

Life Notes *Understanding Our Core Values*

with Pastor Stephen

Core Value #4 – Culturally Relevant Environments

- We believe our role is to convey eternal truth by creating a variety of environments that are appealing and relevant to every generation while also being conducive to the work of the Holy Spirit.

What does this Core Value Mean?

- While we believe the Gospel is already relevant to every culture and is transgenerational, we also realize the message can be presented in ways that are more appealing and effective to particular audiences. This has been likened to reframing a favorite photograph for use in various rooms of our home. The picture itself (the message) remains the same, but the frame (the presentation style) may differ depending on the room in which the picture is hung. The photograph would remain the same whether in the family room, bedroom, or a formal living room, but the frame might be significantly different.
- Therefore, music preferences, service structure, and even preaching style may vary from setting to setting, but every gathering is designed to present a clear message of the Gospel, the Spirit-filled lifestyle, and a Biblical Worldview.
- With this in mind, we will not be judgmental of worship styles or preferences in liturgy. We honor the distinctives of other truly Christian congregations.

Why is this Core Value important?

- **The danger of ignoring this Core Value:**
 - Without this understanding, we are in danger of poorly representing the message of Christianity, or perhaps misrepresenting it by irrelevant practices.

- A word of caution here. We do not believe “old styles” or traditional worship is unappealing or an incorrect way to conduct church. Every congregation must find their own mission and their own comfort zone of expression. One of the great mistakes in many church growth movements is the criticism of those whose style is different from our own.

- **The principle we embrace:**

- We will make the presentation of God’s Word as appealing as possible, yet we will never intentionally compromise the Message.
- Our mission is to make people comfortable with each other, while being fully attentive to the presence and power of God Almighty. Paul recognized both the goodness and severity of The Lord, and so should we.

How can I make this Core Value part of my life?

- By being flexible and welcoming of all appropriate expressions of worship.
- By embracing new ideas that better enable us to present the Message of the Kingdom.
- By fully committing to the preservation of the pure Gospel in all of our endeavors.

The result of believing this Core Value:

- We will continue to be an effective voice in our culture.
- We will continue “Building Godly Generations” as we adjust the message to every age group in our family.
- The more we embrace the idea of culturally relevant environments, the greater will be our influence in our city.