

# ***Where There Is No Vision, The People Perish!***



**A Church-wide study of Biblical Vision with  
A Biblical Exposition of  
Riverview's Vision Statement**

## **Riverview Baptist Church is...**

A Christ-centered and growing fellowship whose creative ministries multiply the work of God in our community under the care of our Pastor and leadership; where the truth of God's word is plainly taught, where families are rooted in the love of Christ; growing in faith and reaching out to serve.

**Participant's Guide For  
Sundays May 4 & 11, 2008**

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## ***Riverview Church is a “Growing Fellowship” [Sunday May 4, 2008]***

Growth is always a challenging subject. Why because everyone wants to grow, yet few people understand how to accomplish it and even fewer are willing to do the things necessary to accomplish it. God tell us in Ephesians 4: 16, that Growth occurs through fellowship, ***He [Christ] makes the whole body fit 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.***

As we look at this passage of scripture there are several key pieces of growth that we must acknowledge.

<b>1</b>	Growth is
<b>2</b>	God places every
<b>3</b>	Each part must
<b>4</b>	The result of proper coordination is

We must believe that God’s desire is our growth, and then become willing participants in God’s plan for our growth. Most believers get angry with God for not making the fellowship grow. The reality is that God increases the seeds that we plant and water. **1 Corinthians 3:5-9.** Verse 7 tells us, “***It is not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the Seeds grow.***” God says here that it is not important who plants the seeds or waters the seeds but only that God make the seeds grow. Our work is to plant and to nurture. As each one of us does our special part, then we will experience the increase that is needed.

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### **Notes**

While Scriptures tell us that who plants and waters is unimportant, what is essential is that those whom the Father has gifted to do any special work must do it for the fellowship to grow. As committed disciples of the Living Lord Jesus Christ we must commit to doing our special work in the fellowship to insure that it is growing.

### ***Participating in the Work of the Growing Fellowship***

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The community of faith that meets as Riverview Baptist Church is an extension of the Koinonia (A Greek work meaning fellowship and partnership) pronounced [key-no-nee-yah] or [koy-no-nee-yah]. The Koinonia is the partnership of believers of growing disciples of Jesus Christ. We are the Invisible Church in the visible organization called Riverview. Our work is to create the loving, healthy environment into which God

saves people. Our mission is to create a real Koinonia (community of partners) working to make disciples of the people who God has delivered into the eternal Hope of Salvation. Understanding the Spirit of Koinonia is important to every growing fellowship. Philippians 2:1-5 is important to this exercise because it is also one of the places the word is used and translated in the Scriptures. ***“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His Love? Any Fellowship [Koinonia] together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”***

God tells us that Koinonia is characterized by ***tender, compassionate hearts, wholehearted agreement, love for each other, unity of purpose, unselfishness, humble regard for other’s well-being***, all of which demonstrates the attitude of Christ Jesus in the community.

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### Notes

What is a growing fellowship? A Church that is growing in love and partnership toward the fulfillment of God’s purpose; ***to create life***.

### ***Discussion Points***

- 1.) If Koinonia begins in the hearts of disciples, then where are you in your journey to become a full partner?***
- 2.) What can I do to assume the attitude of Christ Jesus?***

### ***Partnering with Christ through Creative Ministry*** ***[Sunday May 11, 2008]***

Koinonia, The Partnership Community of the Disciples of Jesus Christ is the continuation of the incarnation of Jesus Christ in the world. Through the Church the cause and mission of Christ have been commissioned. As a church with vision, Riverview Church remain focused upon one thing and one thing only; **Make Disciples**. Beyond that, we must create the environment that insures the healthy growth and development of all disciples.

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#### ***Power Point***

**You can identify the profession of a person by the work they do that for profit.**

#### ***Creative Ministry Defined***

Jesus is the Master and we are the disciples. We follow the path He marked out for us. More importantly, Jesus said, ***“I am The Way, The Truth and The Life...”*** John 14:6 Jesus goes on to say in verse 12 of the same chapter ***“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and***

*even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*” Creative Ministry is simply and extension of the work that Jesus has already done. We, His disciples are charged with the responsibility of doing the same work He did while present on Earth. This forces the question, *What did Jesus do specifically while ministering on Earth?*

Jesus read from the scroll the following passage:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim that the captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”* Luke 4:18-19

NLT

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### Notes

For the next 3 1/2 years Jesus did everything that He said He would do in Luke 4:18&19. Jesus created more life for or increased the lives of the poor, the captives, the blind and infirmed and the oppressed. His creative ministry created a continuing stream of life that remains unbroken in the Koinonia today.

Now it is our responsibility to affirm the life-giving and creative ministry of Christ through our work as an extension of the Koinonia

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We are not the initiators, but partners with Christ in the work of His ministry. As disciples we follow the Leader, Jesus. Hebrews echoes this truth, *“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.”* 12:2a&b We are His partners doing the same works as our Lord. For a moment consider the works of Our Lord; everything He did produced hope and increased the life of others. Luke 18:35ff relates the story of The Blind Beggar who Jesus healed. Take a moment and look at this passage of scripture and answer the following question: *What did Jesus do to increase the beggar’s life?*

The obvious answer is, he gave the blind man back his sight, but there is something deeper than the physical benefit of restored eyesight. Jesus gave the man back human dignity . By restoring the man’s sight Jesus also created the ability to **vision** an empowered future for himself & others. The man was lifted from a life of dependency to a life of Empowered Hope.

### Discussion Points

1.) Am I being a creative partner in the work of Riverview Church?

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### Notes

2.) In what ways can I become a more engaged partner in the creative work of God in extending Koinonia in this community?