



VALUES OVERVIEW

So having begun to craft our vision and answer the question “Where is God taking us?” we’re going to turn to the question of “What will it look like as we head there?”, which is a question of VALUES. To answer this question for your church, we’ve split the question into two sections - both of which need articulation.

If you were to sit down with a Bible and your launch team and answer the question “We want to be a people and a community that...”, what would you come up with?

As we've done this exercise with people, the answers tend to fall into two categories:

Firstly, characteristics that spring directly from the Bible, and which most churches will land on in some form. For example,

- “we want to be a community that is shaped by God’s Word”
- “we want to be a community that genuinely loves one another and wants to grow to be like Jesus”
- “we want to be a community that longs to see those who don’t know Jesus come to know him.”

These are summaries of consistent threads that we see in the Bible that describe disciples of Jesus, and the people who inhabit God’s church. We might express these differently in different churches, or have a different emphasis on some, but they’re characteristics that most Christians and Churches would agree are the kinds of people the Bible is calling us to be.

Secondly, characteristics that, while grounded on your biblical convictions, are shaped by your context, culture and even your leadership style. For example,

- “we want to raise up the next generation of leaders for our mission here and throughout the world”
- “we’re committed to the team over and above ourselves”.

These might be things that other churches nod their head and agree with, but which may not sit at the heart of what shapes them in the pursuit of their vision.

These two categories of values allow us to both articulate the kind of disciples and Christian community the Bible is calling us to be, as well as describing the cultural and contextual distinctives that this church will embody, and that will shape decision making and emphasis.

In the next two sections we’re going to unpack these two categories in more detail.



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