

HHBC Value Statements – Week 1

Glorifying God

As we begin our six-week church wide study on the renewed values of our church, today we look at the value of Glorifying God. Henderson Hills describes glorifying God in this way:

We value the passionate pursuit of knowing God and walking with Him.

I. Description: As a church we see glorifying God practically displayed in six distinct areas:

Studying the Bible

Praying

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines

Living Sacrificially

Loving God and Others

II. Introductory Questions:

Let's frame out this conversation about glorifying God with a couple of questions:

First, when you think about your relationship with God and look back at the journey He has had you on, what has been the most difficult part of walking with Him?

Second, how have your motivations for seeking God changed since you became a Christian? Why have they changed?

Lastly, why is it sometimes a struggle to walk and seek God with our whole hearts?

III. Discussion and Application:

With our hearts focused on our desire to seek God and walk with Him on a daily basis, let's explore together the importance of using these areas in our lives and in the life of the church to glorify Him.

1. Studying the Bible (READ • Psalm 119:1-8)

The Word of God is the primary way that God directly communicates with His children, and it must be a priority in the lives of believers.

In what ways is the Word of God described in this passage? Why are some of these names for God's word perhaps uncomfortable or foreign to us?

Still, what does the Psalmist say are the benefits of immersing ourselves in the word of God? Why should these benefits be important to us as believers?

How does choosing to study and be committed to God's Word lead us to glorifying Him? And what does this look like?

2. Praying (READ • James 5:13-18)

In much the same way as God's Word, prayer is a means to which we know God better and conform our hearts to His.

According to this passage, how does God often use prayer to bless His people? Why is God glorified in this?

Likewise, James explicitly links prayer to faith – why are these two areas of our lives so connected to each other?

And if we read of the importance of prayer and we see its benefits, why is it sometimes such a difficult task?

3. Worshipping in spirit and in truth (READ •John 4:16-26)

The aspect of worship in the believer's life goes far beyond singing corporately at church. Notice what Christ says in this passage to a woman desperately in need of His grace regarding true worship.

In the midst of Jesus talking to the woman at the well, he says that "we worship what we know" – how does our worship help us to know God better?

What can we understand better about the authenticity of our worship as we read Jesus say in verse 24 that "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"?

Why, then, is truth an integral part of worship?

4. Practicing spiritual disciplines (READ •Psalm 119:9-16)

While we oftentimes think of studying God's Word and prayer as the main spiritual disciplines, God yearns for us to pursue Him and glorify Him by many other means.

What less practiced spiritual disciplines does the Psalmist describe in this section of Psalm 119?

In what way is it a spiritual discipline to "declare all the rules (decrees) of God's mouth"? What does the Psalmist mean by this in the context of God's word?

Why is it so important to begin to integrate some of the less practiced spiritual disciplines into our life, and how does that glorify God?

5. Living sacrificially (READ: Philippians 2:1-8)

Your life is not your own just as Christ's life was not His. And just as Christ lived upon the earth as our perfect sacrifice, we are called to sacrifice our own lives as He lives within us.

When looking at Paul's description of Jesus' life in this passage, what might it look like in our lives to reflect how Jesus willingly gave up His life for others?

How, then, does our willingness to live sacrificially and actions to that end glorify God?

And what encouragement is there that the same Jesus that willingly died for us is also indwelling His children?

6. Loving God and others (READ: •John 13:31-35)

And lastly, a true love for God will be reflected as we love others – both are important to God.

In reading this passage, how much importance does God place on loving others? Why does God value this aspect of His children's life so much?

How does truly and authentically loving others communicate that we are Christ's disciples? Why do we know this is true?

And lastly, where does this love for others have to begin, and how does loving others glorify God?

Questions/Comments