

# Two Year Anniversary

6-27-10

## I. Introduction

- A. Reveal launched its first service on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- B. Bill Hybels from Willow Creek Community Church describes a church working the way God intended as this: "I believe that there is nothing like the local church when it is working right. "Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness." Hybels concludes, "Still to this day, the potential of the local church is almost more than I can grasp. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close."

## II. Find God

- A. We need to make sure the church isn't just designed for "church people".
- B. Acts 15:1-2 - *Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."* <sup>2</sup>This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.
- C. Acts 15:4-10 - *When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.* <sup>5</sup>Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." <sup>6</sup>The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup>After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup>Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?"
- D. Acts 15:13-14 - *When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.*
- E. Acts 15:19 - *"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.*

## III. Find Others

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 - *so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*
- B. Begin to see the importance of the people sitting around you. Live outside of yourself.

## IV. Find Yourself

- A. Acts 20:24 - *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*
- B. Join a community group, make connections.

## V. Conclusion