

2:8

Our 2:8 message series focuses on the six cultural values we've chosen here at New Covenant. The title comes from 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you have become dear to us." This verse embodies the culture we long to live out. Cultural values are important and crucial because they are the "how" of accomplishing our mission: We Pursue + Practice. We want to continually practice our cultural values to help us to create the heart and environment where we not only share the Gospel of God but our lives as well.

Pastor Jay Haugh

Message 1: *Cultural Values*

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Big Idea: We can deny with our culture what we declare with our message.

Pursue God

In this series our focus is on the spiritual discipline of Meditation in your pursuit of God.

"We should stop to reflect and to treasure the words, to turn them over and over in our minds, repeating them until the truth which they contain trickles from our head into our hearts." Joyce Huggett

Meditate on these two verses

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (Our theme verse)

Psalm 1:1-6

Pursue Others

Throughout this message we are going to invite you to reflect on our cultural values. This may be a new, different, and possibly uncomfortable experience. We are praying you will lean into this experience and God will use it for incredible individual and group growth. Spend some time with your group this week looking closely at our cultural values. The more detail and time you spend this week with question #1, the more benefit you will get from the rest of the series.

1. Pretend for a minute that you wake up tomorrow morning and fully embody [insert all cultural values here]. Something has happened in the night and you are now the most [insert cultural value here] a person could be. What would be different? How would you know? What would it feel like? How would you act? Share details about your day and your actions.
2. Which of these cultural values comes easiest? Explain
3. Which of these cultural values is the most difficult? Explain

4. Where do you see Jesus modeling these values in the Gospels?

5. Which cultural value will you practice this week? Who can hold you accountable?

Practice His Ways

Grab a journal/notebook or paper. List our six cultural values across the top of the page:

Celebration, Intentionality, Clarity, Generosity, Courage, Excellence.

Journal about your current relationships in light of these values.

1. In what relationships am I the most [insert value here].
2. In what relationships am I the least [insert value here].
3. Why is that? Which area do I think God is asking me to grow?

"Consider writing as a form of meditation, or an extension of the prayer experience of meditation. Another way to go about this is simply to write a meditation on a given theme, without actually beginning in prayer. As you write the meditation, you discover your own interior state during the writing process."

– Richard J Foster and Emilie Griffin from *Spiritual Classics*