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Cross Creek Weekly Update

August 28, 2011



Dear Family,

If I were to ask you to describe Cross Creek what would you say? If I were to ask you to share Cross Creek's values would you know how to respond? If I were to ask you to give a vision statement for Cross Creek what would it be? Would you need some time to formulate your thoughts or do you think you could offer a sentence or two without any hesitation?



Vision is so important in ministry. Jesus constantly prepares His disciples for ministry by providing direction and focus. The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) are just a couple of examples of Jesus focusing His disciples for ministry. Jesus tells them about the challenges and obstacles they will face, yet at the same time remaining steadfast for the Kingdom. Vision. Focus. Clarity. These attributes separate confident Christ-centered ministry, from a haphazard "kinda-sorta" approach that doesn't do much to give people peace. Hence, we need to know what Cross Creek is about and be able to state it confidently, accurately, and passionately.

Cross Creek is built upon the centrality of the Gospel. The concern is do we know what the Gospel is? Most Christians would define the Gospel as "good news that Jesus saved me, by His grace, from sin and death." It sounds fairly accurate. It sounds like a fair paraphrase of Ephesians 2:8-9. The problem is this is only half the good news of the Gospel. There's an aspect to the Gospel that is often overlooked; we often reduce the Gospel to "God's plan of salvation" for lost people to be saved from sin's penalty, not realizing that it is also "God's plan of salvation" for Christians to be saved from sin's power. The same Gospel message that saves sinners also sanctifies the saints. The Gospel is transforming power.

This transforming power of the Gospel is at the root of everything we want to do and be at Cross Creek. We believe the Gospel alone transforms hearts, homes, and communities for Jesus Christ. Remember, the Gospel is not only about saving us from penalty, but also from power.

This Saturday morning from 9:30-11:30 at the church we will gather together for precisely this - to pray for God's direction for Cross Creek to the glory of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday in worship we will close our study on Hebrews and give God praise for our missions trip to Costa Rica.

Peace,

Paul