

Christ Community Covenant Church
Advancing the Kingdom Together: “Values” - Making Life Make Sense
Pastor Dave Scherrer - January 17, 2016

Review:

Mission: *Love God, Love Others . . . And Advance the Kingdom Together*

Marks: *Life, Light and Love*

Why Values Matter

I have had the opportunity to counsel dozens of couples, maybe hundreds, in pre marriage and marital counseling. One of the most important conversations I have is over the set of values that each person in the relationship holds. These ideals that we hold near to our hearts set the course of our lives. Our non-negotiable values in essence define us. If you have never sat down and recorded your top five non-negotiable values and come to terms with the things you hold most dear and true, then you may find that you have been drifting in your life and that while you may someday find that you have done some fun things and bought lots of things, you will still have deep regrets that the things you most long for are still very far away. None of us want to end our lives with a burden of regrets weighing down our hearts.

I have found that there are two ways for a couple to be unequally yoked. One is the one that Scripture warns us about and that is for a Christian to marry a non-Christian. The second is when two people marry with radically different values about family or money or work.

And I also think that in this day and age, it is easy to buy into bad or selfish values. It is not just the commercials and marketing giants that distract us and confuse us. Our friends and family can even whisper false truths and bad values into our lives. They can love us and still mislead us.

“Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.” ~ Oscar Wilde

“If I find in myself desires that nothing in this world satisfies me, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.” ~ C.S. Lewis

Having a tight small set of non-negotiable values, being able to define them well and then insist on using them to make your life decisions will go a long way toward living a meaningful life of purposeful hope. And that is true for churches as well. Being a values driven church is the engine of our Kingdom centered ministry. So what exactly is a Values Driven Church?

On being a **Values Driven Church**

“It’s not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are.” ~ Roy Disney

Matthew 4:4 (New Living)

People need more than bread for their lives, they must feed on every word of God.

Our **Five Stones**

1. **A Teaching Church** – more about that in a bit
2. **A Family Centered Church** - we are bullish on marriage and family and we are also bullish on the family that is the church
3. **A Community Minded Church** – we care about our community, geographically speaking but also we care about the community of Humankind – we do good deeds of love for no other purpose but that we love people – we love God by loving others
4. **A Multiplying Church** – it’s not so much that we keep score of things like butts, bucks and bricks, but what we do know is that things that are not growing are dying and we grow here by going Deeper in Christ and Further in Mission

5. **A Celebrating Church** – we value acts of worship and celebration that come deep from within our souls and we seek to nurture a culture of celebration that incarnates our fellowship together and as individuals

Thomas Finally Caught Connie's Monkey with Milk and Cookies
(Teaching/Family/Community Minded/Multiplying/Celebrating)

[transition into prayer]

Now, right here you should be interrupting me. Did you notice that so far there isn't any mention of prayer on our list? That is not because it is way down on the list of priorities. The reality is that we could not include it on our list of values because prayer is even more foundational than these values. Good churches disagree on their values. But good churches will never disagree that prayer is the lifeline by which we connect with God so that we can know which of these values we engage and when and how we do that. Everything begins and ends with prayer.

You see, Christ is the Head of the church . . . The Head of our Church . . .

Colossians 1:17-18

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

At 4Cs you will hear us talk over and over about our intention of engaging and advancing the Kingdom of God. It is our Mission. The Kingdom of God is Christ's rule and reign and we participate in Kingdom practices by following Christ, listening to His commands and obeying them sacrificially and lovingly. We cannot implement these values or participate in the mission without a vibrant and consistent lifeline of communication to our Exalted Head through prayer.

On being a "Teaching Church"

The effective church is always mentoring, building relationships, and teaching each other. We are caring people who are being disciplined themselves and then offering insights we have learned to others we love. Making disciples takes vision and the understanding of Scripture. The Christian, especially the leader, who disciples and equips others is a person who is living the faith for themselves and setting goals for their personal growth before they set goals for others.

Jesus' purpose for His three years of earthly ministry was the discipleship and equipping of the 12 Disciples. This was His drive and where most of His time was spent. He was focused on the teaching of the kingdom of God, teaching men to see beyond their present situation to the life to come. The objective was that every Believer was an equipper, every member a minister, every Christian involved in the life and gifts of the Body to influence the world.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in ***the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.***

The church of the Living God is a pillar and buttress of the truth. Now that is a high calling and is the reason we have chosen teaching the truth as one of our non-negotiable values. To hold the value of being a teaching church means that we hold to the Truth of Scripture and the Centrality of the Word of God. We value teaching because we are marked by the Light – by our love for the Truths of God.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**

“Make disciples . . . by teaching them.” Disciples are made by declaring the truth of God, preaching and teaching the truth and evidence that they are embracing that truth is in baptism – the outward demonstration of an inward faith in that Truth.

A disciple is a spiritual apprentice, someone who is learning to live according to the character and teachings of their Master. A Teaching Church is a Discipling Church and a Discipling Church is a Teaching Church.

**A Teaching church is a Discipling church
A Discipling church is a Teaching church**

We have long said that 4Cs is bold in truth and abounding in grace.

Bold in Truth and Abounding in Grace

What that means is that we will never use the truth as a bludgeon.

The implications of being a teaching church

- We will stand for the truth, even though we will not know it all
- We will teach by all available means, even if we aren't good at it
- Scripture is what we teach, but it is not all we teach
- Teaching is informational, but it is best when it is transformational
- Modeling is the best form of teaching, for better or worse

I can see in our future collaborations and partnerships with North Park University and Seminary and with local educators Colorado Christian University, Denver Seminary in internships, mentoring programs, tutoring and extension campuses. We will have the opportunity to participate in higher education in our community and beyond, teaching pastors to be faithful with the truth and in the training of pastors all around the world. We may have a chance to teach small children through day care ministries. The sky is not the limit! Heaven is. Here is the deal. We will hold firm to our values, but as the cultures shifts around us and as technology advances, the kinds of ministry programming associated with 21st century teaching may change dramatically.

“Leaders honor their core values, but they are flexible in how they execute them.”
~ *Colin Powell*

In the ministry that I started in 1972 we talked about being “Anchored to the Rock and geared to the times.” We have to be ready to engage in new ways. So much is at stake in a pluralistic world. Because truth, real Living Truth by definition transforms and sets us free.

Truth (with a capital T) transforms us and sets us free

Can you imagine going through life with Tyrannosaurus Rex arms?



You better be pretty fierce because you can't even tie your own shoes!

John 14:6

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

John 8:32

"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Acts 20:32 (The Message)

God's . . . gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need.

When you give into the truth of Christ it sets you free, you get long arms. You have confidence that what God asks of you, you can do. He will equip you with the truth that can confront the lies of a fallen world and an evil lying adversary.

I have mentioned on occasion that I long for us to be a 200 year church. That means that if Christ tarries in his return we will persevere. We will hold fast to the truth and we will boldly teach the truth. The US may not prevail for the next 200 years, but we still know that the church will prevail even against the gates of hell. I am planning on this church being a 200 year church so I believe I am teaching with 4 more generations in mind. I preach for my children, my children's children and for my children's children's children. I hope to meet my great grand-children someday and if they live a long life - they will be alive 200 years from the day of my birth. I want this church to be here for them and for their world. It turns out the last 60 years have gone pretty fast. We must be diligent and hold onto the truth with all our heart and soul and mind.

We are a teaching church. We teach the Bold Living Truth of the Word of Truth Incarnate. We advance the Kingdom of God by teaching and practicing and modeling the truth. 4Cs is the pillar and buttress of the truth and we teach with a love that leads the world back home.

Offering and Leon Keller interview

Benediction

Discussion Questions

Do you agree with Dave that the values that we hold are really important? How so?

Dave talked about identifying your five core values as a person. Let's take five minutes right now to list your five key life values. Also if you have a spouse and want to take a shot at it, see if you can predict their five highest values. Let's discuss these.

What kind of values, according to Scripture, should be the values of a Christian (can you give a verse to support that thought)? What values are inherently non-Christian? Are there value neutral values (values that don't really matter one way or another, i.e. how you crack an egg)? Can even these values get us into conflict with each other?

How do you feel about the five values of 4Cs? Can you remember them? There are five remember!!

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Is there something missing you feel strongly about? Can it fit into the stated 4Cs values somehow?

Dave was pretty bullish that being a Teaching Church in the 21st century was very important. Telling the truth about God and not compromising is critical, but saying the truth in love is just as critical. Do you think that being a truthful church will compromise our efforts at evangelism? How so or why not?

Who do you trust to tell you the truth? Do you have special people in your life that will speak truth into your life?

How can we as a community group move forward the value of being a teaching church? How can we step up our learning and teaching goals in this group?