

All Nations Culture

Value One - Authentic Community

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.

- 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 grow 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
- Last week I spoke to you about Jesus being our highest value
 - We want Jesus to be the centre of all we do. We seek his presence, his leading and follow his example.

Introduction

Value 2 Community - We value relationship and seek to grow authentic community.

- We are family
- Life is done better together
- You will flourish and excel when others are in your life
- If there was one word to describe our Kingdom it would be RELATIONAL
- The primary strategy of heaven is RELATIONSHIP

Jesus

Jesus replied: “ 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” **Matthew**

22:37-40

- Whats the greatest command?
- Relationship with God and then... love your neighbour as yourself
- ‘Love others as well as yourself..’ MSG

- There is a tendency in our brokenness to withdraw from people if we feel insecure
- It's risky, it's costly and it's often inconvenient

Three things I am asking us all to do:

1. Join to others in church

Our example for connected relationships - God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit

‘I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one, I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.’ **John 17.22,23**

Barnabas introducing Paul to the Church

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. [27] But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his

journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. **Acts 9:26-27**

- He made an introduction
- Can you make an introduction?
- Can you prayerfully connect people?

Work of the Spirit

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4.1-2**

- True Community is a work of the Holy Spirit
 - There is something so rich and powerful in the connections and joining by the Spirit
- But we also have to make every effort
 - Doesn't mean that it is easy and no complexities or problems arise
- Unity is more than the absence of strife - It's the joining of hearts around Christ and his purpose

2. Pray, eat and do things together

Early Church - A glorious picture

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. [44] All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47**

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved. **Acts 2:46-47 MSG**

- Pray - Together
- Eat - Together
- Serve - each other and do things together

3. Be vulnerable, building accountability as safe foundation for service

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:34-35**

Vulnerable and Accountable

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. **Proverbs 27:17**

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. [2] Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. **Galatians 6:1-2**

Serve

“You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. [14] Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. [15] I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **John 13:13-15**

Conclusion - Application

- Where are you joined? Where can you join?
 - Are you praying with others
 - Are you eating with others
 - Are you serving together and serving each other
 - Are there are a few people you can be vulnerable with
 - Do you live an accountable life
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- We are family
 - Life is done better together
 - You will flourish and excel when others are in your life
 - If there was one word to describe our Kingdom it would be RELATIONAL
 - The primary strategy of heaven is RELATIONSHIP