

Core Values ~ Lesson 2: Cultural Values

Mission: To bring wholeness to people, families and communities with the Word of God, work of Holy Spirit and His Presence through authentic, loving relationships.

Relationships – Having authentic, Godly relationships central to everything we do.

"The worst disease in today's world is not leprosy or cancer: it is the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted, of being deserted and alone" – Mother Teresa

“**love** one another” - John 13:35, Matthew 5:12-17, 22:37-40 (commanded 16 times)

John 17:21 (NASB) that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- 1) **We are identifiable as Disciples of Christ, His Church, by our relationships.**
 - a) **John 13:35** By this all men will **know** that **you are My disciples**, if **you** have love for one another.
 - i) 1 John 1:7 (NKJV)
- 2) **We are connected as Members of Christ’s Body by committed relationships.**
 - a) Godly relationships are covenantal vs. conditional
 - i) we **belong to one another** (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25)
 - ii) **be devoted** to one another (Romans 12:10)
- 3) **We are created to serve, encourage, care for and help each other grow.**
 - a) Let us give attentive, continuous **care** (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - b) employ the gifts that God has given us for the **benefit** of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
 - c) **encourage** one another (Hebrews 3:13)
 - d) **serve** one another (Galatians 5:13)
 - e) **build up** one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - f) **show hospitality** to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
 - g) **care for** one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
 - h) **comfort** one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
 - i) **admonish** one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
 - j) **bear** one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
 - k) **stir up** one another **to love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
 - l) **submit** to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
 - m) **teach** one another (Colossians 3:16)
 - n) **pray** for one another (James 5:16)
 - o) **confess our faults** to one another (James 5:16)

- 4) **We place right relationships as our priority and responsibility.**
 - a) **Be at peace** among yourselves (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14)
 - b) **live in harmony with** one another (Romans 12:16)
 - c) **be likeminded towards** one another (Romans 15:5)
 - d) **forgive** one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
 - e) **be patient with** one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
 - f) **clothe yourselves with humility towards** one another (1 Peter 5:5)
 - g) **be kind and compassionate to** one another (Ephesians 4:32)
 - h) **be likeminded towards** one another (Romans 15:5)
 - i) **consider others better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)

- 5) **We are intentional about being together.**
 - a) Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:25

"No amount of technical administrative skill in labouring for the masses can make up for lack of nobility of personal character in developing relationships" - Stephen Covey

Integrity – Pursuing the Lord with clean hands and pure hearts

Psalm 24:3-4

- 1) **We value character over charisma, ability, education, age and experience.**
 - a) Philippians 2:21 (NKJV), 1 Samuel 16:7

- 2) **We honor God by taking responsibility for our own actions and doing what is right, event when it hurts.**
 - a) Psalm 15:4

- 3) **We strive for authenticity and transparency in a world that is starved for both.**

- 4) **We consider the witness of our character and behavior.**

Honor – Honoring, respecting and looking out for each other.

- 1) **We strive to create a safe place for others.**

- 2) **We place the needs of others before our own.**
 - a) Philippians 2:4, Romans 12:10

- 3) **We guard and protect each other, even when our own reputation is threatened**
 - a) 1 Peter 4:8, Galatians 6:1

- 4) **We celebrate the successes and accomplishments and share in the mourning and hardship of others.**

Acceptance – Demonstrating unconditional acceptance, forgiveness, and compassion.

Romans 15:7

- 1) **We know God doesn't show favoritism, so neither do we.**
 - a) James 2:1

- 2) **We understand our own need for a Savior.**
 - a) **bear with** one another (Colossians 3:13)
 - b) **forgiveness** (Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-35)

Generosity – Holding that God has blessed us, so we may be a blessing to others.

- 1) **We are generous, because we serve a generous God.**
 - a. Psalm 51:12, Proverbs 11:25, Isaiah 32:8, Proverbs 22:9

- 2) **We bless others because we ourselves are blessed.**
 - a. Matthew 10:8, Luke 12:48

Team – Doing the Will of God together, as equal members, each with unique roles.

- 1) **We value each member of the Body equally, holding each person as uniquely gifted and called.**
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4

- 2) **We strive to recognize the whole depends on the part we play.**

Excellence – Serving and representing God with excellence in all things.

God does all things well. His creation, which He calls good, is created to do the same.

“Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.” (Daniel 6:3)

- 1) **We are compelled to give God our best.**

- 2) **We are serious about the way we represent Christ.**

- 3) **We do all things as unto the Lord.**
 - a. Ephesians 6:7, Matthew 25:40