

Chapter XV: Our Values

Contents

A. Introduction	2
B. Authority	2
C. Culture and attitude	4
D. Vision	5
E. Summary and Conclusion	6

Chapter XV: Our Values

A. Introduction

This manual has sought to provide you with some substantial foundations upon which you can base your faith. It has also sought to ensure that in our corporateness we maintain a healthy and strong set of foundations that will enable us to effectively complete the mandate that God has given the church.

The apostolic and prophetic foundations (Eph 2:20) are essential to the individual, the families, the local churches and may we suggest, even into society. Jesus said in Mt 7:24, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." The questions that need to be answered are:

- What are these foundations in the individual's life?
- What are these foundations in the life of the local church?

Furthermore, one needs to know how to put these foundations into practice to ensure stability, security and mobility.

B. Authority

It is of absolute importance that as believers we understand the authority structures in our lives as well as the church. Although this matter is covered in depth during leadership forums, the following key areas are critical to understand.

B.1 God And His Word

We must be under the authority of God and His word. It is of vital importance that the Scriptures are the framework against which every aspect of church life, be it individual or corporate, gets measured: in both wine (life, power and energy of the church) as well as in wineskin (structure, form and pattern). We must have absolute confidence that it weighs positively against the breadth of biblical truth. We have sought to walk this through at every level possible.

It is obvious that we read Scripture through certain spectacles. These must however be erased and removed, so that the authentic exegesis of Scripture allows us the true life of God. Often we read Scripture through the spectacles of our personality, our culture and our religious experiences. These will inhibit (prevent) an authentic and objective understanding of biblical truth. Yet, when we know the truth, it will set us free. Our quest (aim and goal) is to bring ourselves under God and His word, without any sense of apology and certainly minimising hindrances and interpretation prejudice.

B.2. Local Church Leadership

The Bible is consistently clear that the elders are the highest authority in the local church. Ac 20 and 1Pe 5 are possibly the two clearest texts that help us understand and discern the role of the elders in local church life. Their responsibilities include:

- Godly government and administration.
- Overseeing and keeping the big picture and the whole picture before the church.
- Leading and guiding.
- Pastoring and nurturing.

The elders are not democratically elected but rather recognised for what they are doing in the local church and ordained through apostolic ministry. The elders are men who, with their wives, have exuded certain character quality, both in themselves, their families, in the church and in the world. In addition to the quality of their lives, they have a clear understanding of the doctrines of Scripture and have exuded giftings that are helpful and necessary to affect their task successfully.

In some denominations the diaconate is the highest authority. In other streams the deacons are simply there to perform all the lesser desirable chores under the guise of service. An understanding of the biblical mandate for the deacons surely gives them the appropriate profile that they hold. In Ac 6 the early apostles clearly identified and ordained **other leaders** as deacons/helpers to office. Their tasks and roles include:

- Serving and supporting the elders.
- Releasing the elders from certain tasks so that the elders can spend time praying and studying.
- Dealing with the logistics of growth in the local church.
- Seeking to resolve relational tensions.
- Administrating cultural challenges.
- Expanding and exploring their own giftedness.
- Allowing the word of God to prosper.

In our present-day churches, these men and women would include those who run life groups as well as possibly head evangelism teams, worship teams, mercy teams and the like.

B.3. Apostolic, Prophetic Teams

For us, one of the sad indictments against the Church is its meandering away from the Scriptural patterns. The Church seems to be more comfortable talking about cardinals, archbishops, superintendents and so forth, than in talking about apostles and prophets. Scripture would not establish them if they were not important to local church life. Apostolic, prophetic teams are essential to bringing the Church into:

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

- Unity.
- Maturity.
- Stability.
- Edification.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Eph 4:11-16)

Not only do they provide unity, maturity, stability and edification to the local churches, but they also inspire the local churches whom they serve, support and lead, to greater and more corporate participation in making disciples of the nations. The apostolic teams provide an anointing and an administration to:

- Raising up other apostolic ministries.
- To work with the local church, plant other churches and bring churches to maturity.
- Developing churches with apostolic/prophetic cultures.
- Networking with other apostolic and prophetic teams to impact the nations of the world.
- Discipling the nations by planting New Testament churches that in turn will impact these societies.

What a great privilege it is to share in a vision that straddles the globe and seeks to impact every culture and sub-culture to usher in the Lord's return.

C. Culture and attitude

As much as the mother provides the heartbeat and atmosphere in the home, so too, every local church has a **culture and attitude** that is both Christian in its general application, but also relevant to that local church's unique flavour and heartbeat. As we seek to outwork what God has called us to, we want to be:

- Radical.
- Relevant.
- Real.
- Relational.

An honest study of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation shows that God is radical and relational. From His relationship with Adam through His commitment and love to the people of Israel, from Abraham, Moses and Joshua through the prophets, to the incarnate Christ, relationships in the church provide a key to understanding church life. We are certainly not an organisation, a business or an institution. As far as the relational realities go, we are a family who seek to walk out this ethos in a casual, but honest approach in our faith. **These values can best be summarised as:**

- Friendship/relationship before function/structure.
- Character (life) before charismata (what you capable of doing) (the gifts of the Spirit/ anointing functioning in life).
- Reality (you are who you say you are) before ritual (traditional ceremony).
- Sons and daughters (identity) before servants (orphans).
- Worshipers before workers.
- Accountability (your responsibility) before visibility (seeing for what you do).
- Giving (lifestyle of generosity) before receiving (consuming).
- Going before staying.

These, in a precise form, represent a desire to live out New Testament Christian community. It is of crucial import that we find the application of our faith within the bounds of these values. They bring honesty and transparency to our leadership and help us discover the joys and delights of authentic, Christian community.

D. Vision = 5-fold ministry

It should certainly not surprise us that every individual believer, every family, every local church, the apostolic, prophetic team to whom we relate and the universal church, are all part of the inheritance that God has given to us. "LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance." (Ps 16:6)

It is an awesome privilege to know that we have such a multidimensional inheritance. In many Christian circles this inheritance is seen as something that is purely personal.

This is not authentically biblical. Scripture provides an inheritance that extends way beyond the individual and their sense of blessing, well-being and delight. When we understand this truth, it begins to draw us into the joys, delights, privileges and responsibilities of local church and apostolic teams into the nations.

D.1. Apostolic

By apostolic we are referring to the heartbeat of God for us to go and seek the nations of the

world and see them touched by the power of the gospel. We see local churches being established and through those local churches, the discipling of the nations. We want to see the nations impacted and influenced. We want to see every ethnic group and every nation experiencing the privilege of the gospel and leaving them with the decision of what they will do with Christ.

D.2. Prophetic

We want to be prophetic both to the Church and the world. To the Church our prophetic commitment is to pull down and uproot everything that does not fall into the orb of God's biblical pattern and power. To the world we want to be prophetic, to restore God's biblical order into every aspect of society. We believe that the gospel is there to impact the political, legislative, educational, economic, social, sporting, commercial and artistic arenas. Like John the Baptist challenging the king, we believe that the prophetic people of God are to challenge the world. Whether in matters of abortion or pornography, illegitimate financial practices or selfish political power, it is the Church's mandate to arise and to stand.

D.3. Evangelistic

It is our commitment to see the gospel go forth. We believe that Jesus is the only way to the Father. There is no possible route of salvation other than through Him. We believe that the Church is the vehicle of God to bring salt and light to a dying world. Using all legitimate avenues at our disposal we want to impact the world with the power of this gospel and walk in the boldness of Scripture to see their lives touched and changed.

D.4. Teaching And Training

Our vision is to see men and women come into wholeness. It is our desire furthermore, to take every individual believer, under the guidance and instruction of the Spirit and through the teaching and exposition of the Scriptures, and to move them from spiritual infancy into maturity and adulthood. We want to see every believer move from glory to glory, from freedom to freedom, from imperfection to perfection. That is our mandate as leaders and our passionate commitment. We believe that men and women are sent to us for a season of training and equipping to be raised up and then released into their destiny.

This envisioning arm of every local church is of profound importance. Not only do we want to take people beyond the essential truths found in Heb 6 into the breadth of biblical doctrine and understanding, but we also desire to address relevant and current issues and bring a biblical, ethical apologetic on each. We also believe Scripture continuously works the foundational areas of our lives. As we mature in God, take on greater responsibilities in the world, have an increased profile in the life of the church and extend our relational boundaries, so we need the continuous adjustment of our foundations that Scripture brings. Teaching enables us to outwork those circumstances with ever increasing growth, revelation and understanding.

E. Summary And Conclusion

In many ways this is a summary of our vision, values and ventures. We want to conclude by bringing a major focus to our mandate into the nations. In Mt 28 Jesus clearly says, as He takes leave of His disciples, that our primary mandate is to go and make disciples of all nations. Beyond discipling the individual, Christ clearly hands on the baton of taking the gospel to the nations of the world. In Lk 19:10 we are told that the reason the Son of Man came was to seek and save the lost. His primary reason was to sniff out all the broken, bruised, sinful people of the world, that is you and me, and bring us back into a vital reconciled relationship with God, with ourselves, with our fellow man and with nature. For this reason, our mandate to make disciples of the nations should be an increasing one, and certainly not decreasing. In Ac 1:8 Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives and He reiterates this call. He is effectively saying that we must take the gospel from our neighbourhoods to the nations. This needs to be the conviction of every individual believer and of every church. As much as we are involved in our priestly functions, in our homes, our churches and our neighbourhoods, so we need to embrace the priestly function of evangelising the unreached (according to Ro 15). We conclude by giving you a list of texts that shows this thesis is a thread that runs throughout Scripture from Genesis through to Revelation. To become part of what we're doing is not only to bow/respect to the authority structures of Scripture and to the values that we believe are inherent in the biblical code, but also to give yourselves, with growing revelatory passion, to take the gospel into the nations of the world. May God knit you in and make you a vital part of and cog in this awesome responsibility.

"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."
(Ps 2:8)

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isa 6:8)

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mt 28:19-20)

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'" (Mk 16:15)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Ac 1:8)

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known." (Ro 15:20a)

"And with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language, and people and nation." (Rev 5:9d)

"On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Rev 22:2b-c)

Our Core Values

We honour Jesus Christ and his bride with absolute integrity.

If we live with integrity nothing else matters. If we don't live with integrity, nothing else matters.

We'll do anything – short of sin – to reach people for Christ

We'll do everything we can to see people come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour

We always bring our best.

We want to develop a culture of serving in excellence. Excellence honours God and inspires people

We treat everyone with respect, dignity and honour

We do not show favouritism, nor do we gossip or seek our own agenda

We are spiritual contributors and NOT spiritual consumers

We exist to see the world around us, changed

We are faith filled, big thinking, bet-the-farm risk takers

We won't subscribe to low living, sight walking, small planning, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

We will lead the way with irrational, outrageous and radical generosity

We believe it is more blessed to give than to receive

We're all about the bride and those who have NOT YET SAID YES, TO JESUS

We will have fun together. Laughing hard and loud – often

We will wholeheartedly reject religion and legalism and live for Jesus

We understand that failure is just - *finding another way that does not work*

Our Heart & Values (COTN)

Community: (The Family Heart)

Every church, like a person, has a personality. Purpose focuses on "what we do," and style focuses on "how we do it." The personality or lifestyle of the local church determines how it goes about doing its ministry. Our style of ministry is what is commonly known as our "Philosophy of Ministry." This is developed out of a clear understanding of biblical values to which we hold. Church of the Nations churches should not be recognized because they all look the same, but because they have the same heart (DNA). They hold to the same values.

Understanding the principle of building from relationship to structure, rather than structure to relationship, we embrace the following values:

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

- **Alignment**· Christ-centred lives, expressing the Lordship of Christ
 - Apostolic alignment
 - Accountability (being under authority releases authority)
 - The principle of spiritual Fathers and Sons
 - Expressing the Father heart of God
- A sense of belonging and family.
 - Authentic Relationships (openness, honesty and integrity).
 - A Spirit-filled church where the ministry of the Holy Spirit is a priority.
 - Team ministry.
 - Unity in the Body of Christ.
 - Living Bible-based Christianity.
 - The priesthood of all believers and, every believer a minister.
 - The unique value and divine destiny of each individual.
 - Living a supernatural life, naturally.
 - Excellence of ministry.
 - Sacrificial servanthood.
 - Passion for God, His church and His Kingdom.
 - Kingdom values, vision and lifestyle.
 - A world vision and a compassionate burden for the lost.
 - Righteousness and justice are the foundations of the Kingdom.
 - Living life in the grace and mercy of God.
 - A Kingdom influence and impact on the moral fabric of society.
 - Hebrew rather than a Greek mentality.
 - The principle of reasoning from the whole to the part.
 - God confirms His Word through signs and wonders.

What we believe! (VCC)

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe.

He has eternally existed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The triune God Head are coequal and are one God.

- [Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22](#)
- [Psalm 90:2](#)
- [Matthew 28:19](#)
- [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

He is coequal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King.

- [Matthew 1:22, 23](#)
- [Isaiah 9:6](#)
- [John 1:1-5](#)
- [Hebrews 4:14-15](#)
- [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#)
- [Romans 1:3-4](#)
- [Acts 1:9-11](#)
- [Colossians 2:9-10](#)
- [1 Timothy 6:14-15](#)

The Holy Spirit lives in each Christian from the day of salvation.

The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He provides Christians with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

- [Acts 1:8](#)
- [John 14:16-17, 16:7-13](#)
- [Galatians 5:25](#)
- [1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16](#)
- [Ephesians 1:13](#)
- [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)
- [1 Peter 1:2](#)

The Bible is God's Infallible Word to us.

The Bible was written by human authors, under the supernatural inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme and ultimate source of truth for Christian beliefs about living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error.

- [2 Timothy 3:16](#)
- [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)
- [Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6](#)
- [Proverbs 30:5](#)
- [Isaiah 55:11](#)

People are the supreme object of God's creation.

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." Sin separates us from God and causes many problems in our life. Salvation is the only way to reconcile with God.

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

- [Genesis 1:27](#)
- [Isaiah 53:6](#)
- [Romans 3:23](#)
- [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)
- [Psalm 139:13-16](#)
- [Colossians 2:13-15](#)

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it.

We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by faith and trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one says "YES" to the Lordship of Jesus, and one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

- [Romans 6:23](#)
- [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)
- [John 14:6](#)
- [Romans 5:1, 5:8, 10:9-10](#)

People will exist eternally with or without God.

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

- [John 3:16, 14:17](#)
- [Romans 6:23](#)
- [Revelation 20:15](#)
- [Philippians 2:5-11](#)
- [Matthew 25:31-34](#) , [Matthew 25:41](#)

Baptism is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, water baptism (*full emersion*) is a way for us to publicly declare our new life in Christ. It is also a step of obedience based on God's commands and allows us to follow the example of Jesus, who submitted himself to baptism to "fulfil all righteousness."

- [Matthew 3:16-17, 28:18-20](#)
- [Acts 2:41, 8:12](#)
- [Romans 6:4](#)
- [Colossians 2:12](#)

In addition to Essential Beliefs, we have liberty and freedom in Non-Essential Beliefs.

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall... So, then each of us will give an account of ourselves to God... So, whatever you believe about these things keep it between yourself and God.

[Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22](#)

"I have the right to do anything," you say ... but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything" ... but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

[1 Corinthians 10:23-4](#)

What we believe (COTN)

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that they only constitute the Divine Rule of Christian faith and practice.

[2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)

We believe there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper Object of Worship.

[Deuteronomy 32:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Matthew 4:10](#)

We believe there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, undivided in essence, and co-equal in power and glory.

[Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7-8](#)

We believe that Jesus Christ was God made manifest in the flesh, truly and properly God, and truly and properly man, and that He, by His suffering and death, made atonement, (*amends, took the punishment on himself that was rightfully mine, made restitution and apology on my behalf*) for sin and that, by His resurrection, there is eternal life for all who believe.

[Hebrews 2:10, Hebrews 7:27; 1 Corinthians 15:16-17](#)

We believe that since the fall of our first parents, man is entirely unable, in his own strength, to find salvation and reconciliation with God, and that he is wholly dependent upon God's grace and mercy.

[Romans 5:12-14; Ephesians 2:8](#)

We believe that salvation, by God's grace, depends upon repentance, faith in God, cleansing by the shed blood of Jesus, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

[Romans 3:22-26, Romans 5:8; Romans 8:9-11; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8](#)

We believe that baptism in water is a personal and dynamic meeting with God, and a sign of the believer's death, burial and resurrection in Jesus Christ.

[Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4](#)

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

We believe it is the privilege of all believers, in response to the command of God's Word, to receive the power of the Holy Spirit to live holy and victorious lives, and that the Holy Spirit operates through gifts, ministries and manifestations, to glorify Jesus, through His Body, to the world.

[Acts 2:37-39; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

We believe that Jesus Christ, at the time of His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father, gifted the Church with living ministry expressions of Himself, through apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the building up of the Body of Christ, and the equipping of the believers to the work of service.

[Ephesians 4:11-13](#)

We believe that neither ritual, tradition, ceremony nor rite can replace conversion, relationship with God, or true worship, and that nothing less than the Lordship of Christ upon a life, is the mark of a Christian.

[Galatians 3:1-5; John 4:23-24; Colossians 2:8](#)

We believe in the continuance of the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, as instituted by Jesus with His disciples, so that we may truly discern the Body of Christ in its totality, unity and authority, and that this celebration stands as a memorial of Christ's suffering and death, and as a prophecy of His coming and, as such, is commanded to all His followers until that Day.

[1 Corinthians 10:15-17](#) and [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#).

We believe in the physical, triumphant return of Jesus Christ, to an overcoming and glorious Church.

[1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#)

Aspirational values – What we aspire to:

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed.

I have the Holy Spirit Power.

The dye has been cast.

I have stepped over the line.

The decision has been made.

I'm a disciple of His.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure.

I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colourless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity.

I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded.

I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lifted by prayer, and labour by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission is clear.

LAYING FOUNDATIONS

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up until I have stayed up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till he stops me.

And when He comes for His own, He will have no problems recognizing me - my banner will be clear!!

(Will McRae)