



Still Imagining: Hope, Healing, and Health
CRCC 22nd Anniversary, April 28, 2019

Happy Anniversary CRCC! It's hard to believe it's been 22 years. God has been so faithful!

Text to Consider: Philippians 1:1-11

This desire on the part of the apostles to see the church filled with hope, healing, and health is so encouraging!

Still Imagining...

Imagine a person, totally in love with Christ and passionately grateful for His sacrifice at Calvary that redeemed them from sin. Imagine the priority in this person's life to "self-govern" according to Scripture...to line up every part of their life according to the precepts, principles, and patterns of the Bible...to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Imagine their passionate pursuit of holiness. Imagine their willingness to die for Christ...

Keys:

1. Personal **devotions**
2. Commitment to holiness
3. Daily prayer
4. Loving accountability
5. Commitment to hear and do

Imagine a church of passionate worshippers who gather on the Lord's Day not for themselves, but for Christ and His glory and worship alone, with the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Imagine their love for God burning so hot they encourage each other, hold each other accountable, obey the Scriptures, and work to share the Gospel and make disciples both down the street and around the world. Imagine if their love for Christ caused them to fight against ungodliness, to protect marriage, to take care of widows and orphans, to fight for the unborn, and to work to eliminate oppression. Imagine a church that taught the Word systematically, that deepened their faith through biblically prescribed worship forms, and that kept families together during that most sacred time each week...

Keys:

1. Sanctifying the LORD's Day
2. **Commitment** to a local body of believers
3. Serving the **community** in which you live
4. Taking up a cause
5. Cultivating generosity

Imagine a man or husband or father who loves God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. Imagine him working hard, with a long-term vision of where he and his family might be by God's grace. Imagine his priestly pursuit of holiness, refusing to hurt himself and his family through his own unrighteousness, and his

willingness to repent quickly when he fails. Imagine how he lovingly, tenderly, but firmly declares God's Word in his home and in the community. If married, imagine how he loves his wife with his whole heart, how he thinks and says she's beautiful, how he covers her, provides for her, protects her, and is literally willing to die for her. Imagine how he counts it an honor to lead her, disciple her, and work so that she always feels safe and secure. If a father, imagine a man who teaches and discipulates his children. Imagine how he protects them from ungodly influences, instructs them, and casts great vision for who they could be. Imagine how he prays with them and prepares them for adulthood, marriage, and family!

Keys:

1. Accepting what Scripture says about **manhood**.
2. Commitment to leading yourself and your family.
3. Have a Brotherhood to sharpen you! :)

Imagine a woman or wife or mother who loves God with all her heart, mind, soul, and strength. Imagine her working hard many times outside the house, but certainly at home. Imagine how she pursues God's long-term vision for her life. Imagine how chaste she is, how virtuous, how modest! Imagine how she lovingly and tenderly instructs her children and others in the Word, much like Timothy's mother and grandmother. If married, imagine how she loves and submits to her own husband as to the Lord. Imagine how she supports him, lifts him up with her words and actions, cares for him, and is willing to sacrifice her agenda to pursue his, seeing her role as a "helper" or a "helpmeet" as a honor bestowed upon her by God Himself! If a mother, imagine her tender care for her children, teaching them, loving them, and caring for them, casting great vision before them about who they could be in the Lord, praying for and preparing them for adulthood, marriage, and family.

Keys:

1. Accepting what Scripture says about **womanhood**.
2. Commitment to serving (and leading as appropriate) your family.
3. To have some Sisters in the Spirit encourage you! :)

Imagine homes filled with biblical care groups and hospitality. Imagine open doors and open hearts, dinner tables filled with friends, fellow church members, laughter, Scripture, encouragement, and meaningful conversation...less television and more discipleship. Imagine how many problems would be solved without a class, a program, or a counseling session through prayer, Scripture, and true Christian friendship. Imagine the new friends and church members who would finally feel welcome in a covenant community and as a result are taught more about the tangible love of Christ. Imagine the teachable moments to train children how to serve others. Imagine life with more meaning...

Keys:

1. Being faithful to love your church Bible Study, Care Group and/or your ministry team.
2. Dedicating time to **hospitality** and **praying** with one another.
3. Thinking about one another during the week and checking on each other.

Imagine individuals and families who are free of financial shackles, who are debt free with growing savings, who invested, and who saw the multigenerational aspects of work and money. Imagine people who worked hard to fulfill the Dominion Mandate, which is the command to establish the rule of Jesus Christ in all areas

and jurisdictions of life (the Family, the Church, and the State); the intentional expansion of His Kingdom by His subjects, the preaching of the Gospel, the discipling of hearts, and the raising up of godly generations that declare, “Your Kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Imagine individuals and families with a Kingdom “work and money” vision...

Keys:

1. **Contentment**
2. Creating a godly plan
3. Discipline and hard work

Church I STILL believe these things are honorable and loving and scriptural and based in the heart of Christ and the commands, principles, and patterns of Scripture.

As we have said many times, the world, the flesh, and the devil will fight this vision at every turn. He will attempt to pervert it; to create disunity because of it; to unleash so much drama and distraction that we simply give up and do nothing. BUT I plan to keep running. What about you?

For His glory alone.

Amen.