

## NAVIGATE WEBINAR

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1. What are some of the **characteristics and practices of a CHURCH** that would welcome **PEOPLE** into relationship and discipleship - **PEOPLE** who struggle with living out a Biblical vision of being human?

**A. Hopefully this CHURCH (our churches) would first recognize / acknowledge that this is EVERY SINGLE one of us!**

We all struggle with living out a Biblical vision of being human

Examples

- Mark 12: 28-30 Loving God & loving others? (Also 1 Cor 13, Col. 3:1-17)
  - And how are we doing in this area? 100% success?
- Genesis 1 & 2 - steward the world
  - How are we doing in this area?

**Rom 3:23 - we all fail to live out a Biblical vision of being human.**

This perspective is VITAL - why?

**B. CHURCHES - keep the Biblical Vision FRONT and CENTER**

We need to know the vision - so we know where we are headed (the GOAL)

- For this reason, it is helpful to preach/teach regularly (weekend and midweek) on God's design for \_\_\_\_\_ (take your pick)
  - Sanctity of Life (MAID), God's design for marriage, sexuality, & gender, God's design for marriage/divorce, financial stewardship, God's design for prayer, baptism, communion, purpose of church gatherings, etc etc.

A diagram that helps me:

**Biblical VISION of being Human** ←-----→ Sometimes we **STRUGGLE** with it  
Sometimes we live **IN ALIGNMENT** with this 😊

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Sometimes we **FAIL**

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Sometimes we are **IGNORANT** of this vision (lack of teaching from parents? the church?)

## 2. How do you come alongside and disciple **PEOPLE (Believers)**

**PEOPLE** who desire to follow Jesus -

**AND WHO** struggle with this Biblical vision of being human?

- Since we ALL struggle (Believers) - we all need help (help ourselves, and each other)
- WHOLE-istic Vision (see below - and handout)

### A. **SPIRITUAL**

a. Ideas for helping ourselves and each other:

- Helping each other: praying, singing worship songs learning (from God's word - weekends and mid-week), serving, recommending resources (i.e. books, podcasts), meeting in small groups (i.e. community groups, Bible studies), attending conferences, retreats, webinars, etc.
- Helping ourselves: scripture memory, prayer journaling or prayer walks, fasting, listening to music, podcasts or attending a group (Celebrate Recovery, Divorce Care, etc)

### B. **SOCIAL**

- a. Ideas: community groups and Bible study groups - but also baptism services, communion, worship nights, serving together (inside and outside the church)
- b. connecting with Christian friends and family outside church (variety of ways), hobby groups with other Christians, etc
- c. Note: Isolation often hurts us - community helps us pursue a relationship with God and others

### C. **PHYSICAL**

- a. God has given us bodies that need sleep, regular good quality food, and sometimes medication or other physical help (doctors, chiropractors, physiotherapists, massage therapists, etc).
- b. Note: When our bodies are healthier, it is easier to think properly and engage with others. **In other words, good physical health may help us to understand and pursue a Biblical vision of being human.** When we are struggling with sleep/eating or health - we are more vulnerable to pursuing unhealthy ways of living or temptations that lead to sin.
- c. EXAMPLE - Caring for our bodies lessens our vulnerability (think of MAID - when a Christian is suffering, lonely, and in significant pain - it is easier for that person to consider the possibility of MAID. However, if their pain is managed, and they have friends/family that are loving, supportive and involved, there is less chance that the person will choose MAID)

D. **EMOTIONAL** (including Mental Health) - this is another area that can be overlooked by Christians

- a. **Good mental/emotional health may make it easier to understand and pursue a Biblical vision of being human.** If we are healthy emotionally (mentally) - this lessens our vulnerability to unhealthy ways of living or temptations that lead to sin.
- b. On the other hand - Christians who are struggling with mental/emotional health - and not getting (or pursuing) whole-istic help - are more vulnerable to unhealthy ways of living or temptations that lead to sin

### 3. How do you invite **PEOPLE** to follow Jesus -

**PEOPLE** whose vision of being human is **centered in the current culture** and **NOT** in this Biblical vision?

- **MOST of us (if not ALL of us) have at times centered our values in the culture around us.** It is the air we breathe. And some of our cultural values are SO appealing!!  
It is human to get caught up in the values of the culture around us. (own it - acknowledge it - confess/repent where we need to do that) - 1 John 1:5-10  
1 Cor 6:9,10 - and such were some of you...but you were washed, you were sanctified...
- It is important for us as Christians to **understand our current culture.**
  - We don't have to AGREE with it - but we need to understand it - so that we understand why **WE** and others around us are captured by our cultural values.

#### Cultural values

- Some values in our culture are **in ALIGNMENT** with the Bible (let's keep those!)
  - Example: here on the West Coast - huge value is to enjoy nature - it's beauty and all the activities that we can do out in nature! This is alignment with scripture - God is the Creator of all this beauty! And it has been created for us to enjoy 😊
- Some values in our culture are **NOT in alignment** with the Bible
  - Example: MAID - rising cultural value - clashes with God as the Creator and sustainer of life (sanctity of life)
  - When a cultural value clashes with scripture - it is important to **recognize and acknowledge the draw** (or temptation) that many of us feel towards our cultural values - i.e. if we were the ones suffering terribly with a terminal illness, many of us would feel a strong pull towards ending our own lives (MAID). We HOPE that our biblical convictions would remain steadfast and we HOPE that other Christians around us (the CHURCH) would encourage us and pray for us to stand firm in our scriptural beliefs.
- So...we need to:
  - **Know our Bibles & know our culture,**
  - **Pray for wisdom and discernment,**
  - **Consult** other trusted Christians and
  - **Consult other trusted resources** when we are trying to make decisions for everyday life.
  - **Pray for ourselves AND those we love (friends/family) - that God will draw us to Him.**

#### 4. How do you walk alongside **PEOPLE** -

who **believe** this Biblical vision of being human

**BUT** who have **individuals in their relational circles** (examples?)

who **DO NOT adhere to OR live according to this Biblical vision** of being human

**AND** have **NO interest in doing so?**

Let's work backwards through this question...

#### **People (Believers) -**

who have individuals in their **relational circles**

who **DO NOT LIVE** according to this Biblical vision

**AND** who have **NO interest in living according to this Biblical vision of being human**

- If we look inward - and are honest - this was many if not MOST or ALL of us (AND we still have moments today where we do not want to follow God's vision)
  - 1 Cor 6:9,10
  - Saul - before he became Paul (Road to Damascus moment)
  - Ephesians 2:1-10
- The story is not over! While we have life and breath, we have hope.
- Helpful to read biographies of people whose lives were radically changed from unbeliever to Believer...(examples?) [Messy Grace - Caleb Kaltenbach](#), [Christopher Yuan - Out of a Far Country](#), [Amazing Grace: The story of John Newton](#)
  - God is still working!

#### **Relational circles** (friends, co-workers, extended family, neighbors, etc)

I am hopeful that we all have people in our circles that **DO NOT LIVE** according to this Biblical vision of being human.

Why? Matthew 28 - GREAT COMMISSION - and MISSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Note: please also have Christians in your circles (those that are "solid" and those that are "struggling") - we need each other in order to persevere to the end

#### Start with **prayer**

- Since God has the power to change hearts and minds - He is the one we should be pleading with for those in our circles that do not love him yet - and who have no desire to follow him yet. ("YET" is a very important word)
- No one is beyond God's power to save (Remember...where there is life and breath, there is hope)

#### **FAQ**

Q. What if I do not have people in my relational circles- that do not follow Christ? (YET)

Q. But if I spend time with these people - isn't that condoning their sin? (approving of their sin?)

Or leading me down a "slippery slope"?

Q. How do I love people well - and yet not agree with (approve of, condone) their thinking or their actions?