share the good news and our cultural pillars of Identity Presence and Mission.
- But over the next few weeks, I want us to start with the internal language we use and more of the how, the base language, starting with these two.
- Be Love Company is a discipleship church. We are a discipleship church by the way of spiritual formation
- Discipleship, by the way of Spiritual Formation.

“The greatest issue facing the Church today is whether it can make disciples—apprentices to Jesus, living in the Kingdom of God, learning to obey all that Jesus commanded.” - Dallas Willard

1. Discipleship happens in the Sunday church service

“Corporate worship is designed to focus our attention on God and His kingdom, to remind us of our identity in Christ, and to send us back into the world as His witnesses.” — Timothy Keller

“When we gather on the Lord’s Day, we rehearse eternity: the people of God, in the presence of God, glorifying God.” — John Piper

- this is extremely important to understand... The Sunday service, is the place dedicated to worship God.

- This is hard, because yes its true... someone preaches or teaches, but that is simply wisdom unapplied. What happens here behind this pulpit is delivered wisdom unapplied. One key aspect of discipleship, is taking the wisdom that is given here, and being disciplined into using it. That happens outside these walls.

- *"Personal discipleship is the avenue of taking the wisdom you receive here and making it actual in the formation of your spirit into the Jesus. "*

2. discipleship happens organically.

- In the same way discipleship is not meant to happen on Sunday, it will also not happen organically.

- **Discipleship requires intention, dedication, and discipline.**

"We will not drift into discipleship; we drift into distraction. Discipleship requires deliberate steps in following Jesus." — John Ortberg

- Discipleship is action from intention, dedication and discipline

The great hurdles of organic discipleship is

1. No one surrenders to being the novice.
2. organic discipleship doesn't often care about outcome and progression, but genuine discipleship does
3. Organic discipleship often doesn't have accountability.

FINAL THOUGHT

- This understanding and this key aspect of our vision, is what should drive you, excite you, and make you want to be in this house. The reason we should all be here is because we are aware that discipleship is essential to the life of being like Jesus and you are saying yes to that for you and your family.

- This matters so deeply, because if you believe in me as your leader, but you don't believe in the vision or process, everything I say will remain theory if your life. You will end up disappointed and angry, and you will move on to the next thing. Or worse, we will all end up using these 4 walls as an echo chamber for ourselves, without seeing change out there.

“Vision is a clear and compelling picture of what could be, under God, and it draws us forward into a life we cannot yet see but are being formed to live.” - Dallas Willard

The most important thing you can do this fall, is to ask yourself, what is your vision for yourself, your children, who are the people you want them to become?

Individual Practice:

- Review the vision you have had for yourself and your family, if you have one. If not write one out. Determine what is valuable to you, and determine if the vision of Be Love Co. is apart of your vision.
 - In time alone, determine what has discipleship meant to you, do you believe you have been taking part in discipleship? After tonight, would you still agree with that?
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