

Leading/Leveraging Influence In A 21st Century Ministry

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Leading/Leveraging Influence In A 21st Century Ministry Day 2

- Facilitating A 21st Century Church Culture
- Holding The Vision In A 21st Century Culture
- Cultivating Unity and Minimizing Conflict In A 21st Century Church
- Building Accountability In A 21st Century Culture
- God Dreams by Will Mancini & Warren Bird

Holding the Vision in a 21st Century Culture

- Vision invites us to Think Long, Dream Big and Attempt Great
- Vision consists of Our Church, Our City, Our Lifetime

“I believe your church’s five, ten, or twenty year vision is something your people are desperately searching for. If you don’t have one, it’s a motivational miss of epic proportions. Without it the larger story of the Bible seems so distant. Practically speaking, it gets swallowed up by the urgency of now; it gets slain in our culture’s arena of smaller stories.” p. 36



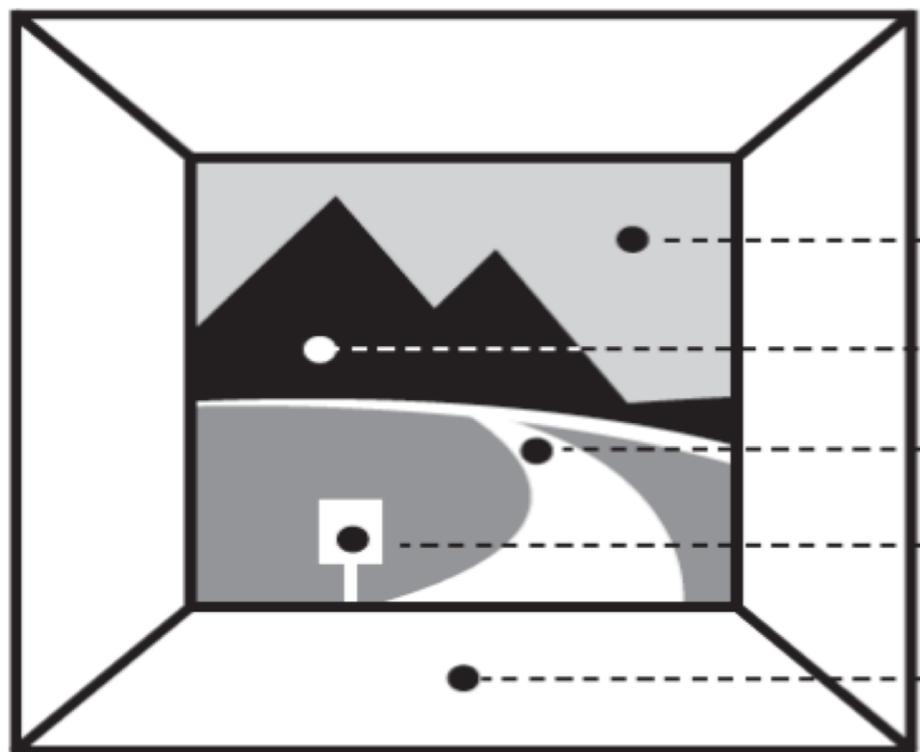
Holding the Vision in a 21st Century Culture

- Mancini describes vision as a “Future Picture” and it consists of the following:
- Beyond-the-Horizon Vision = 5 – 20 years
- Background Vision = 3 years
- Midground Vision = 1 year
- Foreground Vision = 90 days



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Vision as Future Picture



Beyond-the-Horizon

Background

Midground

Foreground

Vision Frame
(described in Appendix B)

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- “Because God is a visionary and human beings are visionaries in His image, the idea of vision becomes a powerful and practical thing to our daily lives. When we walk with God, two visionaries are walking and talking, cocreating a better future.” p.6
- Since vision comes from God and we are created to be visionary with God, once we have it, how do we hold the vision in our rapidly changing 21st century culture?
- There are six attributes of vision we must be mindful of:

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- **Vision Serves People** – Spending time on vision embodies servant leadership. It is a humble act of service – even caring – to help people look forward to what God wants to happen. Don't let abuse by the few cause you to reject visionary work as being either elitist or arrogant.
- **Vision Is For Everyone** – Having vision is natural for everybody. It doesn't require some super gifting to approach the subject. It's not just for the advanced-level leaders. It's for first-time guests at church, small groups, coffee talks and even children.
- **Vision Is For Everyday** – Vision is always relevant. It's not a special occasion annual message. It's not even a scheduled thing. It's a vital part of every day. Just as we breathe, eat, and sleep, we also pray, hope, and dream.

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- **Vision Is Fun** – It's not something we must do; it's something we get to do. It brings a bounce to your step. It brightens a room with smiles. Who doesn't want to climb a ladder to slide down a slide?
- **Vision Makes Us Better** – When we imagine things better, we are better people. Vision improves us in ways we can readily recognize. Vision is instinctively noble. It connects with God in a mysterious way. A sense of vision makes us want to be the best both individually and together.
- **Vision Is Ongoing** – Finally, the work of vision is never done. Vision is closely tied to time. And time keeps moving. Most days build on yesterday's vision. We are constantly moving, evaluating, progressing, and recalculating. The view in a moving car is always changing. Just because we talked about vision last week, last month, or last year does not mean we are done talking about it.

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- **Biblical Text – Genesis Chapter 6**
- **God’s View of Culture/Society**
- **Genesis 6:5-7** - The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”
- **God’s Vision is For Everyone**
- **Genesis 6:8** - But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

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- **God's Vision Beyond The Horizon**
- **Genesis 6:18** - But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.
- **Background Vision**
- **Genesis 6:14** - Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.
- **Midground Vision**
- **Genesis 6:19 - 21** - And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.”

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- **Foreground Vision**
- **Genesis 6:15 - 16** - This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

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- **Vision Exercise**
- **10 – 10 – 20**
- **Christ Together Greater Austin – Gospel Saturation** - That every man, woman and child in greater Austin have a repeated opportunity to hear and experience the Gospel (Spiritual Awareness Campaign, Acts of Service – Education Connection, Church Planting, PIC/COA)
- **What is the vision for your local congregation? Can you identify the various aspects of the vision (Beyond the horizon, background, midground, foreground)?**