

Mostly Personal...

Loved Ones, let's continue our look at our Core Values. So far we've discussed **Biblical Authority, Intimacy with God, The Lord's Empowering Presence, and Pastors who are Servant Leaders**. Last week we covered **Partners In Ministry and Authentic Community**. Today we will finish up with our final three Core Values: **Intentional Apprenticing, Relational Evangelism, and Culturally Relevant Environments**.

7. Intentional Apprenticing - We believe the key to the success of *Building Godly Generations* is intentional apprenticing. Every experienced follower of Christ is responsible for passing along to others the knowledge, skills, and opportunities for service that God, through others, entrusted to them.

- A. Reliable studies have indicated that in the average church, 20% of the people do 80% of the work. If these percentages are accurate (and I think they generally are), then we have to base our future plans on one of two proposed courses of action. The first plan (the one usually followed) is to appreciate and encourage those members of the 20% workforce, praying fervently that they don't burn out before the job is done. The second approach is to change the statistical average. We choose the second option. We believe this is what Jesus was pointing toward when He said, "The harvest is abundant but there aren't enough workers. Therefore you should ask the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to get the job done."
- B. At Christian Life, we believe every worker should make every effort to find an apprentice – one who can be trained and utilized for the work of the Kingdom of God through Christian Life. If you've been here long, you've noticed three things about our ministry teams:
 - During the membership process, every attempt is made to help you identify your spiritual gifts and to help you get plugged in to a place of service based on those skills and our Ministry Covenant.
 - People as young as elementary school ages are utilized as leaders and helpers wherever possible. Service opportunities are enhanced in the Junior and Senior High ministries. By young adulthood, each child has been taught the importance of ministry, and is poised for a lifetime of service as they move into the larger church environment.
 - Within the context of services and small group settings, members are continually given opportunities to serve and assist as needs arise.
- C. Not every place of service is high profile. Some are almost entirely *behind the scenes*, but we believe there is a place of ministry for every member of the Christian Life family.

8. Relational Evangelism - We believe all Christ-followers have the responsibility of intentionally sharing the Gospel within their network of

relationships.

- A. We believe the marching orders of Christ's Church are found in some of the words of Jesus known as the Great Commission: "Go into all the world and preach the Good News of the Gospel. Make disciples by teaching them to live by and obey all the words I have spoken to you." Matthew 28:18, 19.
 - B. We believe the Gospel should be proclaimed by all possible means. We believe in mass evangelism, preaching and teaching, power encounters, counseling, the use of the printed page, and by all electronic means. No general service is ever dismissed without giving seekers an invitation to respond to Jesus. However, we believe the most effective means of evangelism is the result of one-on-one sharing, usually within the context of relationships that occur outside the walls of the church building.
 - C. We believe most who come to Jesus will do so because of the witness of a friend or neighbor. The Lord may use many components that work together to bring that person to a decision for Christ, but we know of nothing as effective as friends reaching friends.
- 9. Culturally Relevant Environments** - We believe our role is to convey eternal truth by creating a variety of environments that are relevant to every generation and conducive to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- A. While Christian Life is not a *seeker-driven* ministry, we do make every effort to be *seeker-friendly*. We do not believe it is the mission of the church to become like the culture around us; we believe the church of Jesus Christ is, in effect, *counter cultural*. Yet we strive to arrange the message of the Gospel in a setting that is appealing to the culture in which we live and age-appropriate to each particular gathering.
 - B. Methods and styles may change, but the message of Jesus is always relevant. We do not present a different Jesus to each generation. The portrait of our Savior is eternal and unchanging, but the picture frame presenting the portrait may look a little different in each setting!

I hope the discussion of these nine Core Values has been helpful in your understanding of who Christian Life is and why we do some of the things we do. For more information or to receive all the Mostly Personal articles on this topic, call the church office at 803-798-4488 or visit us online at christianlifecolumbia.com

I love you all,
Pastor Stephen