

ACCESS Course

Session 4. Access CCE Values

Learning Outcome; To look at and taste what goes 'right through the cake' of all we do, the ingredients of our life together in Jesus that make us taste and look like CCE. What's important to us, 'what we value..'

Values: What we care about, what is important to us. Values set the tone, and determine the culture of CCE.

Culture: "the way we do things round here..."

Grace and Honour

Jesus came full of grace and truth – the full revelation of the grace or kindness of God.

He fully accepts us, not dependant on our merit or behaviour.

*"There is nothing we can do that will make Him love us more.
There is nothing we can do that will make Him love us less."*

God doesn't withdraw relationship with us, when we don't make good choices, but He patiently walks with us, calling us to a better way. He doesn't transgress our will, but respects our choices.

Therefore:

- We seek to treat people with the grace He treats us with. To accept people as they are.
- We don't call wrong, right – but we seek to treat people with kindness and love, even when they make mistakes.
- We seek to see the dignity of everyone, to see the best in them, and call that out in them.
- We walk with people to clear up their mistakes, seeking to help them to take responsibility for their own lives.
- While we will and value that others might have wisdom to offer on choices we might make, we respect the choices that each of us makes, even when we don't always agree, or think it is the best choice.

Relationship and authenticity

God is community – three in one, distinct but in perfect relationship with one another. The Trinity invite us into relationship with Him, and then into relationship with one-another.

Therefore we:

- Value relationships before function – we invite people into the community, and then help them find a place to contribute.

- We work relationally with people beyond us – seeking not to ‘hit and run’ but to build relationship with people that allows us to built together over the longer term
- We value honest, real relationships, where we move beyond the superficial or ‘super-spiritual’ but open up our hearts to others as we are able.
- We recognise that structures and programs are necessary and important, but they are to serve people and the life that God gives us together.

Unity and Diversity

In the Trinity, we recognise that there are three distinct persons, but also one. There is unity and diversity.

We also recognise that God has made human beings different, with different personalities, experiences, gifts, and worldviews. When these people come together in the body of Christ, we are called to be together, to bring our differences so that we might fully reflect the Father, and effectively participate in His mission. This oneness in Christian community is important.

But we never lose our differences. We aren’t the same. It means we read Scripture differently, have different beliefs and opinions, different priorities, and views. Community doesn’t mean conformity. It does mean learning to love when we disagree, to be curious about the other, even if we believe they might be wrong. It is enabling space to breathe.

Therefore we:

- Sometimes, we lay down our individual rights for the sake of something larger. We prefer others, things more highly of others, serve others, and submit one-to-another.
- When we disagree, we seek to be curious about the other person, and their views, even if we think they might be wrong.
- We celebrate the differences we find in others, not insisting others have to be like us or think like us, and therefore freeing ourselves to be who we are called to be.

Generosity and Service to Others

We model our call to be generous on God’s self-giving generosity. Jesus exemplified this in his ultimate self-giving on the cross, pouring himself out for the benefit of others.

Therefore we:

- Whatever our role in CCE, it is to serve others, not for our personal gain.
- Seek to love, serve and empower people.
- Seek the Kingdom, not to make a name for ourselves or build an empire.
- Seek to be generous with our time, money and gifts, in our serving the Kingdom.

To Discuss; - What do you resonate with in what you heard tonight?

- What makes you puzzled or question in what was said?
- In your CCE journey so far, do you see any of these values in action? In what way?