

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 3: Generosity, Excellence & Celebration

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Big Idea: It's not about a free yard service, but caring and connecting people to Jesus.

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)

Psalms 1:1-6

Pursue Others

1. Over the past week, how have you taken one step closer to your envisioned future self? What about you is just a tiny bit better at [insert cultural value here]?
2. Is your biggest hindrance to generosity fear, apathy, or shame? Share an example from your life when this was problematic.
3. Do you believe God is honored more by a finished product or the process? How does that belief shape your actions and attitudes?
4. Did you notice God at work in you this week? Share a story from this week of something big or small God has done in your life?

5. What is one thing you would like to do this week to grow in your ability to share not only the gospel but your life as well in your neighborhood? How can this group support you best in that growth?

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.

In what relationships am I the most [insert value here].

In what relationships am I the least [insert value here].

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*