



introduction to viewfamilychurch

- 1. WHY THIS CLASS**
- 2. GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE (NO PLAN B)**
- 3. OUR STORY**
- 4. OUR STATEMENT**
- 5. OUR STRATEGY**
- 6. OUR STRUCTURE**



WHY THIS CLASS?

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about The View! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

Discovering The Church is divided in four sessions of an hour each and is taught by The View's founding pastor, Dwayne V. Matthews, who along with his wife Melissa and some friends began the church on October 2nd 2005.

The Basis For This Class

“...You are a **member** of God's very own **family**...and you **belong** in God's **household** with every other Christian.” Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is **A FAMILY**
2. God expects me to be **A MEMBER** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is **ORPHAN**

The Goal Of This Class

...That I will commit myself to **CHRIST** and to the **THE VIEW CHURCH FAMILY**

What Makes The View A Family? UNITY

Five things unite us:

1. **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us) –
2. **Our Story** (Where we come from)
3. **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
4. **Our Strategy** (How , when and where we fulfill our purpose)
5. **Our Structure**



God's Eternal Purpose

DISPENSATIONALISM *by David Blomgren*

I. GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE AND PLAN

God's Word is basically a book of revelation and restoration. Restoration is central to the Divine plan for mankind. The question is asked, "What is to be restored?"

Although God had an eternal purpose for man in creating him (*Genesis 1:26-28; cf. Ephesians 3:11*), man soon fell from that purpose and became in need of restoration. The fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden alienated man from God. God purposed to restore man once again into fellowship with Himself and to a place where His original purpose for mankind could be fulfilled. All succeeding generations of mankind were alienated from God because of imputed sin. Sin has affected every generation and is the obstacle that must be dealt with if man is to be all God intended. They too were in need of Divine restoration.

The process God chose to bring about this restoration with Himself was that of redemption and the means was revelation. Redemption, revelation and restoration have been progressive in history. All three unfolded themselves in installments in time as revelation interpreted redemption to man and redemption proceeded to produce restoration of man with God.

The provision God chose for man's restoration to Himself was by establishing covenant with man. God established earthly covenants which were phases of this redemptive process at different times in His dealings with man, consummating in the New Covenant. All of these earthly covenants were restorative in purpose, to bring man into full fellowship with God and to bring him into God's image.

The church is the final instrument to accomplish God's purpose of restoration. The Mosaic law was incapable in itself of accomplishing the restoration of fallen man (*Galatians 3:11*).

Under the New Covenant in Christ, restoration may be progressively realized in the obedient believer (*II Corinthians 3:18*),

(2Co 3:18) All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

(2Co 3:18) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. and the church is God's instrument to realize this purpose.

The church, however, had its own lapse which led to the Dark Ages. It needed itself to be restored. God promised that there would be times of restoration (*Joel 2:25; Acts 3:21*)

(Joe 2:25) "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

(Act 3:21) whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

. In these last days God is restoring the corporate church so that He may also accomplish the ultimate restoration of the individual believer to the image of God.

The church is the final instrument to ultimately fulfill God's prophetic purpose of the last days. It is further the final instrument to progressively restore the individual believer to the image of Christ (*// Corinthians 3:18*). Therefore, the New Testament church had to be restored.

The church is an heir of the Abrahamic Covenant promises. Through the last day church all nations of the earth are blessed as the Gospel is preached in all the world for a witness (*Matthew 24:14*).

(Mat 24:14) **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

The church is the final instrument to reap the greatest harvest of souls ever gathered (*Joel 3:13; Matthew 9:37-38*).

(Joe 3:13) Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-- For their wickedness *is* great."

Mat 9:36-38 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. (37) Then He said to His disciples, "**The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. (38) Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**"

The church is the final instrument to be the praise of God's glory in the earth (*Ephesians 1:6,14*).

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The church is the nation to whom the kingdom of God is given. It is the final

A called out family of believers united under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, filled with His Spirit, and submitted to His authority. A family walking and working in unity to accomplish the will of God by advancing His Kingdom by subduing the heart of man with the love and witness of Jesus Christ.

What is the Church? The church is...The Church is not...God's purpose for the Church is...Why you need a Church Family...

I. The church is God's:

- a. **WORK** – His plan – “I will build my church...”
- b. **INTENT** – His purpose
- c. **LOVE** – His passion (He gave His life for her) – Christ and the Church
- d. **LEGACY** – His power (authoritative) to fulfill His purpose.

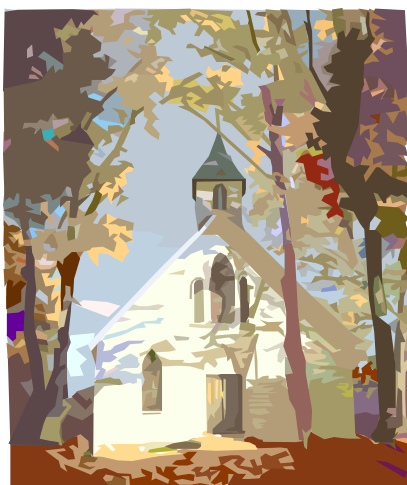
“The Church is God’s WILL”

Sovereign will (objective, subjective)

Permitted will

II. The Church is not...

- a. A MATERIAL building.
- b. A DENOMINATION.
- c. A NATIONALISTIC ENTERPRISE.
- d. THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
- e. The PARENTHETICAL PLAN of God.



III. God’s purpose for the Church is...

God’s Purpose For the Church can be based on the following Scriptures:

Isaiah 61:1-3

¹“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me TO PREACH GOOD TIDINGS TO THE POOR; He has sent Me to HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, and THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THOSE WHO ARE BOUND; ²TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; To COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN, ³TO CONSOLE THOSE WHO MOURN in Zion, TO GIVE THEM BEAUTY FOR ASHES, THE OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING, THE GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

Matt. 22:36-40 - The Great Commandment: “Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”

Matt. 28:19-20 - The Great Commission: “Jesus said, ‘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.’”

There is a saying that says, “A great commitment to the great COMMISSION and the great COMMANDMENT will grow a great church!”

A Closer look

- To “Love God with all your heart” is “**WORSHIP**”.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is “**MINISTRY**”.
- To “Go...make disciples” is “**EVANGELISM**”.
- To “Baptize...” is to “**INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP**”.
- To “Teach them...all things” is “**DISCIPLESHIP**”.

SERVE

ENCOURAGE

EMPOWER

THE VIEW FAMILY CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To **CELEBRATE** God’s Presence (Worship)
2. To **DEMONSTRATE** God’s Love (Ministry)
3. To **COMMUNICATE** God’s Word (Evangelism)
4. To **ASSIMILATE** God’s Family (Fellowship)
1. To **EDUCATE** God’s People (Discipleship)

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE

WORSHIP: EXPRESSING MY LOVE TO GOD

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” Matt. 4:10

“...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Jn 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

Singing (Eph. 5:19)	Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)	Praying (Ps. 95:6)	Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2)	Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)	Meditating (Hab. 2:20)	Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11-23-26)

VFC Worship Style

“Celebration” Psalm 122:1 “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord.”	“Inspiration” Isaiah 40:31 “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...”	“Preparation” Eph. 4:11-12 “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
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II. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." Eph. 3:10

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" Rom. 10:13-14 (LB)

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because GOD LOVES PEOPLE "The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10
Matt. 9:12-13

2. Because COMMANDS US TO REACH OUT "Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full.**" Luke 14:23 (LB)

"...you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

3. Because GROWTH IS GOD'S WILL "Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow.**" Col. 2:19 (GN)
"(Jesus) I will build my church." Matt. 16:18

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal"

One of the ways you safeguard against non growth is to grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come." Matt. 24:14

III. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP: BECOMING SPIRITUALLY MATURE

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity...**"
Heb. 6:1

"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"(God has given)...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ." Eph. 4:11-13

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Service
AERIE Groups
View School of Ministry
Special Speakers

More will be details will be covered in **Discovering Spiritual Maturity CLASS #201**

IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD’S LOVE

MINISTRY: MEETING NEEDS WITH LOVE

“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples — *that you have love for one another.*” John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17, Matt. 25:34-40, Heb. 13:16, Rom. 12:13

The heartbeat of The View will be our SMALL GROUPS
Every member needs to be a part of one.

“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... *All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.*” 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

At VFC...

- Every member is a: MINISTER
- Every task is: IMPORTANT
- Every member is a “10” in: SOME AREA

IV. Why you need a Church Family...

FIVE BENEFITS OF A CHURCH FAMILY

1. A CHURCH HELPS ME CENTER MY LIFE AROUND GOD.

“You were planned for God’s pleasure.”

“Christ’s love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center...” 2 Cor. 5:14 (Mes)

“It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” Phil. 4:6-7 (Mes)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: WORSHIP

“You have six days to do your work, but the seventh day of each week is holy because it belongs to Me. No matter where you live, you must rest and come together for worship.” Lev. 23:3 (CEV)

“They worshipped together regularly at the Temple courts...” Acts 2:46a (LB)

“We celebrate as we worship You.” Ps. 68:4b (CEV)

2. A CHURCH HELPS ME CONNECT WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

“You were formed for God’s family.”

“...Christ makes us one Body and individuals who are connected to each other.”
Rom. 12:5b (GW)

“The Body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much.” Rom. 12:5 (Mes)

“The person who loves God must also love other believers.” 1 John 4:21 (GW)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: FELLOWSHIP

“Be devoted to each other like a loving family.” Rom. 12:10 (GW)

“You are members of God’s very own family... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”
Eph. 2:19 (LB)

3. A CHURCH HELPS ME CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

“You were created to become like Christ.”

“Christ’s Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love.”
Eph.. 4:16 (NLT)

“Their purpose is to prepare God’s people to serve, and to build up the Body of Christ... until we become mature, and measure up to Christ, who is the standard.”
Eph. 4:12-13 (GW)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: DISCIPLESHIP

“God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love — like Christ in everything.” Eph. 4:15a (Mes)

“Don’t lose a minute in building on what you’ve been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others.” 2 Peter 1:5 (Mes)

HOW CAN I GROW?

“Those who believed... were baptized and added to the church... They joined with the other believers and committed themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship... They worshipped together regularly at the Temple courts AND met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared their meals with great joy.”
Acts 2:41-42, 46 (NLT/LB)

To grow I need...
Large group worship - at the “Temple courts”
Small group fellowship - in a home! (Acts 5:42)

“When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.” James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. A CHURCH HELPS ME CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING BACK.

“You were shaped to serve God.”

“God has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.” Eph. 2:10 (LB))

“We work together as partners who belong to God.” 1 Cor. 3:9a (NLT)

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.” Eccl. 4:9 (TEV)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY MINISTRY

“Complete the ministry God has given you.” 2 Tim. 4:5b (NLT)

CLASS 301: Discovering My Ministry

“God will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you’ve shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians.” Heb. 6:10 (NLT)

“KEEP BUSY IN YOUR WORK FOR THE LORD, SINCE YOU KNOW THAT NOTHING YOU DO IN THE LORD’S SERVICE IS EVER USELESS.” 1 COR. 15:58 (TEV)

5. A CHURCH HELPS ME COMMUNICATE GOD’S MESSAGE.

“You were made for a mission.”

“Through Christ, God made peace between us and Himself, and then God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with Him.... He gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ.” 2 Cor. 5:18-20 (NCV)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY MISSION

“You are... God’s instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you.” 1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)

“Live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ... standing strong with one purpose as you work together as one for the faith of the Good News.” Phil. 1:27 (NCV)

CLASS 401: Discovering My Mission

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth

about God’s great kindness to sinners.” Col. 1:6 (NLT)

Jesus: “I assure you that everyone who has sacrificed anything for My sake and for the Good News, will receive in return, a hundred times over...” Mark 10:29-30 (NLT)

*A Great Commitment
to the Great Commandment
and the Great Commission
will produce Great Christians
and a Great Church*

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt: 22:36-40

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“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 DO everything I have commanded you.” Matt. 28:19-20

Our Story



Our Statement

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

1

Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

The vision/mission of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on the five purposes of the Church (as discussed in section 2):

Our Vision/Mission Statement:

"To build people, families and communities that **SERVE**, **ENCOURAGE** and **EMPOWER** generations with the love and revelation of Jesus Christ."

"To Build people, families and communities..."

2. People

Colossians 1:28

²⁸Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:6, 7

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk** in Him, ⁷**rooted** and **built** up in Him and **established in the faith**, as you have been **taught, abounding** ⁸in it with thanksgiving.

1 Peter 2:5

⁵you also, as **living stones**, are being **built** up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

3. Families

Psalm 68:6

⁶God sets the lonely in families, He leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Deuteronomy 11:18 through Deuteronomy 11:21

¹⁸"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ²⁰And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

Malachi 4:5-6

⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

4. Communities

Proverbs 11:10, 11

¹⁰When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.

¹¹Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

Matthew 5:14

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

"...to **SERVE, **ENCOURAGE** and **EMPOWER** a generations with the love and relevancy of Jesus Christ."**

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

- **In essential beliefs — we have unity.**

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...”
Eph. 4:4-6

- **In non-essential beliefs — we have liberty.**

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,12,22

- **In all our beliefs — we show charity.**

*“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have **no love**, I amount to nothing at all.”* 1 Cor. 13:2 (Ph)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

The View Family Church Statement of Faith

The fundamental teachings of this corporation (Church) are reflected in the following, clear statements:

4.1 We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal, including scientific and historical as well as moral and theological ([II Timothy 3:16](#); [I Corinthians 2:13](#)).

4.2 We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as ONE God existing in THREE persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14).

4.3 We believe in the literal, special creation of the existing space-time universe and all of its basic systems as indicated in Genesis.

4.4 We believe in the full historicity of the biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on the creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel (Genesis 1-11).

4.5 We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness apart from God’s intervening grace (Romans 5:12,18).

4.6 We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God and fully man (Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6).

4.7 We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples (I Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 4:25).

4.8 We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal and bodily coming again the second time for the Church (John 14:2-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

4.9 We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of Christ on the cross by which we obtain remission of sins (Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12, 22; Romans 5:11).

4.10 We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Eternal Godhead in order to fulfill the command of Christ (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; 19:1-6).

4.11 We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation and a distinct aspect of the Christian foundational experience (Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 19:6).

4.12 We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in I Corinthians 12-14 as manifested in the Early Church.

4.13 We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith (Ephesians 5:18; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1).

4.14 We believe in the healing of the body by Divine power or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced by the Early Church (Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14).

4.15 We believe in the Table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers (I Corinthians 11:23-32).

4.16 We believe in eternal life for believers (John 5:24; 3:16) and eternal punishment for unbelievers (Mark 9:43-48; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15).

4.17 We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and the eternal judgment of Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15).

4.18

Session Three: The View Strategy



*(Paul)
“I
have
been
all
things
to all
sorts
of*

people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.”

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

"...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Cor. 9:22 (LB)

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



The View's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

THE FOUR VFC COMMITMENT:

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT...FT 101

is a commitment to CHRIST and A CHURCH FAMILY

“You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”
Eph. 2:19 (LB)

“We are all parts of Christ’s Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others.” Rom. 12:4-5 (LB)

2. THE MATURITY COMMITMENT...FT 201

is a commitment to the HABITS necessary for spiritual growth?

“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

*“Take **the time and trouble** to keep yourself spiritually fit.”* 1 Tim. 4:7 (Ph)

3. THE MINISTRY COMMITMENT...FT 301

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in SERVING God and others.

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...” 1 Pet. 4:10 (LB)

“There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.” 1 Cor. 12:5,27 (LB)

4. THE MISSIONS COMMITMENT...FT 401

is a commitment to SHARE the Good News with others.

“...you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (GN)

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15

WHY DO WE HAVE THESE COMMITMENTS?

WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO

Session Four: The View Family Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Cor. 14:33,40



HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” Acts 2:42 (Ph)

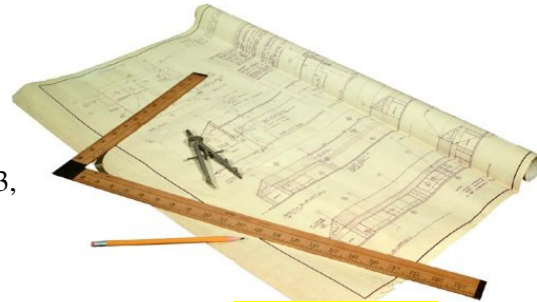
A top priority in a fellowship is HARMONY and UNITY

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph. 4:3

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11, Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18, Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1



IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES

“(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...” 1 Cor. 11:17-18

II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONSHIPS NOT RULES

*“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**...”* 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)

*“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God’s church**?”* 1 Tim. 3:4-5

III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!
We are an organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**
NOT **ELECTED OFFICERS**

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:4-6*

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

AT THE VIEW WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE **MINISTRY**
AND MINIMIZE **MAINTENANCE**

*“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for **works of ministry**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Eph. 4:11-12*

OUR STRUCTURE

- **THE PEOPLE ARE THE “ **MINISTERS** ”.**
- **THE PASTORS/ELDERS ARE THE “ **ADMINISTERS** ”.**

Currently there are _____ different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

IV. THE CHURCH IS A **FLOCK**

(Jesus’ favorite description of the church)
John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY **SHEPHERDS**

*“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then **take care** of my sheep.’” John 21:16-17*

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- *“POIMEN”*
- *PRESBUTEROS”*
- *EPISCOPOS”*

*“To the **elders** I say...**Be shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers**...” 1 Pet. 5:1-2*

*“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God...” Acts 20:17-18, 28*

1. **"Poimen" in Greek means pastor or shepherd. That means the feeders are the leaders -- the feeding aspect of ministry. Where Jesus says to Peter, "Take care of My sheep" that's the word poimen, it's the word pastor. Pastor means to take care of a flock.**

2. "Presbuteros" means "elder" in Greek. "Presbyterian" comes from this. Presbyterians call their leaders elders. It's a good, legitimate term. It's a Biblical term. It refers to spiritual maturity. An elder doesn't mean physically old. It means spiritual maturity. Timothy was the elder and chief pastor of the church at Ephesus. Paul says, "You are the elder and you're the pastor at Ephesus. You are to appoint other elders." Yet later in the same book it say, "Don't let anybody look down on you because you're a young kid." How could he be an elder and yet a young kid at the same time? Because he'd been a Christian since he was a child and although he might have been 30 years old or 25, he'd been a Christian for 20-25 years. Whereas these guys who were older than him had only been a Christian for a year. It's referring to spiritual maturity, not physical maturity.

3. "Episcopos" is the word for "overseer" or "bishop". "Episcopalian" comes from this. They call their leaders bishops. There's nothing wrong with that; that's a good Biblical word. "Epi" in Greek means "over". "Scopos" means "to see" (telescope, microscope, stethoscope). Episcopos means "to oversee". Today, we call them a manager. Bishop means manager, supervisor, overseer, a manager. It's just an old English word for manager. It refers to the managing aspects of church leadership.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “*attenders*” and “*members*” can be summed up in one word **commitment**

At The View we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

**I. A BIBLICAL REASON:
CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH**

“...*Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.*” Eph. 5:25

**II. A CULTURAL REASON:
IT IS AN ANTIDOTE TO OUR SOCIETY**

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

**III. A PRACTICAL REASON:
IT DEFINES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON**

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

IV. A PERSONAL REASON: IT PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At The View we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

THE VIEW FAMILY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with The View’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the The View church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By acting in love toward other members**
- ...By refusing to gossip**
- ...By following the leaders**

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.” Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

“Live in complete harmony with each other — each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.” Rom 15:5 (LB)

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.” 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” Eph. 4:29

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Heb. 13:17

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By praying for its growth**
- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend**
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit**

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thess. 1:2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.” Luke 14:23

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Rom. 15:7 (LB)

III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents**
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors**
- ...By developing a servant's heart**

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Phil 2:3-4, 7

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving regularly**

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Heb. 10:25

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil. 1:27 (Ph)

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Cor. 16:2

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Lev. 27:30

WHAT NOW?

GO ON TO SECOND BASE!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE VIEWSENTIAL CHURCH

100 Level Seminars:

To lead people to Christ and **membership** at The View

200 Level Seminars:

To grow people to spiritual **maturity**

300 Level Seminars:

To equip people with the skills they need for **ministry**

400 Level Seminars:

To enlist people to the worldwide **mission** of Sharing Christ.

SPOUSE

Last Name

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Phone Number

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Date of Birth Month Day Year
□□ □□ □□ □□

Anniversary Month Day Year
□□ □□ □□ □□

Does your spouse attend VFC? Yes No

My occupation is.....

Business.....

I have the following expertise

I have not been active in a church for 1 yr.....5 yrs 10 yrs

I have been active in the following churches in the past:

Yrs Involved	Name of Church	Location	Member	Position of Service
.....
.....
.....

How would you describe your relationship to Christ?

- Seeker/curious Agnostic I'm not sure what I believe
- New Christian Committed Christian
- I've been a Christian for a while, but I need to grow closer

