

Grand Opening Weekend

Why is the Vineyard Unique?

I. Introduction

- A. "Transforming ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Christ."
- B. Matthew 28:18-20 (NAS) ¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - 1. "Disciple" ("Mathetes") - - A learner, to be a student of.

II. Common Assumptions About What Discipleship Means

- A. Attendance at church.
 - 1. Hebrews 10:25 (LB) *Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*
 - 2. Coming to church is not to be done out of guilt or duty!
- B. Giving money to the church.
 - 1. Psalm 24:1 (NAS) *The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.*
 - 2. Malachi 3:10 (NAS) *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need.*
 - 3. Proverbs 3:9-10 (NAS) ⁹Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
 - 4. John 14:15 (NAS) *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*
 - 5. Why Christians give to God:
 - a. They love Jesus and want to obey Him.
 - b. That's how God's economy operates.

1. Proverbs 11:24-25 (NAS) *24There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. 25The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.*

c. That's how God has chosen to fund the local church and advance His Kingdom!

1. Matthew 16:18b (NAS) *"I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.*

C. Getting involved in church programs.

1. Ephesians 2:10 (NAS) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
2. Galatians 5:13c (NAS) *Serve one another.*
3. I Peter 4:10a (NAS) *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another.*

D. Believing "correct" doctrine.

1. A few "Non-Negotiables" in Christianity:
 - a. John 14:6 (NAS) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*
 - b. Romans 3:23 (NAS) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
 - c. Romans 6:23a (NAS) *For the wages of sin is death.*
 - d. Romans 5:8 (NAS) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - e. Romans 10:13 (NAS) *For "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."*
2. John 13:35 (NAS) *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

E. Certain things I can and cannot do.

1. John 10:10 (NAS) *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.*

III. What Does Biblical Discipleship Consist Of?

A. A commitment to Christ.

1. Acts 4:12 (NAS) *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."*

2. John 3:3 (NAS) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*
3. II Corinthians 5:17 (NAS) *Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

B. A commitment to His Church.

C. A commitment to His Cause.

IV. Conclusion

Next weekend's message:

5/9-10/2010 "The Nobility of Motherhood" (Mother's Day)