

All Nations Culture Value One - Jesus

Preamble

Vision statement that sets out what we are aiming

For all people to glorify God through knowing Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and making Jesus known.

Values - We have seven things we believe are important in establishing our culture to move towards the vision - a culture where the Holy Spirit is welcome not just as a visitor but to stay. These are worked out in various ways including the five

- Jesus - We want Jesus to be the centre of all we do. We seek his presence, his leading and follow his example.
- Community - We value relationship and seek to build authentic community.
- Faith - Hope - Love - We want to be clothed in audacious faith, insurmountable hope and extravagant love.
- Kingdom lifestyle - We want to cultivate kingdom lifestyles of honour and generosity.
- Spiritual disciplines - We embrace spiritual disciplines to empower supernatural lives.
- Sacrifice - We want to live humble and sacrificial lives, that serve others.
- Extend - We are committed to advancing the kingdom of God through proclamation and good works.

Expectations of people who call All Nations their family

1. Worship - That you will be committed to our gathering and worship on a Sunday
 2. Prayer - To pray together as a Church family
 3. Community - In a life group, walking this journey with others
 4. Giving - Following the Biblical principal and command of worshipping God with a portion of your income
 5. Serving - Find an area to serve in and be a champion
- I want to remind of us our Values and to help new families members to hear and know them
 - The aim being that we all be committed to making these OUR values
 - These were birthed out of a direct response to the Lord in creating a culture that welcomes and sustains a Holy Spirit environment

- They Our CODE - Family Values, the way we do things and a commitment we are making

Introduction

Our First Value can be summed up in one word - **Jesus**

- We want Jesus to be the centre of all we do. We seek his presence, his leading and follow his example.

Jesus the Foundation

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, [13] their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. [14] If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. [15] If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved---even though only as one escaping through the flames. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

Wisdom to know him more

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **Ephesians 1:17-20**

Jesus is the gate

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. **John 10:9**

Jesus is the road

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

Jesus is the guide

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **John 14:18-19**

Jesus is the destination

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. [10] You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." [11] Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten

thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. [12] In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!" [13] Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!" [14] The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. **Revelation 5:9-14**

1. We want Jesus to be supreme and central

"Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savouring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel." **John Piper,**

- or the Head and Heart
- I believe this includes seeking his presence

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. [16] For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. [17] He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. [19] For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. **Colossians 1:15-20**

The body of Christ is in dire need of a reconversion to Jesus, not as Saviour and Lord, but as the awe-inspiring, all-inclusive person He is. To say that he is our Saviour and Lord is correct of course, but it's inadequate. He is so much more. Christ is:

Your Shepherd, your Advocate, your Mediator, your Bridegroom, your Conqueror, your Lion, your Lamb, your Sacrifice, your manna, your smitten Rock, your living water, your food, your drink, your good and abundant land, your dwelling place, your Sabbath, your new moon, your Jubilee, your new wine, your feast, your aroma, your anchor, your wisdom, your peace, your comfort, your Healer, your joy, your glory, your power, your strength, your wealth, your victory, your redemption, your Prophet, your Priest, your kinsman redeemer, your teacher, your guide, your liberator, your deliverer, your Prince, your Captain, your vision, your sight, your beloved, your way,

your truth, your life, your author, your finisher, your beginning, your end, your age, your eternity--- your all in all.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever; yet He is new every morning. But beyond all of this, He is your King, your judge, and True Witness.

Leonard Sweet Jesus Manifesto

2. **His leading** - What is he saying and what is he doing

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. [5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. **John 15:4-8**

When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. **Acts 16:7**

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **Romans 8:14**

3. **And his example** - Becoming Like him

- Come follow me and I will make you - **Matthew 4:19**
- Walk with the King Jesus until you are no more - Enoch walked with God until he was no more

And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. [23] Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. [24] Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. **Genesis 5:22-24**

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **Acts 4:13**

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, **Galatians 4:19**

Jesus Enlarges The Soul

Knowing the supremacy of Christ enlarges the soul so that the world and its little thrills become as small as they really are. Little souls make little lusts

have great power. The soul, as it were, expands to encompass the magnitude of its treasure. The human soul was made to see and savour the supremacy of Christ. Nothing else is big enough to enlarge the soul as God intended and make little lusts lose their power.

Vast starry skies seen from a mountain in Utah and four layers of moving clouds on a seemingly endless plain in Montana, and standing on the edge of a mile-deep drop in the Grand Canyon can all have a wonderfully supplementary role in enlarging the soul with beauty. But nothing can take the place of the supremacy of Christ. As Jonathan Edwards said, if you embrace all creation with goodwill, but not Christ, you are infinitely parochial. Our hearts were made to be enlarged by Christ, and all creation cannot replace his supremacy.

Inside and outside the church western culture is drowning in a sea of triviality, pettiness, banality, and silliness. Television is trivial. Radio is trivial. Conversation is trivial. Education is trivial. Christian books are trivial. Worship styles are trivial. It is inevitable that the human heart, which was made to be staggered with the supremacy of Christ, but instead is drowning in a sea of banal entertainment, will reach for the best natural buzz that life can give: sex. Therefore, the deepest cure to our pitiful addictions is not any mental strategies. The deepest cure is to be intellectually and emotionally and relationally staggered by the infinite, everlasting, unchanging supremacy of Christ in all things. This is what it means to know him. Christ has purchased this gift for us at the cost of his life. **John Piper**