

The Future Together: Developing a Vision and Mission by Chris Garner



Author Neil Clark Warren noted that one of the tragic losses couples experience once they marry is that many couples stop dreaming together. It seems that once a couple marries and settle into life together, they become so busy *living* life, that they forget to plan where they are going in life. We all need to continue moving forward in life and a vision for our future provides focus to help stay the course. Simply stated, a vision statement is statement of where your life is going. It is the answer to the question of what does it mean for your life to be completed.



One way to look at a vision statement is to consider what you would like to have written on your tombstone once you are gone; how would you like to be remembered? A vision statement is important for individuals couples as they seek to grow together.



Creating a Vision Statement

Before developing a vision as a couple, it is important to develop your vision individually. The following steps will help.

First, it is important to understand who you are as a person; how God wired you and also your gifts, talents, abilities and strengths. Make a written list of important aspects of who you are.

Second, determine your purpose in life; what did God put you on earth to accomplish? What Scripture describes what God wants for you specifically? Is Matthew 22, ‘love the Lord your God with all your heart?’ Or perhaps Romans 12:1, ‘offering your body as a living sacrifice?’ Prayerfully, consider what your purpose is and how it relates to who you are.

Third, list your values; what is important to you? What motivates and charges you up? Values are a product of who you are and your purpose in life. Your values influence the direction of your life and how you live.

Fourth, begin developing your vision statement from the information you have in the first three steps. It should be a short, simple, straightforward statement of what it would look like for your purpose to be completed. Write out your statement and ask your spouse or someone close to you if it reflects who you are and your values. Tweak the statement, rewrite it, pray about it, continue working on it until you have a vision statement that reflects who you are, your purpose in life and your values.

A Couples Vision Statement

Once husband and wife both have their vision statements, they can merge their vision statements into a statement that reflects their vision for their lives together.

This may be more difficult if the individual vision statements are very different, but for most couples, it should not be too difficult to blend the statements. Once complete, print your vision statement and post it in a conspicuous place as a reminder. Memorize your statement, make it a part of your life as you serve God and grow in oneness with your spouse.

Continue the work! Develop a mission statement of how you will fulfill your vision and then goals and objectives to complete the mission statement. Applying a good vision statement to your life can positively affect every area of your life and help you stay on course!

