

This week Pastor Andy spoke about the priorities and vision of Vineyard Community Church (VCC) in his sermon "When the Church Gets It Right." The basis for this vision is the scripture that says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Matthew 28:18-20.

You can be a part of this vision by following Christ's example. When Paul wrote in Ephesians for husbands to love their wives just as Christ loved the church, he was illustrating the passion and devotion that Christ demonstrated for people. Christ is our model of commitment in the calling to "go and make disciples." That calling is more than an individual goal but rather a commitment toward a greater Christ focused goal where Jesus expects you to represent Him.

VCC has two priorities that can enable you to do that.

The first priority is to love God. God loves people, and since you were made in God's image, you were made to love people as well. Hell was made for the devil and the other fallen angels, but people were made to be with God, through the love of Christ, which is the good news that you can share. If you discovered the cure for cancer, you would proclaim that often and to anyone you could, just as you should proclaim God's love. Last year VCC had 300 commitments for Christ, and you as a child of God have a role in that ministry toward God's people!

The second priority is to love people. Even though you may live a busy life, God still desires for you to find time to love people. You can help the elderly, visit those in prison, or get to know your neighbors. The love for people is the reason why VCC believes in small groups. The early church met in small groups, which is why VCC encourages people to join them. The Bible says, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" Acts 2:46-47 (TNIV).

You only get one era on earth to serve God and that falls between the time you were born and the time you die. The quarterback Brett Favre came out of retirement and back onto the field because he was not yet ready for his era of playing to be over. He was not ready to be on the sidelines. One day when you are in heaven, you will be able to be on the sidelines, but for now, God wants you to come out of the bleachers and onto the playing field. Are you willing to get in the game by loving God and loving people?