

# Why the Gospel MUST Remain Central to Our Vision

## 1 Corinthians Surveyed

**The Gospel focuses our vision on the glory of God and the joy of all people!**

**1. The gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to us who are \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*...it is the power of God... the power of God and the wisdom of God... 1:18-24*

**Apply: If the gospel slips from our focus we will experience the:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of the world
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the world

**Vision Check:** How often do I proclaim the gospel:

- To \_\_\_\_\_
- To \_\_\_\_\_

**How does that compare to talking about the...**

Which really matters?

**2. A gospel focus \_\_\_\_\_ us in \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.**  
*...now there is variety...but the same...*

- It reminds us that the poorest follower of Jesus: **chpt. 1**
  - Has equal \_\_\_\_\_ 1:1-9
  - Has equal \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God 1:2 cf 6:19-20
  - Is a \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ 1:2
  - Is \_\_\_\_\_ in ALL \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ 1:3-5
- It reminds us that every follower of Jesus: **chpt. 12**
  - Reflects the *variety* of God's creativity. 12:1-11
  - Has a vital function in Body life and my life. 12:12ff.

**Apply: If the gospel slips from our focus we will experience the:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ cults "I am of..."
- \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ "I have no need of you."

**Vision Check:** My life sez...

I am of...

I need...

**3. The gospel \_\_\_\_\_ us to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ in others.**  
*...I do all things for the sake of the gospel of Christ... 9:23*

**Apply:** For the sake of reaching another for Christ I would give...

...I would give up...

**Vision Check:** If I won't give it or give it up for the gospel, it is...

...and I will lose...

**4. The gospel fills us with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.** 15  
*...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...*

**Apply:** My vision is focused on life on \_\_\_\_\_ side of the \_\_\_\_\_

**Vision Check:** My serving \_\_\_\_\_ shows me my vision is on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Challenge: When the gospel captivates the vision of a few they...**

## REACH Prayer Support for 2020 Vision

We envision a church from every tongue and tribe and people, that *reflects* the heavenly community glorifying God's "manifold grace" because **people matter to God and us**. We seek God to grow as a missional community to **REACH** out in the fulness of God's love to people where our lives are lived. So, we intentionally cross social & cultural barriers to **\*develop relationships to reach** out to people and **bring** them along to **discover life** together to be **deployed** in purposeful living. \*3D: Develop > Discover > Deploy

### 1. Prayer Target: Develop Relationships

- *Pray our church family's love becomes an evangelistic invitation as it grows so "all men will know that we are Christ's followers by the love that we have for one another."*
- *Pray our love for the lost to continue to grow us as followers of the "Friend of Sinners" as we take great joy in "seeking those who are lost." Luke 15*
- *Intercede for the REACH team to continue to develop the strategy and resources to come alongside people of SSEFC to encourage and equip them in their life mission and reach.*
- *Pray that SSEFC will share lives at a level that allows us to "bear each other's burdens," Galatians 6:2, and encourage us as we "shine our light so that people may see and glorify our Father in heaven." 2 Cor. 5:20; Matt. 5:16*
- *Ask God to start new Small Groups that focus on life needs - Grief and relational support*
- *Seek God's lead for each of our BRING events through the year asking God to grow your relationship with people He is seeking, that you BRING along with you. Seasonal Celebration Services, Coffee Shop Connections, Concerts, Family Fest, Children's Faith Step Celebrations (First Bible, Baptism...), Summer Worship Adventure Celebration...*
- *Pray that we will see others with God's eyes and not our own! 1 Samuel 16:7*
- *Hold up "My Five" regularly: (See the previous prayer guide<sup>1</sup> explaining the reminders of naming **my 5** spheres of evangelistic influence on my left hand and **my five** people by name that God has given me relationship and conversation with and **my five** minutes after church engaging in conversation with someone who is newer to our church.)*

### 2. Prayer Target: Discover Life

- *Pray for the start of more **Discovery Bible Studies** that gather our seeking friends at work & in our neighborhoods, to discover & discuss the Biblical truths of God's redeeming love & life plan.*
- *Pray for people, by name, that you know are involved in some form of a **Discovery Bible Study** – don't forget that there are some of these meeting in corporate offices and pray for their multiplication within those offices to spread to other work places.*
- *Intercede for the people God is seeking, during our church services & sermons. As a saving truth is sung or explained, pray for the specific people around you for God to draw them to Himself. Pray for the messengers that are delivering that Good News.*
- *Pray for "**Pass it On**" strategies of giving out Life-sharing booklets and passing them on.*

### 3. Prayer Target: Deploy in Service

- *Ask God to deploy you & others in the specific **REACH** opportunities listed on our website.*
- *Pray that God will continue to raise up people from South Suburban to be involved in missions, either full time or in a support capacity – our children, 2<sup>nd</sup> Career and Un-retired mission agents.*
- *Seek God for new missionaries – financial, emotional, spiritual, relational provision.*
- *Pray that we seize opportunities God is bringing to our doorstep of people groups coming to Minnesota from around the world – Isaiah 43:15-19*

<sup>1</sup>My Five: <https://www.ssefc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/My-Five.pdf>

## Why the Gospel MUST Remain Central to Our Vision

### 1 Corinthians Surveyed

**The Gospel focuses our vision on the glory of God and the joy of all people!**

**1. The gospel is the power of God to us who are being saved.**

*...it is the power of God... the power of God and the wisdom of God... 1:18-24*

**Apply: If the gospel slips from our focus we will experience the:**

- **Futility of the world**
- **Foolishness of the world**

**Vision Check:** How often do I proclaim the gospel:

- To myself
- To others

**How does that compare to talking about the...**

Which really matters?

**2. A gospel focus unites us in one body in Christ.**

*...now there is variety...but the same...*

- It reminds us that the poorest follower of Jesus: **chpt. 1**
  - Has equal standing in Christ 1:1-9
  - Has equal importance as the temple/church of God 1:2 cf 6:19-20
  - Is a saint by calling 1:2
  - Is enriched in ALL speech, knowledge and gifts 1:3-5
- It reminds us that every follower of Jesus: **chpt. 12**
  - Reflects the *variety* of God's creativity. 12:1-11
  - Has a vital function in Body life and my life. 12:12ff.

**Apply: If the gospel slips from our focus we will experience the:**

- Divisiveness of personality cults "I am of..."
- Arrogance of independence "I have no need of you."

**Vision Check:** My life sezs...

**I am of...**

**I need...**

**3. The gospel frees us to invest our lives in others.**

*...I do all things for the sake of the gospel of Christ...*

9:23

**Apply:** For the sake of reaching another for Christ I would give...

...I would give up...

**Vision Check:** If I won't give it or give it up for the gospel, it is...

...and I will lose....

**4. The gospel fills us with resurrection hope to persevere.**

15

*...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...*

**Apply:** My vision is focused on life on this/that side of the grave

**Vision Check:** My serving endurance shows me my vision is on here/there.

**Challenge: When the gospel captivates the vision of a few they...**