

Value others above yourselves

Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

The rules of behavior are different for the church. They just are.

In this culture, it is acceptable—and even celebrated—to put someone down if you disagree with them. There is a whole new lexicon for this type of disrespect: “dox,” “troll,” “shame,” “call out,” “ghost,” “boycott,” and “cancel.” Peruse social media for just a few minutes, and you will find graphic examples of violent public demonstrations, street fights, looting, road rage, and all kinds of other “acceptable” behavior.

If there is a silver lining in all of this ugliness, it's that it's never been easier for the church to fulfill her mandate to be “a holy nation, a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9). In a world of darkness, the church must be a beacon of light.

Obviously, it's not easy to put others first because it's not natural. Self-centeredness is our default setting. But we've got to be different. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul tells Christ followers to “put off falsehood” and “let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths” and “get rid of anger.” So even if it's not easy, we are still commanded to do it.

This is where the church comes in. We are a community of cheerleaders. We celebrate one another's victories, no matter how insignificant. We embrace brokenness and resist arrogance. We cultivate a culture of support and acceptance. It's not only healthy, it's fun.

Why don't you join us?

Pray

Heavenly Father, no matter how much progress I make it feels like I have so far to go. Please help me treat others like Jesus treats them. Even though it is not in me, I lean into you and I know you will continue to create in me a clean heart. Amen.

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
 Repentance
 Wisdom
 Marriages
 Families
 Sick/Grieving
 Depression/Mental illness
 City Church
 Church leaders
 Children
 Youth
 Singles
 Senior citizens
 Volunteers
 Teachers and support staff
 Emergency personnel
 Business community
 Elected officials
 Missionaries
 Worldwide church
 The lost

REFLECTIONS
