

HHBC Value Statements – Week 3

Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ

As we enter our third week of our six-week church wide study on the renewed values of our church, we come to the Gospel and its role in the Church, both for the believer and for the lost.

Henderson Hills describes living the gospel of Jesus Christ like this: ***We value sharing the Gospel and making disciples***

I. Description: Lived out on a daily basis our church sees this value displayed in eight distinct areas:

Teaching

Evangelizing

Offering mercy

Ministering to orphans and widows

Engaging in global missions

Training indigenous pastors

Practicing the gospel of grace

Surrendering our comfort for Jesus Christ

Developing mature Christian character

II. Introductory Questions:

As we begin talking about the Gospel, let's begin our discussion with two questions:

First, why is the gospel equally important for both the believer and the unbeliever?

And second, what comes to your mind when you hear the term "sharing the Gospel"? And why did you think of that?

The gospel, in fact, is a necessity for both the believer and non-believer, and sharing the Gospel can take many important forms for those who believe in Christ.

III. Discussion and Application:

1. Teaching (READ •Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

Henderson Hills believes in teaching the gospel in every area of our church, and we yearn for that gospel to be at the center of the lives of our members. In turn, our desire is that our members teach the gospel to each other.

- *As Moses is obediently teaching the people what God taught him, what does Moses command the people to do with what they are learning from him? How can we apply this principle in both our homes and in our church?*

Why is it important that Moses is teaching them what God had taught him? What is the value in this for us today?

2. Evangelizing (READ •Philemon 1:4-6)

Sharing the gospel with others often looks like verbally sharing our faith and what God has done in our life. In reading this passage, Paul's prayer is that the sharing of our faith would be effective. Multiple times he mentions the word love.

In reading how Paul encourages Philemon, what can we figure out about this man? What was his life all about?

- *How should our love (for God and for others) motivate our desire and our practice of sharing our faith?*

3. Offering Mercy (READ •Luke 6:32-36)

In the context of this passage, Jesus is speaking to the people about how to love their enemies. Jesus calls all of us, though, to "be merciful, even as your father is merciful".

- *How is offering mercy a way of sharing the Gospel, and how can being merciful to others impact our relationships?*

And why is loving our enemies and showing mercy to those who despise us such a powerful testimony of God's love?

4. Ministering to orphans and widows (READ •Matthew 25:31-40)

The gospel is not ours to hoard and keep to ourselves; rather, the gospel and its message of faith, hope, and love are for all – including the least among us such as orphans and widows. In this passage, when Jesus comes back He will separate those who know Him from those who do not.

- *But what does He say about those who know Him? How did they act toward the least? What is the implication for us, then, as contemporary believers? How are we called to live?*

Why focus, however, on orphans and widows? Why is it important that we specifically minister to them?

5. Engaging in global missions (READ •Matthew 28:16-20)

The command from Jesus is simple: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” We yearn to be a church that follows God’s heart for the nations and willingly goes to them with the gospel – wherever they may be.

Why is it important that our church is intentional when it comes to global missions? How can our group have that same mindset?

- *How can we as Community Groups, as friends, as fellow believers, play an active role in taking the gospel to the nations even if we do not go ourselves? Why is this an important aspect of global missions to remember?*

6. Training indigenous pastors (READ •Titus 1:5-9)

Following God’s command to take the gospel to the nations implicitly means that we will train up indigenous pastors. In that effort, it is important that we follow the example of Paul and Titus as Paul begins teaching on the qualifications of elders.

- *Why is it such an important task to take the time and the effort to train pastors who are from the areas we send mission teams?*

How could this practice impact the long-term affect of the gospel in that specific area and the rest of the country?

7. Practicing the gospel of grace (READ •Colossians 3:12-17)

As a people who have been saved by grace, and as a church that seeks to reflect God’s grace to our community and world, we are called to practice the gospel of grace. Our desire is that grace seep into every part of our lives.

In this passage from Colossians, Paul never writes the word grace – but how does grace flow in and out of the words he writes? How does living this kind of lifestyle as a believer reflect the grace we have been given?

- *If our lives mirrored these six verses in everyone we dealt with on a daily basis, how might our relationships with others change, and how might our own lives change as well?*

8. Surrendering our comfort for Jesus Christ (READ •1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Living for the gospel is often not a comfortable choice. And yet we are called to surrender our comfort as we desire nothing more than God’s glory. This passage centers on our desires and what we will ultimately pursue during our lives.

- *What does this passage teach us about where we should find our contentment and the futility of trying to find comfort and contentment in earthly things?*

Should living the gospel of Jesus Christ automatically lead to us forgoing our comfort? Why is that true?

9. Developing mature Christian character (READ •2 Thessalonians 1:1-4)

As a church, we believe that when believers live the gospel, God will cause the development of spiritual maturity that glorifies God and strengthens the church.

- *What is Paul’s attitude toward the believers in Thessalonica and how God has grown their faith abundantly and their increased love for each other? Why is he so thankful for this developing maturity in these people?*

How did their example impact other believers in Paul’s other churches?