

## Values and Mission of CCN

### CCN Website:

- Vision: The vision of CCN is to reach the unreached and unengaged peoples of the world with the Good News of Jesus.
- Mission: The mission of CCN is to equip individuals and churches to understand and participate in their role in accomplishing the Great Commission (Acts 1:8).
- Strategy for churches:
  - hosting cross-cultural immersion tours in Nashville
  - teaching and modeling prayer-walking
  - teaching and modeling discovery Bible study and story-telling
- Strategy for individuals:
  - helping them understand how they are uniquely gifted for ministry
  - helping them identify where God is calling them to minister (whether in Nashville or elsewhere)
  - helping them learn how to raise financial support
  - helping them learn how to work on ministry teams

### Recently shared with the board in October:

- Mission: Mobilize, connect, train and equip, mentor, and deploy ministers for the work of ministry
- Values:
  - Spiritual gifts and personal callings
  - Healthy ministers
  - Healthy churches
  - Kingdom partnerships
  - Lasting relationships

## Importance of fellowship with one another

- COVID not only weakened our already weak fellowship with one another, but it also made us forget how to even have fellowship. We need to relearn....
- Benefits of fellowship:
  - We see more closely and clearly as God sees when we spend time with one another
  - We hear from God when we hear from each other
  - We are strengthened by the faith of our brothers and sisters
  - We realize we are not alone
  - The power of our sin and shame diminishes
  - We understand more clearly and fully who we are
- Price of fellowship:
  - We have to make time for it.
  - We have to accept the possibility of a lower income.
  - We have to open our hearts to others.
  - We have to accept the possibility of being hurt by others.
- Building blocks of fellowship:
  - Time (Virtue: Patience)
  - Listening (Virtue: Attentiveness)
  - Speaking (Virtue: Discretion and honesty)
  - Confession (Virtue: Humility and contrition)
  - Forgiveness (Virtue: Grace and compassion)
  - Generosity (Virtue: Selflessness)

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:7-12)*

## Spiritual accountability and time management

<http://citychurch.network/spiritual-accountability>

Spiritual accountability questions:

- What are my areas of greatest joy in my life right now?
- What are my greatest unsatisfied desires and longings in my life right now?
- What are the areas of my life that I do not like talking about with my friends or my spouse?
- What are areas of my life in which I feel ashamed? What causes the shame? What do I do when I feel the shame?
- Are there parts of my life in which I regularly feel fear? What causes the fear? What do I do when I feel the fear?
- Are there any areas of my life in which I regularly feel anger? What causes the anger? What do I do when I feel the anger?
- Am I resting spiritually and physically enough?
- Am I making decisions about how to spend my time in a healthy way?
- Are there any particular things (foods, drinks, media, or other physical pleasures) which I struggle to go without and which are not necessary for living?
- Are there any people in my life with whom I do not have a peaceful relationship? Am I doing all that I can in my power to have a peaceful relationship with them? Is there anything else I can do?
- What is my posture toward the people in my life that I see most often (spouse, children, friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc.)? Am I seeking to serve them as Christ serves me?
- What is my communion with God characterized by? What does my time with Him look and feel like? What do I long for in my relationship with Him?

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Time management guide:

- Do not make decisions about how to spend your time based on fear and guilt
- Designate a day each week as your household Sabbath
- Be honest about how much available time you have to do ministry and stick with it
- Avoid laziness (resting when you should be working); avoid overworking (working when you should be resting)
- Do not compare with others in unhelpful ways; do not judge others
- Pray without ceasing

## Story and testimony sharing

- Part of the DNA of the body of Christ is that we feel things together. We rejoice with those who rejoice; we mourn with those who mourn. We are one body. We are connected to each other in the spirit, whether we like it or not. If you are in Christ and if I am in Christ, we are connected in the spiritual realm. Sharing our hearts with each other is an honest and obedient outworking of that reality, as we talked about this morning.
- So, now we are going to practice that by sharing ministry stories with each other.
- There are no bad stories except untrue stories. All true stories are worth sharing, whether they are happy or sad.
- Let's celebrate what God is doing, let's grieve the hard things together, let's praise God for His goodness together, and let's cry out to Him for mercy and healing and breakthrough where those things are needed.
- So, with that in mind, does anyone have a testimony or a ministry story they would like to share?
  - What are areas of your ministry in which you see God producing unexpected fruit?
  - What are areas of your ministry in which you see God producing fruit after long and difficult sowing and watering?
  - What are areas of your ministry in which you have been laboring without fruit?
  - What is God teaching you right now?

## Q&A and Discussion

- How to deal with joylessness in ministry: when to press on and when to pause and redirect....
  - Deep down, we often know whether or not we need to make a change or to press on.
  - Importance of lamenting through struggle....
  - Habakkuk 3:17-19 - important to keep this passage and others like this in mind; Jeremiah had a 40-year ministry of heartache. The results of our labor are up to God; we are responsible for obedience....
  - Importance of prayer....
  
- Family devotions: work works, what doesn't; how to keep the family together while doing ministry
  - For us, read the Bible together, pray together, sing together
  - Same time every day
  - Weave into the DNA of the family
  - Pray and ask God to change the culture of your family
  - Using a devotional book to guide (for example, Paul Tripp's *New Morning Mercies* or Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*)

## Exhortations on unity and identity

- **Thoughts about unity in the body of Christ:**
  - Satan has powerfully attacked the foundations of unity in the body of Christ in recent years. He does this through a thousand ways, but his aim is always the same: to sow seeds of doubt, distrust, tension, conflict, unforgiveness, resentment, and bitterness which cause Christians to be divided and ineffective.
  - If we are divided, we cannot take advantage of each other's gifts. We will continue along, **limping, lonely, and loveless**. Don't let this be you.
  - If you claim the name of Christ, you must also claim all people who claim the name of Christ. If you are united with Christ, you are united with Christians. When you take Christ, you get the church. You cannot have it any other way.
  - Lift high the cross! Lift high your own need for Christ! Those are the seeds of unity.
  - Resources:
    - Passages: I John, John 13-17, Ephesians 4, I Corinthians 12
    - Some teachings on the CCN website about Christian unity
- **Thoughts about personal identity:**
  - Similarly, Satan wants to disrupt and disorient your sense of who you are as a follower of Jesus and a child of God.
  - When you forget who you are, a deep void opens up within you which CRAVES to be filled. The void longs for anyone and anything to fill it, and you begin subconsciously asking everyone the question: "Who am I?" Plenty of answers begin flooding the void within you. **You become the things and the people which are answering the question.**
  - When you forget who you are, you are unable to walk in the power God designed you uniquely to walk in.
  - When you forget who you are, the rest of the body of Christ suffers from the loss of the display of God's glory and image in you.
  - When you forget who you are, you become a liability instead of an asset in the Kingdom of God.
  - Lift high your own longing for love! Lift high your heavenly Father's deep, soul-satisfying love for you! These are the seeds of a strong and steadfast personal identity.
  - Resources:
    - Passages: Zechariah 3, I Peter 4:10, Psalm 139, Jeremiah 1, Romans 8
    - Some teachings on the CCN website about Christian identity

## Practical tips for ministry

- Support raising - if you are raising support or would like to raise support, I would be glad to talk with you. Several important elements are needed in raising support:
  - Ministry calling and vision
  - Practical financial need
  - Discipline, faithfulness, and courage for the task of sharing your vision and needs with others
  - Deep faith that God will provide for all of your needs
  - **Reflect on this; I'd be glad to talk with you more about this if you desire**
- Communication with supporters
  - Relationships with supporters are one of the richest and most wonderful things that God gives us to sustain us in ministry.
  - It's important to nurture the relationships through communication, accountability, spending time, etc.
  - **Reflect on this; I'd be glad to talk with you more about this if you desire**
- Using the CCN Group Me app
  - Please let me know if you are not already on the CCN GroupMe group
  - **Please use the CCN group to communicate prayer requests and ministry opportunities.**