

HHBC Value Statements – Week 4 Serving with a Kingdom Perspective

The fourth week of our six-week church wide study on the renewed values of our church is centered on the value the church puts on serving with a kingdom perspective.

Henderson Hills defines serving with a kingdom perspective in this way: ***We value living our lives focused upon what will matter most for eternity.***

I. Description: Our church believes this value is best displayed in nine distinct ways:

Equipping and sending saints for service
Training the next generation
Multiplying the Kingdom
Embracing people from all ethnic groups and all age groups
Striving for simplicity
Battling the Enemy
Ministering to other pastors
Daring to take risks for the Kingdom of God
Encouraging every member to be a minister

II. Introductory Questions:

Let's start our discussion on this new value with a couple of framing questions:

First, why is it extremely easy to live our lives focused on the here and now rather than living with an eternal perspective?

Second, when we do live with an eternal perspective, will we ever know the impact God can have through us? Why or why not?

As we begin our discussion, let us keep in mind that this value does not begin with us, nor will it end with us; for God's bride, his Church, is forever.

III. Discussion and Application:

1. Equipping and sending saints for service (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Henderson Hills believes that by equipping its members for service and then sending them to serve where God is calling them is an important aspect to kingdom building and living from an eternal perspective.

- *According to Paul in his letter to the church in Ephesus, what is the purpose of equipping the saints? In reading the text, how do we know that purpose will not take a short time to accomplish?*

And what does this passage tell us about the importance of all believers in the process of eternal kingdom building?

2. Training the next generation (Psalms 78:1-8)

Living lives that glorify God and having an eternal perspective on His kingdom leads us to being a church that is purposeful in investing in, training, and preparing the next generation to serve as God leads them.

- *What, according to this Psalm, do we need to be teaching our children, and why is this such a vitally important task?*

What will happen, both now and for eternity, if we fail to teach the next generation who God is and why the gospel is so powerful?

3. Multiplying the Kingdom (2 Timothy 2:1-7)

Being a church that yearns to see the kingdom grow means that we take purposeful steps in how we minister to others so that they may, in turn, minister to others in their own lives.

- *In the passage, how does Paul call Timothy to use the principle of multiplication of ministry in his life? What does that look like for us?*

In the three analogies Paul uses, what is Paul trying to tell us about how focused we are to be in this pursuit?

4. Embracing people from all ethnic groups and all age groups (Galatians 3:23-29)

As Heaven will be made up of people from every tongue, tribe, and nation, so too is the Kingdom of Heaven as it is being established through the church on this earth. We are called to embrace this idea as a local church with a kingdom perspective.

In reading this passage, how should faith in Christ redefine how we see those who are different than we are in ethnicity and age?

- *Why is it important, then, that we as a church are purposeful in uniting people regardless of background, race, or age?*

5. Striving for simplicity (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

Our church values the simplicity of living gospel centered lives as the gospel has the power to save and transform the lost.

- *In this passage, what can we learn from Paul as he called the gospel the thing "of most importance" in his life? Why would it be good for us to ask ourselves if that is where we put the gospel?*

Furthermore, why does Paul's presentation of the gospel seem so simple and yet so effective? How could how could we each use the simple way the gospel is conveyed here to impact the Kingdom?

6. Battling the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Because this is not our home as believers, as a church body and as individual believers, we must be ready to battle the enemy as he tempts and tries to entangle us in sin.

- *In reading this passage and the analogy that Paul presents for battling against the enemy, what stands out to you as the keys to winning the battles with the enemy?*

Why is it of absolute necessity to use all of the tools (including the Holy Spirit) that God has faithfully provided to us as we battle against the enemy on a daily basis?

7. Ministering to other pastors (1 Peter 5:1-5)

Our church is in a unique position to minister to other pastors both locally and globally. We take this responsibility and privilege very seriously because we believe God can use these relationships to further His Kingdom around the world.

In this passage, Peter exhorts his fellow elders in how they can best minister to those they are over. As Christians we are all ministers of the gospel, and as that is the case, what can we learn about how to minister to people by what Peter teaches here?

- *What is it important for us as a church to follow Peter's example and help other pastors and their churches? How could this benefit both congregations?*

8. Daring to take risks for the Kingdom of God (Philippians 1:19-26)

CS Lewis famously wrote in "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" of Aslan the Lion, "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you." Just as Jesus and his gospel are not safe, we are called to take risks and to be of great courage as believers.

- *In Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, what can Paul's courage and his willingness to die for the sake of his God teach us about how we ought to approach our faith on a daily basis?*

How does attitude often seem not only counter-cultural to the world but also counter-cultural to many Christians?

9. Encouraging every member to be a minister (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Lastly, as a church, we believe that every member has been called of God to minister to others and serve the body through the gifts and the abilities the Holy Spirit has graciously given them. We are all ministers of the Gospel of Christ!

- *How do we all know that we are valuable to God and His Kingdom? What determines our value?*

How can we as believers encourage and help one another to serve and minister as God has equipped us?