

## Reset

### Week 2: Core Values Part 2

You know **when something isn't working** right on any device. What does that highly paid **IT person** tell you to do? Unplug it count to five and plug it back in. This allows the device to reset. I did this recently with our TV.

Today we are pushing the reset button.

**Come and See** class does the same thing on an even deeper level. It's not too late to join! Dive in! **Foundations class** is also beginning soon.

If you are **visiting today**, either in person or online, don't turn off the livestream. This is a great opportunity to see what Eagle Ridge Church of God is really about.

**If you were here last week this is a bit of a review.** We need to establish our vision or strategy before we get to our core values. It will make sense in a minute. If you were here last week feel free to see if you can remember these. **(Give a prize)**

**We want to be...outwardly focused.**

We believe that **Jesus meant it** when He gave us the Great Commission

[Mat 28:19-20 NLT] 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

His mission is our mission and **it is not in here.** We must **GO** outside the walls of these buildings. Into every **nook and cranny**, every crack and crevice of society

We want to develop **people who represent Jesus** "out there."

**We are ambassadors, or human bridges.** [2Co 5:20 NLT] So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" We are to be the **link between** God and the people we meet

We want to be a church of **disciples who make disciples**, not **run programs that we hope by default** will make disciples. Programs have an end to them, and our growth as disciples never ends.

- o When does it happen, what night? Wrong question.

We want to be **building bridges into our community** so that people can walk across them and find their way back to God.

We build bridges **individually** where God has placed.

We build bridges **collectively** as a church

- o Cultivate in the mall and soon in Sanford and Eureka Springs, AR
- o Allowing our buildings to be used for purposes other than "church". Counseling, Young Lives

® **But when a vision of what we could be and a strategy of how to get there comes into conflict with an established culture that is contrary to the vision, here's what happens.**

- Vision is what you **say you value**
  - **Culture is how you actually think, speak, and act**
  - Culture is what you do **without thinking, it's natural**
- Culture always wins. It's not even a fair fight.

**Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado** we visited when the kids were young. **"We value treating people as if they aren't a distraction particularly when they are somewhere they don't want to be."** Therefore

we do not point. I saw that **over and over on screens** in the waiting room. But do they actually act that way.

**When we started down this road**, with a vision of being an outward-focused, disciple-making church, the culture of Eagle Ridge Church of God was **self-protective, consumer-oriented, in-grown, focused on feeding the people here first**, and focused on our own comfort because we knew everyone. **We were fearful of losing people wanting to protect what we had. We, I was afraid to make hard decisions.**

The most dangerous phrase in any language is **"We've always done it that way"**. That's culture speaking

® **In order for Eagle Ridge to become an outward-focused, disciple-making church, we needed to change our culture**

® **One of the ways to confront and change the culture is to define key values that represent the culture we want.**

- We started **using language** that represented the new culture
- We started **celebrating the things** that resonate with the new culture

® **Then over time our attitudes and behaviors began to reflect those values. These are our core values.**

**This fall, we are once again living in a different world**

We have come out of a **pandemic** but much damage has been done in addition to **loss of life and economic hit**. There have been **families & churches broken apart over mask mandates and vaccines**. The time we spent in **isolation during the lockdown heightened many people's fear, anxiety, and depression**. People got **angry** and have stayed angry...More about that later this fall.

Politically divided and angry culture...Steph Leppien's run for school board.

Ⓡ As the church, it is more important than ever that we know how to live in this world, which means we cannot forget our mission, our priorities, our values because someone convinces us to follow a different mission, set of values...

Outwardly-focused...Ambassadors for Jesus "out there"..  
As disciples who make disciples...Building bridges into our community

Ⓡ This requires that we be vigilant that we don't fall into bad habits and attitudes, building moats rather than bridges.

It is also critically important that we (Eagle Ridge Church of God) are on the same page in terms of how we believe God calls us to live and interact with the world around us, as it is now not how we wish it was.

Review first 2 Core Values...

The first core value is that **We want to be children of God who are...Real**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my **power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.** 2 Cor. 12:9-10

- In order for Eagle Ridge to create a culture where its people are real, it begins with...**Being open to share my brokenness**

**Ready to be changed**

This is the **next logical step** after our first core value, "real". If we stop at "Real" then we are simply doing what the world around us is saying, "you do you."

Once we stop **faking, hiding, or making excuses** we must be **ready to be someone different.**

If we refuse, doesn't this deny the power of God to transform and bring new life??? Already shared the **Great Commission**. Go and make disciples. Teach these new disciples to obey everything I've commanded  
"A disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus."

This is the picture of being totally in or giving one's **allegiance** to Jesus. It's **head, heart, and hands**. Jesus wants to change the way you **think (head)**, what you **desire at your core (heart)** and how you **live or behave (hands)**.

Let's go back to the idea of a **growth vs. a fixed mindset**. Fixed: I am what I am, and nothing will change me. Growth: I am capable of changing and being changed, of becoming more like Jesus.

So, how do we become ready to change? **Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2**

**Did anyone get all of the fill-ins correct, (without cheating)?**

Now we for the rest of our core values...**Relational in our approach to everything**

- **It's the mission not a strategy**

**God Himself is all about relationships.**

**God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...**Each in complete and total relationship with the others.

Listen to the relational language in these passages of Scripture: <sup>7</sup> **As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children.** <sup>8</sup> **We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.** <sup>9</sup> **Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you.** <sup>10</sup> **You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless**

toward all of you believers. <sup>11</sup> And you know that we treated each of you as a **father** treats his own **children**. <sup>12</sup> We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory. 1 Thess. 2:7-12

**The Word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

**And of course Jesus is the epitome of a relational, incarnational ministry.**

Jesus did not try to get thousands of people into a coliseum at Rome so he could proclaim the gospel on a platform of power that was already recognized by the world around him. He did not "restore the Kingdom to Israel" in a way that made sense to his Jewish contemporaries. He focused instead on a handful of disciples. He focused on loving those the Father placed before him, both for the sake of love itself, and to reveal the generous heart of God. He focused on humanizing those whom God the Father had placed before him, on treating them with honor, on hearing their stories, and on proclaiming the reign of God in them, around them, and through them. Our work, like Jesus' work, is simply to love others—those people Jesus has placed (or will place) in our life, not to save the world. In other words, life as an adopted child of God always leads to life as an ambassador of the Kingdom of God in the life we are already living. *Learning to Live and Love Like Jesus, Brandon Cook pg.46*

**Real, ready to be changed, relational...**Our last core value is that we want to be children of God who...Release what we want to hold on to. It's like this...(open hands)

**It's about giving up control**

- o Over money, autonomy, time, relationships
- o It's also about giving up anger, bitterness, resentment, hate, prejudice, and a whole host of other **attitudes that do not reflect the character of God**

Here's God's character. **The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.**  
**<sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.**  
**<sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.** **<sup>5</sup> You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.** **<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23**

**Do I think that a God who is loving and generous would tell me to release my money, my time, my autonomy, my relationships, and my attitudes, and then not meet my needs?**

**Ⓜ I know this sounds ridiculous but obeying always works. It's rarely easy (at first, anyway) and it's not often cheered by those around us.**

To release is the **opposite of hoard and consume**

Release **implies trust** in the one who is telling you to let go.

When I release it means I know that **God owns my money, my time, my autonomy, and my relationships.**

**Hoard and consume implies fear** that the one telling me to release these **doesn't love me and doesn't know what is best for me.**

**All sin is based upon the belief** that God isn't good and he is holding out on me. There is something good that he won't let me have.

**If I'm the king of my own kingdom** then it's my stuff and I should have it available for my **consumption.**

**"But I might need this later."**

**Hoarding and consuming creates a lot of waste that starts to stink after a while.**

Watched a TV show about this **hoarder lady in England** who wanted a better relationship with her son and grandkids. She wanted them to come over to her house but that was impossible because it was filled with stuff that she thought she needed.

® **Releasing (or sending) is like deodorant for what will make us stink to those around us who don't know Christ.**

**What we release, God can multiply**

As a church, we have been working to **flip the script** on how we “**keep score**”

**What we squeeze loses value, what we release to God can multiply and increase in value.** It's like a kid squeezing a chocolate bar so he doesn't have to share. Or hides it in his pocket. What happens? It melts and even if you put it in the freezer it never tastes the same.

**Releasing: We will be responsible stewards of the financial resources God blesses us with, but we will continue to support our missionaries and invest in the people and the ministries that are making disciples. We will trust that God will supply our needs.**

**Hoarding: We get anxious when we aren't continually adding new people and seeing our numbers grow from week to week**

**Releasing: We celebrate when people leave us in response to a call from God to go and make disciples**

- o Tammy
- o The Gisels

**A hoarding or accumulating church is a lake church. In a lake church the people flow in and stay. The goal is more people around 1 pastor.**

A releasing or sending church is a **river church**. In a river church people instead flow in and then continue downstream.

**We measure the flow instead of the total volume.** (pg 85)

**Here's the problem with a lake church**--If you dam up the river to make a lake, the folks downstream don't have access to the resources the river provides.

- We measured **how many people we sent to Beaverton**.
- Josie to Hope Church
- We are measuring how many people we send to **Cultivate**.
- We are multiplying **Cultivate into two new locations**

The hoarding mentality gives us a feeling that **everything is ok because we see this sanctuary in Beaverton and the FLC in Midland filled**. But we have been learning that it's not about making sure these rooms are at capacity on a Sunday morning

It's about how we are releasing our **best resources and best people**, which may mean these rooms look sparsely populated.

See if you can see multiplication and sending in these 2 verses. **Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.** 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Four generations of disciples in this verse. Paul-Timothy-trustworthy people-those they "pass them on to", "others". You have and will continue to hear us saying that we want to become a church of disciples who make disciples to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation. This is the verse behind that phrase.

**Pushing the reset button**

**What have I devalued?**

As we have gone through these core values **has the Holy Spirit nudged you about one where you are lacking?** Maybe it's **because of some hurt or brokenness** caused in your formative years. If it **hurts or you feel guilt**

because you really aren't expressing one of these values in the way you live please understand that **the Holy Spirit is bringing it up because his job is to transform** you into the person you were intended to be. Not only that but when you start in small ways learning to live one of these values **your efforts are helping us all to have this kind of culture.**

The challenge is to **do one thing** that shows that you want to begin valuing what you have been lacking.

- **Real, authentic**
- **Ready to be changed**
- **Relational**
- **Release what I want to hold on to**

**All 4 of these push against our flesh.** We want to pretend or manage others' perceptions. We resist change in ourselves and call for it in others. We are moving more and more away from a relational culture. We want relationships that benefit us. We want to squeeze and hoard not release because **we are selfish and we crave control.** Therefore we cannot do them without the Holy Spirit.

Back to the hospital in Colorado Springs... I asked a man in scrubs where the restroom was. The man walked me to the men's room door. That is when vision and culture align. **We can't have this kind of culture if we aren't allowing God to challenge us to be more of these 4 things.** It will be just words on a paper or screen. **Not the hospital in Colorado.**

**Ask God to do this in me** as a part of his transformation of my life.