

“God’s Unfolding Story ~ CORE VALUES” [1.27.08]

2 weeks ago we began our journey in the Book of Acts by looking into the inner workings of the very 1<sup>st</sup> church ever established.

As a result, God gave us a VISION of what He would like to recreate @ WRCC...

A church that Genuinely Loves One Another;

A church that is Biblically Relevant & Externally Focused!

That by God’s grace & prayer,

Lives in Authentic Community [here in Hamilton County]!

Last weekend we received our marching orders = our MISSION;

God instructs us to...

- EVANGELIZE the LOST
- BUILD MATURE DISCIPLES
- BE the HANDS & FEET of JESUS

Today, we will look @ our CORE VALUES!

Values drive & direct behavior = literally the rudder that steers the ship!

- They give us reasons why we do things;
  - @ times they are restrictive ~ they place boundaries around behavior!
  - EVENTUALLY, a person will pursue what that person loves!
  - This is why the central issue of values is summed up in what Jesus called the 1<sup>st</sup> & the greatest commandment: love God w/all your heart, soul, & mind. (Matthew 22:37)

Jesus told His disciples that the CORE VALUE - - the driving VALUE, the eternal VALUE behind everything we attempt @ the local church should be...

Does what I am doing please God?  
(Every other value is 2<sup>nd</sup> to that one!)

This is the baseline of our 12 CORE VALUES; these values will prayerfully create an Acts 2 atmosphere around WRCC!

Let’s PRAY [Please create a culture & climate that honors YOU!]

- I. 1st Core Value = Salvation ~ Jesus is the only way!
  - A. Jesus says, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.” [John 14: 6]
    - Jesus is the only way! Basic information for some of us, but for a majority of the world some in the church this is confusing information; many good people believe there are different paths that lead to God!

- George Barna found about 1 in 4 born-again Christian actually believe that it doesn't matter what faith you follow b/c they all teach same lessons.
    - 56% of non-Christians agree
  - B. Salvation is @ the very core of WRCC's identity!
    - WE BELIEVE ~ the kindest - - most humanitarian deed we can offer our neighbors & nations is the free gift of eternal life!
      - (R) Ephesians 2: 8 – 9 or p. 896 in pew Bible
- II. 2<sup>nd</sup> Core Value = Family ~ ministry begins in the home!
  - A. (R) I Timothy 5: 7 – 8 or p. 912 in pew Bible
  - B. WE BELIEVE ~ Families are under attack ~ if the enemy can destroy the home; the other battle lines in life quickly diminish ☹️
    - [insert] 6<sup>th</sup> grader's writing assignment, "I wish..."
  - C. All other ministries in the local church pale in comparison of importance to faithfully serving your family!
    - [insert] Russ Blowers ~ E. 91 St. Christian Church
- III. 3<sup>rd</sup> Core Value = Biblical Authority ~ the Bible is true & relevant!
  - A. (R) II Timothy 3: 16 – 17
  - B. WE BELIEVE every word - - sentence - - paragraph in this book; we accept every thought as being God breathed / without error!
  - C. (R) Hebrews 4: 12 – 13 or p. 922 in pew Bible
- IV. 4<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Respect ~ absolutely everyone matters to God!
  - A. I Peter 2: 17a instructs, "Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers & sisters."
  - B. KEEP it REAL!
    - Don't just act like you love others ~ stop pretending! It's time to come clean with God and repent; ask Him to break you of your pride; beg Him for compassion!
- V. 5<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Authentic Worship ~ loving God 24/7!
  - A. (R) Romans 12: 1 – 2 or p. 866 in pew Bible
  - B. We worship with our very lives!
    - Everything we do & say is an act of worship to God!

- We are learning that worship can not be isolated to a one hour event each week; if one hour Sunday is your only worship - - no wonder you leave as empty & hungry as when you came.
    - If we only ate one meal a week, we would die soon enough!
- C. WE BELIEVE that your life if filled with opportunities to honor God with your heart and attitude! That's authentic worship!
- VI. 6<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Excellence ~ God deserves our very best!
- A. Bible says, "...we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago!" [Ephesians 2: 10]
- B. Not perfection but excellence ~ nothing than our very best attempts!
- [insert] 99.9% results!
- C. WE BELIEVE that God deserves the very best!
- [insert] Helen Keller quote
- VII. 7<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Prayer ~ the most meaningful conversation of the day!
- A. (R) I John 5: 14 – 15 or p. 943 in pew Bible
- B. WE BELIEVE prayer is a privilege!
- Just utter the name of God and you instantaneously have an audience with the creator of the universe - - the lover of your souls = God the Father who longs to speak with you!
- C. Gift of intercession? Our prayer team needs godly intercessors!
- VIII. 8<sup>th</sup> Core Value = 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances ~ it's never to late to be who God created you to be!
- A. [insert] 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances analogies
- B. WE BELIEVE and HOLD ON TO...
- (R) I John 1: 8 - 9
- IX. 9<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Community ~ life is not a solo sport!
- Check out our homepage on our website [www.wrcc.org](http://www.wrcc.org) and listen to my message on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008!
    - It breaks God's heart when one of His children do life all by themselves ☹

- X. 10<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Balance ~ busyness is not a form of godliness!
- A. King Solomon wrote, "...for everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." [Ecclesiastes 3: 1]
- B. WE BELIEVE that God calls us to live differently than our culture!
- Balance is not dividing our time into equal parts; but instead its managing life in such a way that we don't neglect what is important!
- XI. 11<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Generosity ~ you can't out give God!
- A. Bible says, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!" [Malachi 3: 10]
- B. F.Y.I. moment = as a church!
- Our elders & pastors believe wholeheartedly that you can't outgive God!
    - We are unified for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since I've been in leadership @ WRCC; each leader sacrificially lives this value out in their personal lives!
  - Just this year [2008] WRCC has decided to test this timeless-biblical principle!
    - For years ~ WRCC has attempted to give away 11% of annual budget; it's time to move on to the next level.
    - In 2008 we will give away 15% of annual budget to benevolence & missions
      - In 2010 Lord willing we will give away 20% of annual budget
      - We are praying for wisdom in where God wants us to go next as a church; it's both exciting and a little apprehensive as consider where God will take us from 2010!
- C. WE BELIEVE the Bible teaches you can't outgive God!
- I challenge you to do what my wife and I do each year;
    - Revisit your present status in generosity ~ join WRCC and my family on this exciting spiritual journey of learning to give back to God!
    - Give by faith every paycheck and watch God work!
  - Bottom line ~ I've never met a former tither!
    - When people commit their resources to God...God does something miraculous in their lives!
- XII. 12<sup>th</sup> Core Value = Unity ~ combating the enemy, not one another!

A. Unity was a last moment insertion!

- God elevated this essential core value in the eleventh hour.
  - After some painful moments in the life of the church in the last 2 yrs. I've had my leadership values tested!
  - I randomly received an e-mail from an former elder in Tucson; a wonderful man of God; he wrote these painfully thought provoking words,

Jerry Goddard, "I'm through fighting my own guys = war w/in church!  
There's too much to do, if we know our place in the Kingdom, to be struggling w/each other."

- B. [Call to prayer] Ask God to protect His church & establish UNITY!
- C. (R) John 17: 21 - 23

God loves you and desires for you to spend eternity with Him forever!