

3. Finding Completeness In Community

- If God needs 3 to be complete, what makes me think that I can be totally complete in myself?
- You and I are fundamentally incomplete, and we are designed to find our completion in relationship with God and with each other

4. The Real Purpose Of Community

- Relationships are the laboratory in which our submission to Christ's Lordship is tested
- a) It's Not To Meet Needs
- b) It's About Giving Ourselves Away
- Father, Son and Holy Spirit have lived in community for all of eternity in an absolute self-less giving of one another to each other
- The Father has never thought of Himself in terms of Himself, He has only ever thought in terms of the Son and the Spirit – that is radical selflessness
- Why do we want to have community? In order to give ourselves away to each other, in order to model heaven on earth

Matthew 16:25, NIV – “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”

- In the world, we establish relationships to find ourselves
- In the kingdom, we establish relationships to give ourselves
- Who are we? We are the people of the King, created in the image and likeness of the King
- Why are we here? We are here to be a domain or realm of the rule of the King
- What are we to do? We are to model heaven on earth in Christian community, so that others would be drawn into that community with us, and with God

PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-10, NIV – “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’”

DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH VISION

Part 2 – Demonstrating Heaven On Earth

David Hibbert – April 25, 2004

VISION IS ROOTED IN OUR IDENTITY – “WHO ARE WE?”

Genesis 1:26-27, NIV – “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...’(27) And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

- Our Mission:
 - “To understand Who God is, and then express that image and likeness to others around us”
 - “To know God, and make Him known”
 - “To reflect God’s glory to the people around us”

2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV – “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

WHY THE IDENTITY ISSUE IS KEY

1. A “**Doing**” Foundation Leads To Being Driven By Performance
2. A “**Being**” Foundation Leads To Being Led By The Spirit

Romans 8:14-15, NIV – “... those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”

VISION IS PRIMARILY ABOUT “SEEING” CORRECTLY

- 2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV – “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
- Vision is about seeing God rightly, seeing God correctly, and then reflecting what we see

VISION: TO SEE GOD'S KINGDOM COME TO EARTH

1. The Church's Foundational Vision – Seeing Heaven Come To Earth

Matthew 6:9, NIV – “... Our Father in heaven ... *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* ...”

- God's Kingdom is the domain of the King, the sphere of rule of the King, every expression of the heart of God
- What is going on in heaven, is to find a place of expression, here on earth

2. Where Is Heaven To Be Demonstrated On Earth? – In The Church

Ephesians 3:10, NIV – “*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known ...*”

DEFINING THE KINGDOM

Matthew 4:17, NIV – “*From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’*”

1. Repent - Change Your Mind About How You Are Living

- “Change your mind about living in a way that causes you to be driven by this world's kingdom, because a new kingdom is dawning”

2. The Kingdom Of Heaven - The Rule Or Domain Of The King

- “The kingdom of heaven” is the powerful and wise rule of God
- “God is coming to rule, so take courage – it's going to be okay now!”

3. The Kingdom Was Jesus' Ongoing Message

Acts 1:3, NIV – “*After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.*”

4. The Three Parts Of The Kingdom

- The kingdom is composed of 3 things:
 - Revelation Of The King: As we study the Bible, and as we personally encounter God, we understand what He is like, and so we see Him as He is

- Rule Of The King: As we apply what we see in our lives, we allow God to rule

- Realm Or Domain Of The King: When a group of people together seek to apply heaven on earth, they become the realm over which king Jesus presides

- The kingdom of God is the rule of God, which flows from the revelation of God, which produces the realm of God

- The Kingdom is who God is (Revelation) expressed (Rule) in a model (Realm)

THE IMPORTANCE OF MODELING THE KINGDOM

- Destiny Christian Church is to be a realm of the rulership of God
- Destiny Christian Church is to be a model of what heaven looks like, and visibly present that model to our surrounding community

- We are not to get along with our culture, and we are not to withdraw from our culture

- Instead, we are to model the kingdom of God to our culture

- Our model should match our message

- Our demonstration should match our declaration

HOW DO WE MODEL HEAVEN ON EARTH? – TRUE COMMUNITY

1. We Need To Learn To Walk In Community

- God's dream since the beginning, is to invite imperfect, frail man to look at Him, at His love relationship within the Trinity, and with His community within the Trinity, and enter into that relationship with Him, and then work out and implement and express those dynamics in our relationships here on earth, and when we do, we'll have the joy of watching heaven recreated on earth

2. Connecting Community And Mission

- God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a community of persons in mission with each other; the mission of creation, and the mission of redemption

- We are a community of persons in mission with each other; the mission of creating a heaven on earth community, and the mission of redeeming fallen man