



Overview

Perspective shapes our thinking, affects our vision, and ultimately determines our actions. A God-sized perspective brings focused thinking, clear vision, and positive results. However, a perspective that is clouded by fear or negativity results in distorted thoughts, skewed insight, and the inability to make decisions or accomplish the simplest of tasks. This is true in all aspects of life but is particularly true with regard to partnerships. Think about Paul. His entire perspective and reality was changed because of a blinding light that refocused the course of his life. Because of this traumatic and dramatic shift, those he once persecuted and hated became those he loved the most. What is shaping your perspective today, thereby shaping your reality and relationships? Let's rethink and refocus today.

Going Deeper

Partnerships are important. Pair off in groups of 2 or 3 and spend some time praying for:

- Soft hearts
- Unity
- Godly perspective

Making It Stick

Read Acts 9:1-20.

Talk about the contrast between Paul's behavior before and after his conversion. What partnerships/relationships did he have before and after? How did his new perspective affect his thoughts, attitudes, and actions?

What was your perspective before Christ? What is it now? How have you seen your partnerships/relationships be affected by your perspective?

As you read Acts 16:11-40 and Philippians 1:1-11, you will see that although Paul had a difficult experience in Philippi, it was the partnerships he established that shaped his perspective rather than external forces and frustrations.

- Has there ever been a time in your life when God made a difficult situation seem like a gift of His grace? What made it that way?

Soon Warren will become one local church existing in two geographical locations.

Focal question: What will your perspective be: "Us vs. Them", or "Together for the Gospel"?

Perspective #1: Our partnership is established by grace. (Philippians 1:7)

- How does this point of view change the way you see others (individually and corporately)?
- What specifically needs to change in you, your group, or in the church as a whole because of the grace given through Jesus?
- What will you do to begin to make these changes?

Perspective #2: Our partnership is intended for the Gospel. (Philippians 1:4, 7, 12)

- How does this point of view impact your mission or the mission of the church?
- What do you need to do to be a more faithful steward of the Gospel?

- What will you do to make this mission a part of your daily life (with your neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends)? What can your group do?

Perspective #3: Our partnership is protected by growth.

- How does this point of view encourage you toward disciple-making? (Philippians 1:6,8,10,11a)
- Are you growing daily in your knowledge of the Word?
- What are you doing to sustain this growth?
- Who are you discipling right now?

Perspective #4: Our partnership is focused on God's glory. (Philippians 1:11)

- Does this point of view motivate you to reflect Jesus?
- Will you make your mantra: "Unto the praise of His glory"?

Now that your perspective is focused on grace, the Gospel, growth, and glory, how would you answer the focal question? And what strategies will you implement to make this a reality in your life?

Focal Question:

What will your perspective be: "Us vs. Them" or "Together for the Gospel"?

Living It Out

Prayer shapes our perspective. Be the Church! Pray as one for the church!

Use our ***Be the Church 40 Days of Prayer Guide*** to help you!
<http://www.warrenbaptist.org/prayer/prayer-blog/>