

CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OF **BCBC** *worship*

1. CULTURE OF THE WORD

*Let the word of the Christ
richly dwell within you, ...*

1. CULTURE OF THE WORD
2. CULTURE OF MUTUAL DISCIPLESHIP
3. CULTURE OF EQUIPPING CONTENT
4. CULTURE OF HEART ENGAGEMENT
5. CULTURE OF LIFE TRANSFORMATION

Colossians 3:16 begins with an admonition that **the word of the Christ** (not the Bible in general, nor the specific words recorded as being spoken by Jesus, but *primacy is given to the Gospel*) would **dwell** (*inhabit with mastery*) within us **richly** (*abundantly/in all we do*).

This *Culture of the Word* calls us as a ministry to keep the Word of God, and especially its articulation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, as our (1) foundation, our (2) focal point, and our (3) fuel.

2. CULTURE OF MUTUAL DISCIPLESHIP

*... with all wisdom teaching
and admonishing one another ...*

Colossians 3:16 continues by encouraging us to teach and admonish one another. To say we are actually following Jesus (which is the definition of being a disciple) *presumes we are helping other people follow Jesus* (because that's what Jesus did). To actually help one another follow Jesus better requires us to (1) be in **proximity** to one another, to (2) **present** the truths of God's Word to one another, and to both know and be known by each other well enough to (3) **re-place** things that are askew in one another.

This *Culture of Mutual Discipleship* should affect everything from the way we rehearse, to the way we do our flock, to the way we interact on Sundays, to the way that we interact with the rest of the church body, to the way we spend each and every day of the week.

3. CULTURE OF EQUIPPING CONTENT

*... with psalms
and hymns
and spiritual songs, ...*

Colossians 3:16 shows that a gracious means that God has given us to teach and correct one another is through corporate songs.

This *Culture of Equipping Content* means that **we must lead songs that actually have content** which is (1) richly rooted in the word of God, which (2) brilliantly displays the glory of the Gospel, and which is (3) capable of teaching and correcting. Furthermore, this means that **we must lead these songs in such a manner** that their richness, brilliance, and capacity work toward the spiritual maturation of our church body (with clarity, and un-distracting excellence). This also means that, as we are able, **we must resource our church with access** to these songs so that our efforts to equip them can both be better cultivated for Sundays, but extend far beyond Sundays.

4. CULTURE OF HEART ENGAGEMENT

*... singing with thankfulness
in your hearts to God.*

Colossians 3:16 wars against our propensity to honor the Lord with our mouths while our hearts are far from Him. It excludes intellectualism, legalism, pharisaism, or any other hollow, dry unaffected response. The affective-center (or the desire-producer) of our being is called to sing out in gratitude to God for the favor He has shown on undeserving people like us.

This *Culture of Heart Engagement* means that the songs which we lead, which proclaim the truths of God's word, which radiate the brilliance of the Gospel for the sake of the spiritual maturation of the body of Christ - they must actually engage *our* hearts, and those of the *people* of our church. This has additional implications on *the songs we use* (language, familiarity), *the way in which they are led* (style, range, instrumentation, arrangement), and *the way in which they are presented* (lyrical presentation, mixing, sound pressure levels, lighting).

5. CULTURE OF LIFE TRANSFORMATION

*Whatever you do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

Colossians 3:17 doesn't let us get away with living all of life in a Sunday morning silo. We are called to do **all** things **for/on behalf /representing** Jesus, who Himself is the atoning, justifying, sanctifying means **through** whom we approach and give thanks to the Father. This means that we need to personally, communally, and corporately strive to live **for the glory** of Jesus **by the grace** of Jesus.

This manner of Christ-exalting and Christ-dependent life transformation talked about in Colossians 3:17 **is the end goal** that a Word-driven, discipleship-shaped, contextually-equipping, and heart-engaging ministry should produce.

This *Culture of Life Transformation* means that our end goal is not to simply produce a certain experience or a moment of wonder. We need to disciple one another so that as a ministry we can lead and resource our local church in such a way that they are themselves are formed by the Gospel, practicing mutual discipleship, equipped for the task of the Great Commission, and affected to their very core.

This is what produces people who live for the glory of Jesus by the grace of Jesus.
This is what our ministry is all about.