

# VISION FORWARD

## Less Complicated But More Demanding

April 29, 2018

### Jesus' Model of the church was a complete departure from the Old Testament Model

- Sacred Places to Sacred People
- Sacred Texts to Sacrificial Servants
- Sacred Men to Accessible God
- Sincere Followers to Loving Community

### Jesus' Model of the church is less complicated but far more demanding

**Matthew 22: 37-40** - Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**John 13: 34, 35** - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

### Old Testament Model of the church

#### -Me centered

*What must I do to make things right with God?*

#### -Rules and Rituals

#### -Legalism and loopholes

### Jesus' Model of the church

#### -Others centered

**Galatians 5: 13, 14** - ... serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**Mark 12:33** - To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

#### -Service and sacrifice

**John 15: 12, 13** - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**Matthew 23: 11** - The greatest among you will be your servant.

**Luke 6:27** - "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

#### -Cost and carrying our cross

**I John 3:16** - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

**Ephesians 5: 2** - ...walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Matthew 16: 24**- Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

**Luke 14: 27** - And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

### Jesus' Model for the church

Makes it irresistible