Upon this rock

Core values

# **Sermon description**

If we are going to create and live with in a healthy and positive culture we must insure that we define core values that will uphold what we believe.

# **Sermon Questions**

1. What do they need to know?
   1. Values define culture
2. Why do they need to know it?
   1. Culture will be impacted by what we deem to be important
3. How will they apply it?
   1. Individual, family, organization, business, culture should be created and documented
4. Is there a call to action?
   1. Develop personal values

# **OPENING LINE**

***Have you ever stopped to consider your core convictions, in other words what you really believe in in the core of your being when it comes to conduct? If you have, can you articulate them, can you communicate them to others, what would you say are your top 3 to 5?***

# **CENTRAL TRUTH/ BIG IDEA**

*Core values define culture! People live and abide according to the culture that is created and established. When we speak about culture we are talking about the conduct of people within an organization, a family, or a church. We can even go so far as to say that individuals have culture, and they bring this to the table wherever they go and interact with others. In other words, values create culture, which intern impacts how people behave and treat others. Usually, these values start at the top, with the leader and ultimately trickle down to the company, organization and even a family setting. However, if leadership and strength is lacking at the top then the culture can be impacted even by those in the very lowest parts of it.*

*When we reference the term “core values or core convictions”, we are really talking about our attributes that define culture. Wherever you have people you have culture. It is critical that culture is defined, otherwise it will define itself. Just because you believe something doesn’t mean you’re applying it or living by it. There are many factors that upset the apple cart sort to speak.*

*Needless to say, that we need to be intentional about ensuring that our culture is clear and communicated for all to understand and follow. If, however core values have never been documented and articulated what standard will people live up or down to? The truth is that in a vacuum of core values, people will lower their standards and adapt their own beliefs and systems. This is especially true when conflicts and problems arise; somebody once said, “when the pressure is on, we resort to the worst of who we are”. It is easy to slip down a path with less or fewer standards. In other words, we may behave in a way that we don’t even believe in or even desire to.*

*Therefore, the culture must always be continuously evaluated to ensure that people abide by what has been laid out before them. If things begin to go off the rails, people should be held accountable to what has been communicated. However, if you identify the fruit of the culture without recognizing the core values are at the root of the problem you will miss the bigger picture. Culture never stands alone, but it is upheld by core beliefs. It is these core beliefs that create the structure of culture, give it strength, and give it life. They must be communicated, clear and provide direction.*

*At times, people will not be happy with the culture, they may even want to change it and go another direction, but it’s virtually impossible unless you change the very heart and soul of the organization.* Therefore, core values indicate the way we treat one another and how we operate within our relationships. In other words, if we are governed with the right core convictions we will treat people according to those values no matter how they treat us.

**God has values – the Trinity**

Have you ever wondered why the Trinity lives in perfect harmony and is always at peace and on the same page? Because they abide by the values they have communicated to the earth through the gospel of the Kingdom.

The Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit abide in unbroken unity because they are governed by core values. Their culture of humility, honor, and respect allow them to affirm one another rather than be in competition with one another. Therefore, the abide in perfect unity and love rather than destructive competition.

The Kingdom of heaven operates according to the central convictions that reside within God Himself. It is what makes heaven the most incredible place anywhere and in any universe. Therefore, the citizens of heaven enjoy the fruit of the nature of God and His attributes. It is for those very reason that we are taught to pray “they kingdom come, thy will be done’. The values of the Kingdom of God are supreme!

**When culture goes wrong**

It’s not that the world does not have Core values, but rather they have chosen to live by convictions that oppose the righteous will of God. Instead of submitting to the laws of God. They have created their progressive thoughts and instilled values that fly in the face of a holy God and his book. In fact, in the recent past, we have watched the following values change:

* The removal of the sacred and replaced with false spirituality
* The re-definition of marriage
* The legislation of sin
* The legislation of death
* Adoption of children by non-heterosexual couples
* Gender Dysphoria policies
* Acts of violence and abuse against the church - Churches, burned or confiscated and fined
* Sexual norms re-defined
* The Bible become hater literature
* Pastors arrested for holding church
* Removal of parental authority
* Mandates of Covid 10 vaccine

Jesus came all the way from heaven to teach and communicate the values of the Kingdom of heaven. Consider some of His teachings, parables and examples.

# **Parables and teaching of Jesus that communicate core values**

* The parable of the prodigal son
* The good Samaritan
* The two sons
* Go the 2nd mile
* The beatitudes
* The parable of forgiveness
* The parable of the talents

# **READING – MAIN PASSAGE**

Php 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

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.

# **INTRODUCTION OF SERMON**

# The Godhead, normally people that are incredibly talented and gifted I’ll find themselves in competition with others. Always jostling for position, recognition don’t even praise. However, it is amazing that the Godhead, father son and Holy Spirit are incredibly united despite being awesome.

# **TRANSITION STATEMENT**

***Unless you define your core values, they will be defined for you, something is going to fill the vacuum and eventually express the culture.***

***The early church in the book of Acts displayed the culture of the Kingdom. They stood in the midst of their society and were envied.***

# **MAIN POINTS**

# Core Convictions

*Our core convictions define the attributes that we consider critical and essential to fulfill our mandate. It is by these Biblical values that we operate the ministry and express the love of Christ. In other words, our conduct of Christ followers is governed by the core values that come from God Himself.*

**World changers and their values**

I recently read an article that there are three core values that world changers possess, ***risk, courage, and perseverance.***

**EXCELLENCE -** Serving God and His people with the highest standards and exceeding expectations

* Excellence is…
  + Exceeding peoples expectations
  + Creating the wow factor
  + That which stands out above and beyond
  + Excelling beyond the average and the status quo

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for people.*

Colossians 3:23

**HONOUR AND RESPECT** Recognizing and acknowledging the call and worth of individuals within the Body of Christ

* **Honour** - To function in the spirit of respect, integrity and to highly esteem one another, to create a culture that fosters worth, value and identity
  + [John 14:28]28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.
* [Rom 12:10-11] - 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (NLT)
* *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 common goals

* Teamwork is…
  + Unity that comes through the spirit
  + Synergizing gifts annoying tunes and abilities for the common good
  + The convergence of the blessed hope that is found in Christ
  + The fellowship of the community of believers

*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

* Passion is…
  + An energetic approach to ministry
  + An enthusiastic attitude towards what needs to be accomplished
  + A fervor that is contagious and attractive to others

*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

**TRAINING** Commitment to learning, development and growth

* Training means…
  + An apostolic approach of leadership, to gather to train and to send out
  + Investing in people, including information knowledge and impartation
  + The development of peoples call, gift, and anointing

*Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.*

Proverbs 23:12

**STEWARDSHIP** The highest accountability with all resources

* Stewardship is…
  + The careful management of the resources that have been granted to us
  + The management of all things with the highest level of integrity and accountability
  + The growth and development of all resources
  + And understanding that one day we will give an account for God for what was given to us

*But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel…* 1 Thes. 2:4

**GENEROSITY -** Charity that comes from the heart and is applied with liberality

* Generosity is…
  + Displaying the heart of the father when it comes to giving
  + Always looking for an opportunity to bless others
  + The ability to conquer selfishness, and look also at the interest of others
  + Demonstrating the love and care of the Father through distribution of wealth and or resources

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

# **QUOTES**

*It’s not so much that the world lacks core values but rather that some of them are twisted, focussed on being godless and sin embracing.*

*You cannot change culture unless you define core values*

*When feelings are valued to such an extent that they override facts and truth, you quickly lose touch with reality, science and even biology.*

*When the pressure is on, we usually resort to the worst of who we are*

*Satan tried to change the culture of Heaven, therefore, God threw him out*

*Organizational Culture becomes critical when things go bad.*

*You cannot mandate common sense*

*A vast majority of people would rather be ruled than to lead themselves*

*God will use anybody and anything when the church won't stand up*

*The war we are watching now is a battle of values*

*The values of the world produce slavery*

# **The Call to action**

Identify and the five the top 3 to 5 cover values for your own life and your own organization

# **Discussion questions**

1. List your top 3-5 core values and explain each one.
2. What would you say were the core values of the early church in the book of Acts.
3. Consider and discuss some of the fruit the early church produced.
4. How did Daniel display excellence – what made him stand out.
5. How does the Trinity express honour and respect amongst each other?
6. Whys does the NT indicate that we should out due one another in giving, good works and honour?
7. How is building people part of discipleship – can you provide Biblical examples.
8. How are stewardship and generosity connected?

**Spiritual - Keys 2022**

**Jan 22/22**

1. **Script** 
   1. **Live life according to the script that has been written for you** 
      1. **Jesus lived his life on “script”**
2. **Inheritance** 
   1. **Ask God for your mountain in 2022** 
      1. **What are you asking for in 2022?**
      2. **– will come through warfare**
   2. **God said to Jesus – “ask of Me” and I will give you the nations ….**
3. **Live beyond the veil** 
   1. **God has granted access into His Holy presence through the work of the cross in Christ Jesus** 
      1. **God opened His treasure – He tore the veil in two**
      2. **Romans – we have access**
4. **Be Brave ab courageous - “Another” spirit – Caleb** 
   * 1. **Three things about Caleb** 
        1. **Be Valiant – the sound of being valiant**

* + - * 1. **Great awakening – be valiant - be bold be brave – courage that comes from the Spirit of God**
        2. **Fearless and Unapologetic – your argument is not with me it’s with God**
    1. **Strength for war Longevity -– “as strong today as I was”** 
       1. **Place a demand on your strength - Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might**
       2. **And they don’t know their God shall be strong and do great exploits**
    2. **UNDIVIDED – “Wholly follow the Lord” - Our heart full and fixed on the Word of the Lord** 
       1. **Don’t let your heart melt**