



Remembering the Vision: CRC Intentionality in 2024
Declaring the Scriptures, Strengthening Households, Making Disciples
December 31, 2023

Imagine a person, totally in love with Christ and passionately grateful for His sacrifice at Calvary that redeemed them from sin. Imagine the priority in this person's life to "self-govern" according to Scripture...to line up every part of their life according to the precepts, principles, and patterns of the Bible...to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Imagine their passionate pursuit of holiness. Imagine their willingness to die for Christ...

Imagine a church of passionate worshippers who gather on the Lord's Day not for themselves, but for Christ and His glory and worship alone, with the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Imagine their love for God burning so hot that they encourage each other, hold each other accountable, obey the Scriptures, and work to share the Gospel and make disciples both down the street and around the world. Imagine if their love for Christ caused them to fight against ungodliness, to protect marriage, to take care of widows and orphans, to fight for the unborn, and to work to eliminate oppression. Imagine a church that taught the Word systematically, that deepened their faith through biblically prescribed worship forms, and that kept families together during that most sacred time each week...

Imagine individuals and families who are free of financial shackles, who are debt free with growing savings, who invested, and who saw the multigenerational aspects of work and money. Imagine people who worked hard to fulfill the Dominion Mandate, which is the command to establish the rule of Jesus Christ in all areas and jurisdictions of life (the Family, the Church, and the State); the intentional expansion of His Kingdom by His subjects, the preaching of the Gospel, the discipling of hearts, and the raising up of godly generations that declare, "Your Kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Imagine individuals and families with a Kingdom "work and money" vision...

Imagine a man or husband or father who loves God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. Imagine him working hard, with a long-term vision of where he and his family might be by God's grace. Imagine his priestly pursuit of holiness, refusing to hurt himself and his family through his own unrighteousness, and his willingness to repent quickly when he fails. Imagine how he lovingly, tenderly, but firmly declares God's Word in his home and in the community. If married, imagine how he loves his wife with his whole heart, how he thinks and says she's beautiful, how he covers her, provides for her, protects her, and is literally willing to die for her. Imagine how he counts it an honor to lead her, disciple her, and work so that she always feels safe and secure. If a father, imagine a man who teaches and disciples his children. Imagine how he protects them from ungodly influences, instructs them, and casts great vision for who they could be. Imagine how he prays with them and prepares them for adulthood, marriage, and family!

Imagine a woman or wife or mother who loves God with all her heart, mind, soul, and strength. Imagine her working hard many times outside the house, but certainly at home. Imagine how she pursues God's long-term vision for her life. Imagine how chaste she is, how virtuous, how modest! Imagine how she lovingly and tenderly instructs her children and others in the Word, much like Timothy's mother and grandmother. If married, imagine how she loves and submits to her own husband as to the Lord. Imagine how she supports him, lifts him up with her words and actions, cares for him, and is willing to sacrifice her agenda to pursue his, seeing her role as a "helper" or a "helpmeet" as a honor bestowed upon her by God Himself! If a mother, imagine

her tender care for her children, teaching them, loving them, and caring for them, casting great vision before them about who they could be in the Lord, praying for and preparing them for adulthood, marriage, and family.

Imagine homes filled with biblical care groups and hospitality. Imagine open doors and open hearts, dinner tables filled with friends, fellow church members, laughter, Scripture, encouragement, and meaningful conversation...less television and more discipleship. Imagine how many problems would be solved without a class, a program, or a counseling session through prayer, Scripture, and true Christian friendship. Imagine the new friends and church members who would finally feel welcome in a covenant community and as a result are taught more about the tangible love of Christ. Imagine the teachable moments to train children how to serve others.

As we said years ago, the world, the flesh, and the devil will fight this vision at every turn. He will attempt to pervert it; to create disunity because of it; to unleash so much drama and distraction that we simply give up and do nothing. BUT I plan to keep dreaming and fighting. How about you?

CRC Foundational Scriptures

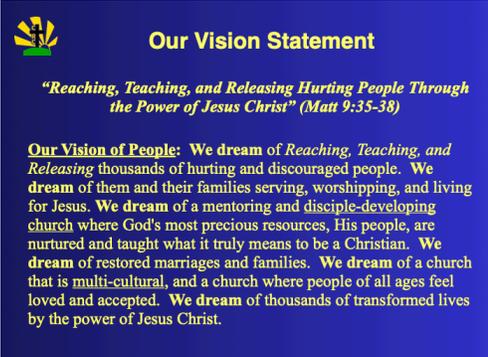
Matthew 9:35-38 (KJV) And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;* 38 *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* 19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* 20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

So Who is CRC and what are We trying to do?

Extrapolated from these verses is our simple Vision:

1. **“Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing Hurting People through the Power of Jesus Christ!”**
 - a. Reaching comes from the LORD’s example of going where the people were and compassionately proclaiming His Gospel. (Mat 9:35)
 - b. Teaching comes from the LORD’s example of declaring His Word everywhere He went. (Mat 9:35)
 - c. Releasing comes from the LORD’s example of healing others and setting them free from



Our Vision Statement

“Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing Hurting People Through the Power of Jesus Christ” (Matt 9:35-38)

Our Vision of People: We dream of Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing thousands of hurting and discouraged people. We dream of them and their families serving, worshipping, and living for Jesus. We dream of a mentoring and disciple-developing church where God’s most precious resources, His people, are nurtured and taught what it truly means to be a Christian. We dream of restored marriages and families. We dream of a church that is multi-cultural, and a church where people of all ages feel loved and accepted. We dream of thousands of transformed lives by the power of Jesus Christ.



sin and bondage, and calling them follow Him. (Mat 9:35)

2. We are trying to Make Disciples!

- a. We believe discipleship is simply *Meeting Jesus* (Reaching), *Knowing Jesus* (Teaching), and *Serving Jesus* (Releasing)
- b. What our homes need, communities need, and Nation needs are more disciples of Jesus...people living by God's Word!
- c. This was Christ's priority! We must be intentional about the priorities of Christ! We must give ourselves fully to His heart, His plan, His commands, and His mission.

Here is Our Discipleship Process; things we ask everyone in membership to do:

- 1. Worship as a Family and Invite others (Reaching as we Declare the Scriptures)
- 2. Be active in Care Group and Family Devotions (Teaching, in order to Strengthen Households)
- 3. Serve the Church and the Community (Releasing, to Intentionally Make Disciples)

We believe these three elements, if done with passion and discipline over time, push forward the Great Commission of Christ.



Worshipping as a Family and Inviting Others (Reaching, Declaring the Scriptures)

- 1. CRC is a church that wants to show reverence for the Lord's Day that men and women might come to know Him!
- 2. Sunday is a time where we look forward to gathering together with family, friends, and even those we've invited to hear what we pray is a solid, exegetical, expository Word and to pray and sing to God together!
- 3. We also believe the biblical pattern for worship is families staying together. It's a great model of what should be happening at home!

Be Active in Care Group and Family Devotions (Teaching, Strengthening Households)

- 1. CRC is a church that believes in intentional growth in small groups, both within families AND within the local Body of believers.
- 2. With great *intentionality*, we pause daily to study the Word, daily to catechize and train our children, weekly to hear a sermon, gather in smaller groups to be encouraged and pray, and read Christ-honoring books as we are led.
- 3. Much of our ministry is built on the transforming power of doing what Jesus did most; teach! We are striving towards a *Biblical Worldview*...declaring that Jesus is Lord in every area of life!

Serve the Church and the Community (Releasing, Intentionally Making Disciples)

- 1. CRC is a church that believes that discipleship is incomplete without serving others.
- 2. We ask each person within CRC to choose a ministry to serve in for at least 6 months after joining, and then if necessary, transition into a longer term commitment in ministry better aligned with his or her gifts and passions.
- 3. We ask each member to:
 - **Minister to lost people**

- ✓ Engage in the ministry of hospitality. Dedicate one evening per month (as an example) to open your home to someone with a view towards sharing the Gospel and increasing discipleship.
- ✓ Actively share the Gospel in other places as well, from the street corner to the abortion clinic to the local grocery store. Take those tracts and use them!
- ✓ Have you read The School of Biblical Evangelism book or taken the class? ☺
- **Serve the community**
 - ✓ Dedicate at least one evening or day per month to be a volunteer (Crisis Pregnancy Center, a Boys and Girls Club, a shelter, hospitals/nursing homes, being a big brother or sister right here at CRC, serve an elderly neighbor, or create a personal ministry that meets a need!
 - ✓ Get the whole family involved in whatever community ministry you decide upon and watch your children change!
 - ✓ *We recognize this is different than a programmatic approach, but we see great sustainability in building community service based out of homes and individual passions!* If we will truly “deploy” as a congregation, we can multiply our efforts while taking all our CRC distinctives with us!
- **Think globally**
 - ✓ What other parts of the world does God want my family to bless?
 - ✓ Build global praying into your family worship, sponsor a child in another nation, consider missions trips, etc.

To be sure, CRC does other things: benevolence both inside and outside the church as needs arise, invite mailers to our community, food pantry donations, Thanksgiving and Christmas benevolence, The *Walk for Life* and Baby Bottle campaigns, supporting the ministry of adoption, SIS/Brotherhood meetings which are open to all, giving monthly to missions, etc.

But much of the ministry God has given us is organic and cannot be easily tracked; this precious ministry flows from individual hearts and homes that have been transformed by the Gospel. It flows through YOU. :)

What’s to Stop YOU or your Care Group from...

- Consistently serving elderly neighbors, and taking our distinctives with you?
- Starting a Bible study during lunch at your job, and taking our distinctives with you?
- Intentionally discipling young moms/dads/singles at work, and taking our distinctives with you?
- Adopting an orphan oversees, and taking our distinctives with you?

CRC Definitions

The (local) Church is a group of born-again, Spirit-filled, baptized believers in Jesus Christ who gather on the Lord’s Day for biblical worship and who are committed to obeying Scripture and personal holiness. It is led by specific elders and deacons and, collectively, is passionate about covenant love one to another, advancing the Gospel, making disciples, and being a light in the midst of the culture.

*A local church must follow the biblical Pattern of ministry. (2 Tim 1:13) The Pattern can be described as the fundamental **doctrines, expressions, and traditions** given to the Church by Christ through the New Testament writers. The Biblical Pattern demonstrates who Christ intended His church to be, what He intended it to teach, and the way He designed it to operate. All of this is clearly illustrated in the New Testament.*

CRC Distinctives

- Finding contentment and peace in Christ alone. Jesus is Enough! (Php 4:11-13)
- Preaching the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)
- Holding to expository preaching where the Holy Text drives the message (2 Tim 4:2)
- Living out a loving holiness (John 14:15; 1 Pet 1:16)
- Building according to the Pattern, obeying New Testament ordinances and instructions for the Church (2 Tim 1:13)
- Holding to biblical view of men's/women's roles in the home and church (Eph 5; Col 3; 1 Tim 2-3; Titus 2)
- Seeing the pattern of worshipping with our children as something beautiful (2 Chr 20:13; Ezra 10:1; Lk 18:16)
- Believing the primary discipler of children are parents (Deut 6; Eph 6)
- Pursuing biblical Hospitality and Community (Rom 12:13; 1 Pet 4:9)
- Living with as little debt as possible (Prov 22:7; Rom 13:8)
- Biblical generosity (Prov 3:9-10; Lk 6:38; 1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 9:6-7)

More on Family/Age Integration

There is no secret that we have lost two or three generations of children to humanism, feminism, paganism, Marxism, the LGBTQ ideology, and all manner of ungodly, sinful cultural deceptions. This church originally began to attempt to repair the damage done to youth and family.

After 13 years of the traditional models, in January 2010, we began our journey towards very intentional family discipleship. We looked to the Scriptures and found no other model of child discipleship, youth ministry, and education than the one you see in place in this church. That's not to say that others are necessarily sinful, but our belief was and is that God's Words have divine purpose (inspired, infallible, inerrant, and sufficient), and our desire was to mine the wealth of the Bible for all it's worth!

Family integration is simply the “in church” model of what should be happening “in home.” In Scripture, fathers are commanded to disciple their families, and fathers and mothers are committed to teach their children. (Deut 6:1-12; Ps 78:1-8; Eph 6:4)

When God gathers His people, the children are always there in the midst of all the worship. (Deut 29:10-12; 2 Chr 20:13-15; Ezra 10:1; Joel 2:15-16; Mk 10:13-16; Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20)

From January 10, 2010, we quoted *Grace Baptist Church* in Texas:

- Family integration is the embodiment of the belief that the most basic context for the believers which make up Christ's church is the family. Additionally, it is founded on the principle that God has ordained the family as the most fundamental institution of all human society. When families break down, so do cultures and nations.
- Family integration strives to create a church whose practices and ordinances strengthen all families. If a church is populated by weak or loosely bound families, then sooner or later, the church will struggle and falter.
- In light of this need to preserve and protect the family, many Family Integrated Churches decide not to offer separate Sunday school or children's church classes. The absence of Sunday school or children's church means that families sing together, pray together, learn

together, and grow together. We think this is the best form of youth ministry and discipleship training.

- It is this kind of family-based spiritual development that we believe enables families to live out the discipleship principles taught in Deuteronomy 6.

CRC agrees! We believe that God's patterns bless all families: marrieds, singles, older, middle-aged, young families, youth, and babies!

So, "Who is Calvary Reformation Church?"

- David declared in ***Psalms 11:3 (KJV)*** *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
- Isaiah gives an answer: ***Isaiah 58:12 (KJV)*** *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

We are a church focused on glorifying Christ and discipling others. A Christ-centered view of ministry and the Sufficiency of Scripture has caused us to focus on a few simple, but foundational, things Jesus commands for the Home and Church. His command to "go and make disciples" is the heartbeat of what we do.

CRC 2023 Blessings!

1. New Members: 22 adults or 13 families, Baptisms: 7, Visitors: 114,
2. App Downloads: 230, Sermon views on YouTube: 19,400
3. Started outreach to "The Vero" Assisted Living Facility: 2nd - 4th/5th Sundays. Prayer, Singing, Preaching, & Ordinance weekly to residents
4. Invites sent to new movers within a 3 mile radius of CRC: 2,217
5. Thanksgiving meals donated to Shining Light Homes: 26
6. Benevolence dollars: \$5200, 27 families helped
7. Missions support: \$30,000 in support of a church and orphanage in Uganda
8. Support for CPC, Church and Family Life

CRC 2024 Goals!

1. Ordain new CRC elders
2. Do a conference in October: *Call to Battle 2024: Rebuilding the Biblical Household*
3. Relaunch the D6 Reformation (D6Reformation.org)
4. Refresh our church website (CalvaryReformationChurch.org)
5. Start a regular Mentorship program in Campostella
6. Each household reach one household in 2024
7. Start a visitor/new believer follow-up ministry
8. Restart the CRC Intercessory Prayer Team
9. Re-present our vision for a CRC Ministry Center
10. Launch the *Reformation Churches* Network

CRC is attempting to rebuild critical foundations according to the Pattern.

Will you commit/recommit to attending CRC faithfully?

Will you commit/recommit to your Care Group?

Will you commit/recommit to serving our church and your community?

Will you commit/recommit to our distinctives?

Will you pray over and support our 2024 goals?