

Mustard seed leadership

BUILDING ON BIBLICAL VALUES

1 Corinthians 3:10-13 (NLT)

*10 Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. **But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful.** 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.*

12 Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

BIG IDEA: As co-laborers with Christ, we need to build the church on a revelation of Christ, by the Holy Spirit, in obedience to His Word, with love!

How are we going to use these values?

1. Own them by REVELATION
2. Model them though your EXAMPLE
3. Multiply them by TALKING, TALKING, TALKING

12. Generous on all occasions

A. What is this value about?

This final value is about one of the hallmarks of a BASE CHURCH and that is that a Base Church exists for the benefit of others and so is characterised by a generous spirit. A Base Church exists to GIVE.

John 3:16 (NLT)

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Just as giving was the expression of God's love to us, so one of our primary expressions of being a blessing to the world around us should be through giving.

“On all occasions...” reflects the faith that being generous should never be resource dependent. It is an issue of faith and grace and not resources. This is reflected beautifully by the church in Macedonia:

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NLT)

1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. 2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

This is what it looks like for a church to be “Generous on all occasions”

B. Why is this value so important?

The reason that this value is so important is that it reflects spiritual maturity and positions the church for future abundance. Remember that while in the desert for forty years, God was supplying them with just enough manna in the desert on a daily basis to keep them alive.

But in the Promised Land, God’s plan was for abundance. This abundance was based on the faith principle of sowing and reaping.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NLT)

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

This value is so important because the more a church grows in the area of generosity, the more it positions itself for future blessing.

C. Vision

Get this right the church feels HEALTHY. It just feels more blessed to give than receive. God’s people are at their best when they are being generous.

QUESTION: Are you ‘living to give’ or only giving when you feel you have to?

PRACTICAL:

- Recognize if you have a poverty spirit (a 'what if I run out' spirit) that is holding you back from being as generous as God wants you to be.
- Be generous early in the month. Don't wait to see if you have left over money or time or resources. Be generous up front.
- Be prophetic and intentional about giving - plan your generosity prayerfully in advance