

Growth Track Session 2 (Causing & Continuing the right church culture)

Our hope for you. Ps. 90:17, **And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands.** Col. 2:6, **So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught.**

Week 1 - Faith: Week 2 - Culture: Week 3 - Calling: Week 4 - Partnership

Intro: Prov. 23:23, **Buy truth & sell it not, also wisdom, instruction, & understanding.** You don't rent truth you buy it, because when it's bought it's cherished more than renting. Rental cars & property are treated differently. Plus the longer you hold onto it the more valuable it becomes. 2 Tim. 3:7, **there are those ever learning & never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** The church is built on the living truth, Eph. 2:20, **built upon the foundation of apostles & prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.**

One of the battles we wage is against the attitude that there is no absolute truth, that truth is determined by the individual, it's situational & preferential, but truth is not determined by consensus or the populous, or perception, but Gods word. And the truth is God is a God of Divine order & structure & that structure doesn't restrict, but rather releases. 1 Cor. 14:10, **Let all things be done decently & in order.** If "all things are going to be done, then there must be order.

I. There are 2 ways. Right & wrong, good & evil, light & dark, 2 masters, **love 1 & hate the other, hold on & let the other go. 2 men in the field** (Jesus & Adam), taken or left, wheat & tares, sheep or wolves, on right hand or left, saved or lost, blind or see, heaven or hell.

A. There is order & disorder. Ps. 1, **there's a Godly way & ungodly way, the way of the Godly is like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither & whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.** The ungodly are not so, they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Ps 23, **If I follow the good shepherd I'm lead in paths of righteousness, fed in green pastures, led beside still waters, fear no evil, comforted by His rod & staff, prepares a table in presence of enemies, anoint head, cup running over, surely goodness & mercy follow me all of my life.**

1. My will & His will, my way or His way, Prov. 3, **lean not to my own understanding, but in all my ways acknowledge Him He shall direct my paths.** Ps. 119:133, **Order my steps in thy word & let not any iniquity have dominion over me.** If I walk in order" then chaos & confusion can't control or dominate me. If I walk in order then my family walks in order, my finances are in order, my relationships... How many want order? You want order because it's blessing or cursing. Deut. 28, **if you do you shall be head & not tail... blessed in city & field... lend...borrow...enemies... If not cursed... (reverse).**

2. Being saved isn't a cure all. It settles the sin issue (most important), **what shall it profit you if... (Matt, 16:26)** But being saved doesn't guarantee success, because there are a lot of saved people whose lives are a train wreck. They may have peace in their soul, but their marriage has no harmony, family is dysfunctional, finances are in disarray. I don't just want my heart right I want my marriage right, relationships right, finances right, but to achieve this I have to bring things into order.

B. I know you want to live by motivation & inspiration, but motivation & inspiration are not enough to eliminate confusion, there must be instruction & organization. God don't bless a mess. He doesn't bless non-sense & foolishness. 1 Cor. 14:33, **He's not the author of confusion.** He's a God of order.

1. Gen 1 shows us God bringing order to a world w/out form. He gathers, separates, divides, prioritizes things. 5, He divided the waters under the firmament from waters above the firmament. God called the dry land Earth & the waters He called Seas & God saw that it was good. He didn't call things "good" until they were in their place. When things are out of place we call that "lost" or "broken". When it's broken or out of order it doesn't operate or function & can be painful.

2. Many times it's natural first THEN spiritual. 1 Cor. 15:44-46, It is sown a natural body then raised a spiritual body. First that which is natural & afterward that which is spiritual. What you bind on EARTH... heaven. If 2 of you shall agree on EARTH as touching...

3. I'm gonna shock you, but being blessed has nothing to do w/how much God loves you, because He loves us all the same, no respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of principles. Just look at Cain & Abel... Gen. 4:7, If thou doest well shalt thou not be accepted? If you bring what was ordered it gets blessed & if not it gets rejected.

a. There are universal laws, mathematics is a universal law. 1 + 1 is always 2. They may be called uno & dos, may be eins & zwei (German) but the law works the same. Music is universal, take a scale or sheet music & they will be played the same. Gravity is a universal law. You can take a tongue talking child of God & an atheist & drop them both off empire state building & both drop. There are financial laws. Paul Yonggi Cho pastors largest church in Seoul S. Korea & claims 850,000 members & have 10,000 praying all night @ "prayer mountain" & yet S. Korea economy ranks 15th in GDP (Gross Domestic Product) behind China, Japan, Germany, France, & India (not considered Christian nations) and yet they are ahead because of governmental & financial order.

b. Not undermining prayer, prayer is imperative, vital, crucial, essential. It is the catalyst, it stimulates, instigates, initiates, & births change, but prayer does not ignore & disregard the need to correct irresponsible practices & principles. I know you think you can just say a prayer & it all get fixed. You are wrong, prayer certainly helps, the effectual fervent... but prayer doesn't do it all. Peter was in jail & the church was praying, the angel removed the chains & opened the cell & gate, but Peter put his sandals on. God's not gonna do it all, there are some things we have to do. Jn. 17:19, I sanctify myself. 2 Cor. 7:1, cleanse ourselves from filthiness of flesh & spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God. God takes me out of sin, but I have to keep myself out of the club & bars.

c. Sowing & reaping is a universal law, if sinners sow they reap too, if they sow politeness at the interview they will get the job over a disrespectful saint. A non-believer can function through order better than a Christian that refuses order.

II. Cultures.

A. We don't understand atmospheres, but the world does, Lk. 16:8, the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. They create atmosphere's to influence you. Atmospheres from music cause certain behavior. Show me the kind of music you listen to & I'll tell you something about their lifestyle. They have even studied the effect that certain colors have on the attitudes of people. Jails are painted dove gray for a reason, it lessens hostility. The color pink is a real passive color while red or loud colors cause you to be agitated more easily.

1. Certain cities have climates & cultures that grow certain people & attract certain people. Detroit "Motor town" (motor city) the automotive industry develops transportation. Hollywood is about entertainment; NY about finances w/Wall Street, Dow Jones; Las Vegas grows gamblers. Nashville grows pickers & grinders; Washington & politics.

2. I don't have to listen to the pastor preach to know what he preaches, all I have to do is look at his people. If I see a legalistic member that believes they're holier because they don't wear make-up or cut their hair it's because that's the culture their pastor produced. If I see a liberal, loosey goosey anything goes members that are into hyper-grace & thinks they can practice sin & still go to heaven it's because they came out of that culture. Before you join any church you need to look around & see what kind of Christians they're growing, because that's what you'll become.

B. As a pastor you have to decide what you want to grow in your garden & I want to grow well rounded people so I try to cause the right atmosphere, environment, & culture. The culture must be right to grow what you want to grow. Culture is "cultivation of the soil." Remember **the Parable of the Sower? A man went forth to sow seed & some fell among wayside (trodden), stony places (no root), thorns (choked). Some fell on good ground & brought forth...** The seed is word of God. Nothing wrong w/the seed. Gotta have the right seed. If you want apples, sow apples. It was the soil.

1. Ever heard of a "pea-trey dish? (grows cultures) Certain cultures grow certain things. Bad culture yields bad results, good culture good results. Schools have cultures. You don't learn the same in every culture. People will drive long distances to get an education even though they have a school 3 blocks away. Tens of thousands of students from other countries come here every year because they can't go into a particular field of study in their country.

2. Jobs have a culture..., homes have a culture... neighborhoods... You can take good teens & drop them into bad environment, gangs, hip-hop culture where there's no respect for women & disregard for law enforcement & they end up bad. **1 Cor. 15:33, evil communication corrupts good manners.** If bad company corrupts good manners & morals then good company can change bad manners. **Prov. 13:20, he that walks w/the wise shall be wise. Iron sharpens iron.**

3. I believe people are products of atmosphere, climate, & culture. I know DNA can play a role in a lot of physical things but mentally & emotionally you become what you behold. Remember **Gen. 30, Jacob influenced & manipulated the breeding of the cattle. Laban said the spotted are yours & the solid are mine. So Jacob took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches & he placed them in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink. When they mated in front of the branches they bore streaked, speckled, & spotted cattle.** I know you think you're independent, but someone influenced you & helped mold your ideas, helped frame your character, helped shape your morals.

C. Every nation has cultures & subcultures. We have many things in the American culture that make us great, namely our freedom & liberty. And when a nation is free & open people want to come to it. They can talk bad about us if they want to, but given the choice & chance they'd live here. This is not "the land of guarantee" but "the land of opportunity" so they get here anyway possible, hide in trunks, take boats, cross deserts, risk drowning, heat stroke, & starving to death to get here.

1. When they get here they bring parts of their culture w/them & therefore they need to be assimilated, otherwise you have people here imposing their culture on America & thereby changing the culture. If you have enough infiltration of external forces you run the risk of being diluted & no longer resembling what you were. If you have more people here that don't believe in what this nation was built on than those that do you have the erosion of the nations core values.

2. I gave you that example to help you see that we have a culture & core values & beliefs & certain practices & principles & if they are omitted or the least bit compromised we cease to be what we were intended to be.

a. I've preached in quite a few "1st generation churches" & the longer the church exists the greater the risk of losing identity & original call. Happened to many denominations, John & Charles Wesley started the Wesleyan Methodist movement. My great-grandmother... campmeetings where 500 were slain. Not throwing off on others because Pentecostals don't resemble the 1st generation either.

If you drift away from your base, center, & foundation, **if foundations be destroyed...**

b. So ever so often we have to hit the "reset" button and make sure we don't move away from the foundation of which this ministry was built & established, because as a church grows people come in feeling *entitled but not indebted*. They want to *partake but not protect* & the reason is it was handed to them & they didn't have to work for it. I've worked to get here, prayed, fasted & not ever gonna stand by & watch it get diluted or polluted. I'm committed to a culture.

III. What kind of culture do we want to establish and maintain?

A. #1 We're building a forward thinking people.

1. There have been 4 generations since WWII.

a. *The Builders* (1927-1945). 8-9 % left. 65% of that generation was Evangelical Christians.

b. *The Boomers* (1946-1964) Notice the decline in %, from 65% down to 35%.

c. *The Busters*, (Generation X) (1965-1983) Dropped from 35% to 16%.

d. This is the *Millennial Generation*. Generation Y (1984-2,000) only 4%...

e. Now *Generation Z* or plurals. 2,000 thru current. YTBD

2. Going to some churches is like stepping into a time machine. Singing old songs, doing old things. It's a sight & sound generation so we can't be behind the times & backward. We are to be ahead of the game, **head & not tail**. We have too much @ our disposal, anointing & technology, use them both. Too many only plan for there "here & now", only planning for this season. They have no feel for the future. **W/out a vision...** We're planning for your children & children's children.

B. #2. Family minded. We believe **Ps. 127:3, our children are a heritage of the Lord. Matt. 19:14, suffer the little children to come unto me...** We will not victimize the next generation by neglecting & abandoning them by putting them in a class & hand them a coloring book. This is not a babysitting service, but a place where **Ps. 145:4, 1 generation shall praise Thy works to another. Train up our children...** The devils after our kids & our teens, that's why we need a place for them to gather. I want them off the streets, around the right environment. Some say "well we don't have kids so why give to that building?" to save the next generation.

C. #3. Ministering members. Everyone should be a minister. Not a 1 man show. The harvest is too big for 1. **The harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few.** I am a limited resource. Unrealistic expectations for a pastor. "The Perfect Pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, & donates \$30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old & has 40 years' worth of experience. He has a burning desire to work w/teenagers, but spends most of his time w/senior citizens. He smiles all the time w/a straight face. He makes 15 visits a day but is always in his office."

1. It takes us all. I can only be in a place @ a time, but you can be where I can't & do what I can't do. We're to minister in our schools, neighborhoods, & not just our churches. **Freely you've received freely give. Let men see your good works that they may glorify your Father...in heaven.**

2. God never intended me to live my faith privately. Since I'm part of the household of faith, community, & priesthood it tells me I'm part of something bigger than me. I'm a soldier not an army. I'm a citizen not the whole community. I'm a member not the whole body. I'm a stone not the whole house. I can offer something to the house. May not have a badge, button, business card, preach, teach, or sing; but there's a way to bless someone. You can mentor & tutor, check on the elderly, be a big brother. We are burden lifters, part of the answer & not the problem. When people see you coming they should say, "help is on the way" not "help they're on the way".

D. #4. We have participatory services. We believe in active learning & active listening. That the student must be active just like the teacher. Not for spectators, but participators. We don't sound like a library or mortuary, or cemetery, but sanctuary. **We enter His gates... Clap & shout w/voice of triumph**

1. We know that God is to be studied, but also experienced, **taste & see...** To experience it you have to get involved in it. You got to do something to get something. The blessings of the Lord don't fall like ripe cherries. Read the Bible & you'll see God works w/people, **Mk. 16:20, they went forth & preached everywhere, the Lord working w/them confirming the word w/signs following.**

2. We are *The Praising Place*. Praise is not for a particular group either. It's not something that Pentecostals or Charismatics invented, it's a kingdom thing & when kingdom people get to praising things start happening, the battle turns & things shift. I've seen praise do what Prozac won't do, what chemo can't do. When God arises His enemies to be scattered. We know we're just 1 "amen" away, 1 "thank you Jesus" away, 1 "bless the Lord" or 1 "hallelujah" away from a miracle.

3. And if none of that happens God is still worthy to be praised, **worthy is the Lamb slain from the foundation...** You need to learn that your praise is not predicated by condition & circumstance, that we ought to have a praise even when you don't feel good or have much. I've seen people w/no water in homes, no electricity, no stove, refrigerator, & no transportation come to church w/a praise, because they know **great is the Lord & greatly to be praised**. And also been around people w/diamonds, furs, who drove newest & nicest cars, & acted so deep until they couldn't praise, the devil is a liar, not gonna happen here. We're gonna be a people that know even if nothing changes or turns around, even if the bills are past due & the pain persists that we will still make the joyful sound!

E. #5 We operate in the spirit of excellence.

1. We consider what God is doing to be important enough until we give our best in all areas. Church folks are notorious for being late, last, & lost. It sends the wrong message. Punctuality is called "the virtue of princes." We come looking good, smiling cause glad to be here, welcome each other, everyone prepared, in their place ready for ministry. Teachers here early, never see student in class w/out teacher. Singers on platform, musicians w/instrument in hand.

2. **Gen. 49:20 Jacob tells Asher, he'll produce fruit fit for kings.** That's what we do, fit for our King, nothing 2nd rate, sub-par, inferior, thrown together. We think things through, we plan, prepare, organize & strategize. We believe in preparation before presentation

a. **1 Kings 10, Queen of Sheba saw Solomons order & there was no more spirit in her. City set on a hill...** Ought to be looking up @ us & not down on us. I want to be good at what I do & don't want to flop & an embarrassment to my Lord. I'm working for a crown to lay at His feet.

b. I've heard it said, "we'll all get the same reward." Where is that? **Lk 19, Some rule 10 cities & some 5.** We won't all get the same reward. While some are lazy doing nothing, slacking off & sleeping, others of us have been sacrificing, fasting, praying, working & laboring for the kingdom & **because we've been faithful over a few things we shall be rulers over many.**

F. #6. We embrace order. Because there's a right way to do things. Kingdom ethics don't allow me to disrespect & disregard authority, especially in God's name. Talking about, "sorry officer the HG told me it was OK to speed" or "I can't work today because the HG told me to pray." Satan's house is in order. [Principalities & powers...](#) So the church must have order.

1. Order your prayer life. **Seek ye first...** "First" has to do w/timing, rank, & order. Seeking first the kingdom keeps everything else in line. [John 3:30, He must increase & I must decrease](#). We have seen asceticism... prayer allows Him to increase & when he increases I decrease. It keeps him first & me last. [Lk. 14:27, If any man come to me & hate not his father, mother, wife, children, brethren, sisters, yea & his own life also, he cannot be my disciple](#). If you compare the love you have for me to the love you have for them it looks like you hate them because you love me so much. [Vs 33, he that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Lk. 9:23, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me](#). "If not Lord of all, not Lord at all." You can't see kingdom results when you don't have the King @ top of list.

2. Order yourself. [Gal. 5:23, temperance, self-control](#). If there's something in you that you can't control you need it cast out. STORY: Mom when I get mad you say, full of devil. You get mad & it's your nerves." [Isaiah, woe is me I am undone, man of unclean lips & live among people of unclean lips. Matt 23:26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter that the outside of them may be clean also](#). The alignment of self is about sweeping @ your own door, taking care of your own mess, sins, shortcomings, hang-ups first. There are some people whose neck is always out of joint because they are always stretching it out to see what's going on in everybody else's life. How is it you can see what's going on in everyone else's house, but yours? They keep count of everyone else's sin, but never theirs. They know what's best for everyone else but never write themselves a prescription.

3. Order yourself to be in church. NOTE: written to a pastor by one of his members "you stress attendance as being very important to a Christian, but I think a person has a right to miss now & then for the following reasons & the number of times indicated. Christmas 1 Sunday before & 1 after; Independence Day 1 Sunday; When school opens 1 last fling; Easter 2 Sundays; Mothers Day 1; Fathers Day 1; school closing 1 Sunday, 3 Sundays for Family Reunions, over sleeping due to Saturday night 4 Sundays, deaths in family 4, anniversary 1, sick days 1 for all 5 of us, business trips 4, vacation 4, kids sports 5, bad weather 4, company 5, TV programs super bowl 3. That leaves 2 Sundays per year so you can count on us the 4th Sunday in Feb & 3rd Sunday in August."

The pastor wrote back, "we're having a "no excuse Sunday" cots available for those that Sunday is only day to sleep it, eye drops for those whose eyes are red from watching too much TV, steel helmets for those who think the roof will cave in, blankets for those too cold, fans for those too hot, hearing aids for those that can't hear, cotton for those saying too loud, scorecards for those that want to count all the hypocrites, relatives will be here for those that like to go visiting on Sunday, TV dinners for those that say they can't go to church & cook, 1 section will have tree & grass for those that see God in nature & 2 sections will be decorated 1 w/Easter lilies & the other w/poinsettias for those that have never seen the church w/out them." Start your week off right by starting it off in house of God.

a. [John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut were the disciples assembled](#). It's important to be in house of God w/other members of the body & family of Christ. Not here for me, but for you. God said, [it was not good for man to be alone](#). We were created for community & fashioned for fellowship. The Bible doesn't teach "solitary saints" or "holy hermits". It says things like, [put together, built together, joined together, fit together, held together, & caught up together](#). Paul said, [we are members of His body](#). The body member that's disconnected, removed, or severed will die. The first sign of spiritual decline is lack of church attendance. The person that says, "I don't need a church" is either arrogant or ignorant. Jesus went.

b. You need to be here & the world needs to see you here. The world needs to see the place full. Tired of full stadiums, theatres, malls, & empty churches. The church doesn't need to look like a "ghost town". It tells them something is going on.

4. Order your finances. Deut. 26:2, Thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee & shalt put it in a basket & shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. Prov. 3:9-10, Honor the LORD with thy substance & w/the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled w/plenty & thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

a. The tithe is not just 10%, it's the first 10%. It's not the cost of admission which means if you don't come you don't owe it. You owe it even if you miss a month. Just like you make the mortgage or pay rent even tough on vacation.

b. When you pay it first it aligns the rest of your \$. Rebuke the "spirit of poverty" sometimes it's the "spirit of greed". If you don't tell your \$ where to go you'll wonder where it's been. "I don't give because \$ is tight". I can show you someone whose \$ is tighter & they give. According to 2 Cor. 9:6-7, Every man gives according as he purposes in his heart. 1 that gives sparingly receives sparingly, one that gives bountifully & receives bountifully. Ecc. 11:1, cast your bread upon the water & you shall find it after many days Give & it shall be given... I've seen it work. I tithed when lived in 400 sq foot house & made \$75 a week for revival, when I had holes in shoes & suits thread bare & seen God make a way where there was no way & bless me in ways I couldn't count.

5. Order your faith, get your faith out front. Some always needing miracles, they live from crisis to crisis, always in desperate & dire need. Thank God I can a miracle when I need one, but I don't want to need them every day. I want to live a life of sustained & perpetual blessings. The longest sustained miracle was the manna that came w/the morning dew & it was just enough, but when Israel got into the promised land, a land flowing... Josh 5:12, the manna ceased. God said, now you do it for yourself, sow for what you need. If you want corn sow for it, if you want wheat... barley... You'll have fields full, build barns & silos, but you have to sow for what you want.

G. #7 Manifestation w/out weirdness. We believe in healing, but don't think that doctors are the devils & nurses are witches. Some deny meds to kids, but eat Tylenol like M&M's. We believe in speaking in tongues & the gifts of the Spirit but don't act like aliens or cereal saints. You don't have to be loony for this to get noticed. You don't have to be strange to be used.

H. #8. We believe increase w/integrity. I don't preach a gospel of excess, but a gospel of success & there is a difference. Blessed to be a blessing.

1. We are not "faith moochers" telling people "I'm a Christian & you ought to fix it for free." We believe a workman is worthy of his hire. We don't leave a track as the tip, but we give honor to whom honor is due. When the bill collector calls we don't tell the kids to lie & say you ain't home. We pay our bills on time & when we can't we call them & make arrangements. It's called "integrity". Ask anyone in this town & they'll tell you pastor pays his bills on time & this church does too. If we say the \$'s going to mission it all goes, if we say it's going to a needy family it goes, if we say it's for evangelist we don't hold back to pay power bill. Render unto Caesar...

2. We don't use gimmicks, gadgets, or "gospel get overs". Seen all kinds of stuff, people selling sackcloth they claim to have worn while they prayed. Selling lucky pennies. We don't take sand out of the sandbox, put it in a bottle w/a labels that says "holy land" and sell it for \$100. We don't sell red oil, green oil, miracle soap, or holy water. We're going to live above reproach & not let our good be evil spoken of. If you don't want to give don't, but you will be the worse & not us. Don't come asking for no offering.

3. I'm not gonna play on peoples sympathy, emotions, or make up stories or exaggerate things to get you to give. If the truth doesn't get you to pay tithes, give offerings, sow seed into building fund then we just won't get it. Not gonna prostitute the Gospel for \$. We're going to be accountable. I believe in taking care of the man of God, bless the head & the body is blessed, but I don't think God's pleased when the sheep are slaughtered to make the shepherd fat. The church roof leaking, shingles blown all over the yard, grass grown up over the sign, windows broken out, paint peeling off the wall, blown light bulbs, smelling like mold and the pastor pulls up in a new Mercedes. Why not drive a Chevy & get the house of God in order? **Haggai 1:4 you live in paneled houses & the house of God is in ruin. Consider your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it. Spending & investing wrong. Putting treasure where moth & rust doth corrupt & thieves break in & steal. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven. Where moth & rust...**

I. **#9 Atmosphere of acceptance.** Not accepting of sin. We don't let people live any old way, have standards. We challenge you to a higher standard, believe **w/out holiness no man shall see God, come out from among them...** While we don't accept sin we do the sinner. **Come unto me all ye that labor...**

1. We don't accept legalism... meaning ladies short hair & mans beard doesn't make them unholy. Hemlines & hair length don't make you holy. It's not keeping rules & regulations, it's the blood.

a. We don't clone people here. They're not going to all look the same, because people are different. Not trying to get them to look like me, but look like Him, into the image of His dear Son.

b. We want people in our family. The kingdom of God is not for a select few. We don't get to include people we like & then exclude people we don't. It's not for us to pick & choose & not right for us to beg entrance into the family & then shut the door behind us. This family is open to those that are young & old, rich & poor, red, yellow, black, white. The only time I don't want them to come is when they want to put their feet down saying, "I'm in this sin, gonna stay in this sin, & gonna spread this sin." Otherwise **whosoever will let him come.**

2. Denominationalism (COG only church) all of us ain't going.

3. Sexism... "finally brethren farewell". Help mate, can't reproduce alone, Adam needs his Eve.

4. Racism. **Mal. 2:10, Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother. Acts 17:26, from one blood came all nations.** This is not a white church w/black members or black church w/white pastor. **The Kingdom is like a fisherman that caught all manner of fish.** Ought to have all races. Don't judge the whole race cause of a few pea-brained, narrow minded morons. All whites don't belong to the KKK just like all Blacks & Hispanics aren't gangsters or thugs. **We know the tree by fruit not color of skin. Neither Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free, male nor female, we are one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28) .**

J. **#10 we celebrate & appreciate diversity. Matt. 28, Go ye therefore & teach all nations... Mark 16, Go ye into all the world & preach the Gospel to every creature.** Our world is diverse & the church must be diverse. Uniformity is dull & boring, contrast is beauty, high mountains & low valleys etc...

K. **#11. We are a culture of based on the Bible.**

1. Seeing a reenactment of **1 Sam. 3:1, the word of the Lord was rare in those days & no open vision. Amos 8:11, there's a famine, not a famine of bread, but of hearing the words of the Lord. Is. 59:14, judgment is turned away backward & justice stands afar off for truth is fallen in the streets.2 Kings 22 the word of God was found by Hilkiah the HP. It had been lost in the house of God. When he found it he gave it to Shaphen the scribe & he read it to King Josiah who heard it & rent his clothes. He ordered the word read to the people & vowed to keep it & revival broke out in the nation.**

2. Prov. 4:21, Attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. We don't come in here to see a fashion show, catch the latest gossip, hear poems, sermonizing, or homilies, but to get a word for the entrance of thy word gives light, lamp unto feet... His Word is unto me the rejoicing of my soul. Job, more necessary than food to my body. Man shall not live by bread alone... We won't just come in here & to be hearers but doers of the word. We don't just shout over it & ignore it, that ain't how we roll. We eat it, ingest it, get in line w/it, & the Word is made flesh.

L. #12. Culture of believers. We're not doubters, skeptics, or cynics; we're believers. We are those who believe the axehead swam, bush burned but wasn't consumed, God took burn out of fiery furnace for 3 Hebrew boys, Daniel slept on a lions mane, Jesus took 5 loaves... made a poultice of spit & clay... calmed the stormy sea & raging tide, that Jesus died & rose again, ascended... gave us the power of the HG to speak w/tongues, take up serpents, lay hands on the sick, greater works than these... From Paul's body came handkerchiefs... We believe these signs shall follow... If you faith as a grain of mustard seed... can say to this mountain...

1. Culture of inspiration & life. Build you up, instruct & encourage.

2. We want others to succeed. Not jealous or envious. not pulling against you, but for you. I am your greatest supporter & cheerleader. If you can't be happy over someone else being blessed you don't deserve to be blessed. Not into competition. When someone else gives a testimony of healing we clap even though we're sick ourselves. We are unemployed & yet we shout when our brother gets a job. Rom. 12:15, we rejoice w/them that rejoice & weep when they weep.

3. Because we are bible based & kingdom conscious I can't be trying to take advantage of you, lie to you, deceive you, rip you off, oppress you, put the screws to you, get over on you, treat you like dirt & disrespect you.

4. We are not indifferent to the pain of others. We are concerned about injustice & wrong doing, & human trafficking, homelessness, joblessness, abuse, & misuse.

a. It's easy to pass people off, refer them to the Red Cross, tell them to go to a food bank, but Jesus said, you feed them, you clothe them, you care for them. If you find out your neighbor is out of food go to your cupboard & give them some of your groceries. If you know someone is in the hospital don't just call for us to go visit them, get off your own couch & go see them yourself.

b. You don't know where life will take you, Prov. 27:1, boast not thyself of tomorrow for you don't know what a day will bring. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. You better sow into others so someone can sow into you, Prov. 11:25, water others & you will be watered.

5. The bible won't allow me to dominate, subjugate, or walk on top of another person. In the beginning God gave Adam & Eve authority over everything except each other. I know couples have moments of intense fellowship (arguing); but that don't give you a right to speak to her any kind of way. You ain't Jesus & didn't die for her. That woman is 1st of all a daughter of God & you don't have the right to mistreat her,

M. #13. We respect those over us in the Lord. Identifiable leadership. "Pastor Tucker, Pastor Janice, Sean, Tommy, Matthew. I don't want people to spend 6 months wondering who's leading this place. Paul said, know those over you in the Lord.

1. Nursery workers will be identified so you don't let some stranger have your child. Ushers wear badges so you'll know who to ask for help & who to hand your offering to. Don't just hand \$ to anyone cause all ain't saved. STORY: In south side Chicago a man told the pastor he appreciated the new ministry they started. The pastor said, "what new ministry?" "Valet parking." Pastor said, "we don't have valet parking." A man just walked up & lied about being a valet & stole the man's car.

2. We don't have people running around planning "kids night" @ their house that haven't been approved. When it's church sponsored it's advertised, announced, and headed up by a leader. Don't have self appointed prophets. Words are weighed here. [We try the spirits to see if they are of God.](#)

N. [#14. Culture of honor & respect each other.](#) I was raised to say "yes sir & no sir, please, thank you, excuse me". I was taught to respect my elders.

1. [Gen 9 Noah was told to fill the earth. He planted a vineyard & got drunk & was uncovered in his tent. Ham came in & saw his fathers nakedness.](#) When you walk w/a person long enough you will see their flesh, but you don't have a right to do what Ham did which was run out & tells his brothers.

[2 Thess 3:11, for we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.](#) Some carry the spirit of slander & [Prov. 10:18 he that spreads slander is a fool.](#) But notice what [Shem & Japheth did, they took a blanket & walked in backward & covered their fathers nakedness.](#) God help us to cover each other, not uncover. Noah doesn't curse Ham, but curses his son (9:25) [cursed be Canaan & he will serve Shem & Japheth.](#) But He blesses Shem & Japheth. The spirit of honor will elevate or spirit of dishonor will bring a curse.

2. [Numbers 12.](#) In the first 1st 10 chapters God spoke to Moses & then 11:1 the complaining stopped God talking. [Vs 1, they spake against Moses.](#) It's 1 thing to [speak about](#) Moses, but they [spoke against](#) Moses.

a. Miriam is cursed w/leprosy & [Ex. 15:20, she was a prophetess.](#) When Israel crossed the Red Sea she took a timbrel & all the women went out after her w/their timbrels dancing & singing, [He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.](#) But she spoke against Moses & [vs 2, the Lord heard it & look at what happened. Vs 4 God said, meet me at the tabernacle. Vs 5 God met them @ the door.](#) Not good, because God didn't come out from behind the veil.

b. Why would God do that? Because this reminded Him of the way Lucifer disrespected Him. What you carry is contagious, praise is contagious, get around a praiser... get around a singer... [the spirit on the prophets got on Saul.](#) That's why [Rom. 16:17, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them,](#) because that spirit will get on you!

O. [#15. We show agreement & support.](#)

1. [1 Cor. 12:1, Now concerning spiritual gifts](#) (some versions say "spirituals") [I would not have you ignorant.](#) We are the same positionally but not the same functionally. [Vs 6, it is the same God which worketh in all.](#) 8-10, [For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.](#) 28, [And God hath set some in the church.](#) Notice it goes from "in all" then "to one" & to another" & then "to some".

Governing ones release gifted ones to minister to gathered ones that free gated ones.

2. @ Rehidim (Ex. 17) Aaron & Hur held up the hands of Moses, because as long as his hands were raised they won, but when they fell they lost so they sat Moses down & held his hands. BTW Rehidim means "support". Their support freed Moses' hands & Joshua was below fighting & he was ok with Moses sitting. Joshua's fighting, using his gift, freed the hands of Moses. It was Jehovah Nissi... The banner was Moses' hands being up. When the enemy sees the governing ones hands all bound up he knows the church is out of order, but his hands are free he knows defeat is imminent.

Concl: Create the right atmosphere & climate & they'll be drawn. The message of love draws people that love. The message of hate...hate. But our message will draw all men. **If I be lifted up I will draw...**

1. It's a crazy world, an insane asylum & the inmates are running it. Sociologists & psychologists can cure the ills of the day. It wasn't the apple on the tree that got us but the pair on the ground.

2. We've ridiculed the absolute truth of God's Word & worshipped other gods & called it multiculturalism. We've endorsed homosexuality & called it "an alternate lifestyle". In the name of "choice" we've killed our unborn. We save preemies on the 3rd floor & murder them in the basement.

3. We're seeing the fulfillment of sc. **Men love darkness rather than life because their deeds are evil. Lovers of pleasure more than... Have a form of godliness... Evil men & seducers wax worse & worse. Where sin does abound... If my people...** God didn't put you here to complain about the world you live in. He put you here to be the light that drives out the dark & the salt of the earth. **Jn. 12 Mary broke open her alabaster box & the house was filled w/the odor.** She changed the atmosphere & we can too.

4. I'm not backing up from the vision. The Boston tea party wasn't about tea, it was something bigger. It was about no taxation w/out representation. Miss Jane Pittman wasn't about a water fountain, it was bigger. Rosa Parks wasn't about a seat on a bus, it was bigger. They were about equal rights. This isn't about you, it's bigger. It's not about me, it's bigger.