

This is who we are

*Casting Vision 2020 – Part 2 – Our beliefs and our conduct
Feb 2020*

Background on the message

The Bible puts a **great emphasis** on how people should *behave* and how they treat one another. From the Old testament right through to the New Testament, we are provided with guidelines, principles and even commands that teach us how to express God's heart with those around us. We call this – **culture!**

Every person, family, organization, ministry and church has a culture by which it functions! Wherever you find people you will find that there is an operating culture among them. It is absolutely critical to understand that when culture is not predetermined and defined **it will define itself**. In fact, when culture is left to develop itself it will usually default to be a negative and toxic environment.

Culture is critically important particularly *when things go wrong*, or there is conflict within the midst. It is at that point that we must ensure that we have **standards** by which to navigate through difficult issues conflict and crisis. Without a predetermined culture, people will generally default to negative behavior, usually the worst part of who we are.

God provides the believer in Christ with instruction on how to treat people outside the church and those inside the church. The people inside the church are to be treated to the highest standard, in fact, they are to be seen and excepted as "family", the family of God.

Our objective is to obtain the culture of heaven, this is why Jesus taught us to pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done".

Main Passage - Scriptures

The Mystery of Godliness

1Ti 3:14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;

1Ti 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you **ought to conduct yourself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. (NKJV)

1Ti 3:14 I hope to visit you soon, but just in case I'm delayed, I'm writing this letter so

1Ti 3:15 you'll know how things ought to go in God's household, this God-alive church, bastion of truth.

1Ti 3:16 This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

1. What we believe – how we will conduct ourselves

- a. Core convictions/values
- b. Beliefs statement of beliefs- (hand out)
- c. 7 Pillars and (hand out)

What are core convictions/core values?

Our core convictions define the attributes that we consider critical and essential in order to fulfill our mandate. It is by these Biblical values that we operate the ministry and express the love of Christ.

They are...

- Attributes that determine how we conduct ourselves
- They determine how we will treat one another - STANDARDS
- Convictions and values – define the culture
 - **Convictions** – *what we really believe*
 - **Values** – *what is important to us*
- Core values should be individual and corporate
- They should be based on Biblical values

Additional thoughts about culture

- Culture is determined by the type of people you allow in your circle
- The church should have the best culture in any organization on the face of the earth
- A healthy Culture takes work, it does not come automatically

"Conduct" Scriptures

2 Cor 1:12

For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

Ephesians 2:3

among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (NKJV)

Luk 6:31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

Core Convictions

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EXCELLENCE

Serving God and His people with the highest standards and exceeding expectations

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for people. - Colossians 3:23

- Excellence – and perfection are not the same thing

HONOUR AND RESPECT

Recognizing and acknowledging the call and worth of individuals within the Body of Christ

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you.
1 Thessalonians 5:12

TEAMWORK

United in faith and action for the purpose of achieving one common goal

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace- Ephesians 4:3

PASSION

Serving God and His people with fervor and joy

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. - Colossians 3:17

- The word for “enthusiasm” in the Greek is translated – spiritual

TRAINING

Commitment to learning, development and growth

Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12

- People development and investment

STEWARDSHIP

The highest accountability with all resources

But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel...

1 Thes. 2:4

- Managing resources granted to you by God

GENEROSITY

Charity that comes from the heart and is applied with liberality

The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself. - Prov. 11:25

- Generosity breaks the power of greed and selfishness in our lives

The Seven Pillars

1. The Holy Bible (2 Tim 3:16-17)

“The inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God”

2. Prayer (Col 4:2-3)

“Dialogue with the Father through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit”

3. The great commission (Matt 28:19-20)

“The heartbeat of the Father is people; Christ Died for the souls of mankind”

4. The church (Col 1:17-18)

“The community of the saints, united in vision, faith and purpose”

5. Worship (John 4:24)

“Let all things be done for the praise, glory and fame of His great name”

6. The cross of Christ (1 Cor 1:18-19)

“The “finished” redemptive work of God for humanity”

7. The love of God (Mark 12:29-31)

“Love; the very essence and being of God ”

Quotes

Culture

“Culture eats strategy for breakfast.”

“Bad culture outweighs good gifting”.

Culture is the climate, if the culture is not conducive, good things will not be accomplished.