

Defined by Our Values: Intentional

The Values that Define Us

We seek to be a community of loving, praying disciples of Jesus who are:

Grounded in Scripture

Relevant

Authentic

Compassionate

Intentional

Open

United

Spirit Led

Intentionality

- In the Church's work of building God's kingdom, we must be focused
 - We can hardly be successful in being disciples if we are not disciplined (1 Cor. 9:24-27)
- Discipline should NOT be a dirty word associated with some kind of punishment
 - But rather, intentional training of the heart, mind, soul, and body to better love Jesus and others (1 Tim. 4:7-10; Luke 10:27)
- This consists both personal discipline
 - Which includes of exercises that promote growth in our relationship and reliance on God
 - Daily devotional reading; Dedicated time in prayer; Giving; Serving
- And corporate disciplines
 - Fellowship; Communal prayer; Sharing testimony of God's work in our lives; Celebration & mourning
- Both these types of disciplines lead to intentional, missional living

The Enemies of Intentionality

- Personal Preference: "I do/don't like that, so we should/shouldn't do it."
- Tradition: "That is/isn't how we done it in the past. So, we should/shouldn't do that way now."
- Comfort: "I feel comfortable/uncomfortable with this. So, we should/shouldn't do it"
- There is nothing wrong with having preferences, enjoying traditions, or being comfortable in and of themselves
- But, these ways of thinking do not put our God-given mission as the Church in the central place it needs to be when it comes to how or why we do/don't do anything
 - And it places our wants over the needs of others to whom we are called to ministry
 - Both within the Church body, and those outside the Church whom we are called to reach with the love of Christ

- There is a place for preference, tradition, and comfort
 - It just isn't the driver's seat

The Solution

- We must be mindful of our motivations
- We must surrender our desires to what God desires, both personally and corporately
- We must ask the question, "How does this fit with God's mission for me/us?"

So What?

- Are we living our lives intentionally to glorify God and draw others to Him?

Meditation Verse: 1 Timothy 4:7b-8