

# What Do You See?

(Looking into the vision statement for the Church of the Brethren)  
By Rebecca Sue Noffsinger

**CHARACTERS:** Seymour  
Abel

**SEYMOUR:** Hey, Abel, what are you doing?

**ABEL:** Oh, hi, Seymour. I'm working on the vision statement for the Church of the Brethren.

**SEYMOUR:** Sounds like a big project. Bet it takes a lot of time.

**ABEL:** Well, It is a big project, but we already have the vision statement done. Now we are working on ways to help others see the vision.

**SEYMOUR:** See the vision. Well, what's it say? (*Leaning closely over Abel's shoulder.*)

**ABEL:** "Through scripture, Jesus calls us"

**SEYMOUR:** (*Pulls out his phone. Acts like he is talking on the phone.*) Hello. Is this Abel? I'm calling you. Calling you? Get it, Abel?

**ABEL:** Yes, I get it.

**SEYMOUR:** Do you suppose through the scripture, through the word, well, is that like e-mail or texting?

**ABEL:** I guess maybe you could say that would be a modern day interpretation. (*Pause.*) I suppose that could be a form of texting.

**SEYMOUR:** (*Scratches head.*) Oh.

**ABEL:** Now may I go on?

**SEYMOUR:** Oh, by all means. I want to see more of what this says

**ABEL:** "To live as courageous disciples by word and action."

**SEYMOUR:** What does courageous mean? There is a Captain Courageous. He's a super hero. Does that mean I have to live as a super hero? Were the disciples super heroes? What do I do as courageous words and acts? How do I live that way?

**ABEL:** You know, Seymour, you sure ask a lot of questions. How about I continue?

**SEYMOUR:** Why, sure. Go right ahead. Don't let me stop you.

**ABEL:** Good. I'll continue. "To surrender ourselves to God."

**SEYMOUR:** Surrender? Do you mean like when they would wave a white flag and give up all their stuff to the one who was in charge of the enemy?

**ABEL:** Yes, but in this case, you would be giving up yourself...to God.

**SEYMOUR:** Well, God is definitely not the enemy. *(Pause thinking.)* I would be giving my whole self to God?

**ABEL:** God would be in charge.

**SEYMOUR:** God in charge of my whole self. *(Thinks about it. Talks to self.)* That could be difficult.

**ABEL:** Going on. "To embrace one another."

**SEYMOUR:** Embrace! Would that be hugs? Hugs are good. I think I can do that part. Embrace people I like.

**ABEL:** Yes, Seymour. It is easy for me to embrace people I like. But if I'm surrendering to God, it means embracing people I like and also those people I don't like. What if they are different than me? Can I embrace them and accept their differences? Can you?

**SEYMOUR:** Oh. *(Frowns and thinks about it.)*

**ABEL:** Can I finish this now?

**SEYMOUR:** Oh, sure. *(As Abel starts to speak Seymour interrupts.)* Go right ahead!

**ABEL:** *(Looks at Seymour with a pause.)* "To express God's love for all creation."

**SEYMOUR:** So, I need to show God's love for **all** creation? Does that mean my neighbor Joe who leaves his trash out, then it blows around and Dad has me pick it up or he lets his leaves blow on my yard and then I have to rake his leaves? And then that yippy dog he has drives me nuts!

**ABEL:** **All** creation.

**SEYMOUR:** **All** creation?

**ABEL:** That's right. **All** creation. Not just your next door neighbor Joe, but all people, all around the world, all the resources, food, water, air, the earth. Show God's love for **all** creation.

**SEYMOUR:** But, Abel, what about that yippy dog? How do I express God's love?

**ABEL:** Seymour, it starts with you and each individual. You have to find God's love in each person. Look for the best in them. Or in the case of the yippy dog, learn to love him and try to show God's love and kindness.

**SEYMOUR:** That doesn't sound easy. So is that it?

**ABEL:** That's it.

**SEYMOUR:** *(Rubs chin.)* Can you say this vision statement again? *(Holds up hands like he is looking through a picture.)* Old Seymour needs to be able to see the vision.

**ABEL:** OK, here goes.

    "Through scripture, Jesus call us  
    To live as courageous disciples by word and action  
    To surrender ourselves to God,  
    To embrace one another,  
    To express God's love for all creation."

What do you think? What do you see?

**SEYMOUR:** I think, Abel, I can see where you're going with this and I think I can follow the vision. But...

**ABEL:** But what?

**SEYMOUR:** Looking at this vision, there are parts of it that sound like they could be difficult to do. Hard to do by myself.

**ABEL:** Seymour, just remember. You won't be alone. When you have surrendered to God, God will see that you, your church family, and the Church of the Brethren, will all be working together to fulfill the vision.

**SEYMOUR:** I see.

**ABEL:** I'm glad you see, Seymour.

**SEYMOUR:** *(Smiles.)* Yep! I, Seymour, see more. Get it? I see the vision.

**ABEL:** *(Sarcastically.)* Yes, Seymour. I get it.

**SEYMOUR:** Hey, Abel, one more question.

**ABEL:** What's that?

**SEYMOUR:** Are you ABLE? Get it? Able to see the vision.

**ABEL:** *(Hits his forehead and shakes his head.)*

*(Freeze.)*