

Series: Independent Message

Title: Rock of Hope 5Es

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Vision is a fixed point that cannot let be go.....

John C. Maxwell, pastor, writer and Leadership Teacher said,

Failed plans should not be interpreted as a failed vision. Visions don't change, they are only refined. Plans rarely stay the same, and are scrapped or adjusted as needed. Be stubborn about the vision, but flexible with your plan.

The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision. Helen Keller

So, what is a vision for a church.

A Mission is Clear

Jesus said,

1. Love God and Love people - Great command
2. But also, Go and preach the Gospel, baptizing and teaching to obey – great Commission

But a Vision is unique to each church.

Who will we be along this journey?

ROH VISION

Vision for a church is its preferred future. We see what god's design looks like.

- The picture of this future starts with God and is revealed through the Holy Spirit to the leaders and members of the church.
- It is a picture of who we are and who we will be no matter a name, a place or the numbers.

CHURCH VISION

As the Church we live our lives to **exalt** the person of Jesus Christ in all we think, say and do and invite all people to do the same. We find ways to **embrace** people where they are and continue to love them through their journey with Christ. We **enjoy** our walk with God and our walk with one another. We intentionally **engage** with our community and the world to have a voice in the market conversations of our times. We strive to be **equipped** to accomplish the work set before us as ambassadors of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

EXALT

verb to hold (someone or something) in very high regard; think or speak very highly of.

"the party will continue to exalt its hero"

synonyms: [extol](#), [praise](#), [acclaim](#), [esteem](#);

(Different from **exult**

verb - to show or feel elation or jubilation, especially as the result of a success.)

To lift on high...to hold in the highest

We lift players up and coaches up and movie stars and politicians up ----exalting them

Exulting in them

Yet where is our ever present and constant exaltation of the Most high!!!!

Psalm 34:2-4

...²My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. ³O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. ⁴I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears....

Psalm 35:27

May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant."

Psalm 69:30

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 99:5

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Psalm 107:32

Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

• To acknowledge and to make known the supremacy of the King is our highest calling.

- We exalt Him with every endeavor of our lives
- We exalt through prayer, song, the arts, stewardship and study
- We exalt Him in every gathering
- We exalt Him before the nations
- Examples of Exaltation
 - Prayer Meetings
 - Worship Conferences
 - Culture / Language Ministry Center

He is primary -----It is about exalting him

ENJOY

verb to take delight or pleasure in (an activity or occasion).

List in your mind the things you take delight in.

Having fun!!!!!!!

Delight in your soul

Friends say, ---- I feel terrible in church. Miserable and judged. The worst I have ever felt has been in church.

Now.... Let me clarify the difference between HS conviction and pseudo-holiness condemnation

Psalm 47:1

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

1 Peter 1:8-10

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Isaiah 12:6

Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Philemon 1:7

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

2 John 1:12

I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

• To experience the fullest measure of joy in our walk and work is our greatest treasure.

- We enjoy the journey with God
- We enjoy the journey with other believers
- We enjoy the journey as we encounter our world
- Examples of Enjoyment
 - Game Nights
 - Sports Teams
 - Retreats
 - Dinners
 - Drama and the arts

ENGAGE

verb

1. To occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention).
2. To participate or become involved in.

- We engage in family and our jobs.
- Our interests and our pursuits.

Charles Dickens wrote,

“Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!”

Matthew 5:13-15

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house....

Acts 17:23-23

²² So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. ²³ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

To impact our culture with the love and message of Christ is our noblest task.

- We engage people on their turf to share the presence of the Kingdom in their world
- We engage in conversations about Christ and the need for salvation.
- We engage ourselves in the cultural conversations of our times
- We engage actively in the fight against evils that assault humanity
- Examples of Engaging
 - Evangelism Training
 - Evangelism Ministries
 - Cause awareness and fund raisers
 - Symposiums
 - Missions and Missionaries
 - Guest Speakers
 - Community meetings
 - Edmonds Event Volunteering
 - Neighborhood Watch

EMBRACE

verb to hold (someone) closely in one's arms, especially as a sign of affection.

“Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.” Albert Einstein

- Affection that is wanted causes the release of oxytocin.
- It helps to nurture feelings of trust and connectedness and it also reduces cortisol (the stress hormone).
- Twenty seconds of affectionate **touching** (hugging, back rubs, gentle stroking) is enough to trigger the release of oxytocin.

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Hebrews 6:10

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

To partner with God in reaching out and caring for the needs of people is our truest act of kingdom living.

- We embrace our neighbors in their brokenness, meeting needs as called.
- We embrace, through steadfast prayer, the cares and burdens of others to the Lord
- We embrace people and ministries, partnering together in order to care for those the Lord brings into our lives.
- Examples of Embracing
 - Recovery Groups
 - Clothing and Food Drives
 - Visitation Ministries
 - Tutoring
 - Christian Computing classes
 - ESL Classes
 - Hosting Bible Study Fellowship
 - Hosting MOP's
 - Church Planting Conferences

EQUIP

verb

1. To supply with the necessary items for a particular purpose.
2. To prepare (someone) mentally for a particular situation or task.

Disciple is not just to be, but it is to do and reproduce

If you do something.... Who is with you? Whom are you teaching, training, passing the baton to?

“To get leaders to become stakeholders in ministry and to understand the DNA of your church, you must invest in them, equip them, and raise the bar of accountability.”

– Sue Mallory, Equipping the Church

“We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors.” Lyndon B. Johnson

Hebrews 13:20-22

²⁰Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, ²¹equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ²²But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly....

2 Timothy 3:17

...so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 4:11-13

...¹¹And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ....

To train, develop, and provide resources for followers of Christ for their God-gifted calling is our richest privilege.

- We equip others to discover their God given talents, skills, personalities and gifts
- We equip others to develop the tools necessary to accomplish His will for their lives
- We equip ourselves to disciple those who come through our doors to be followers of Christ
- Examples of Equipping
 - Foundations Classes (Prayer, Scripture, Doctrine)
 - Awakening Classes (gifts analysis and ministry discovery)
 - Ministry training
 - Relevant Small Groups offered
 - Hosting Training Conferences

BE THE VISION