

## Family Values:

*The Mission/Vision Statement of Calvary Bible Church*

Assorted Scriptures

**Opening Illustration:** Every family has their own values...their own rules...their own culture. Have you ever spent the night at a friend's house when you were a kid? Were you the first to wake up? Isn't it a little bit awkward because you don't know how things really work in your friend's home? Doesn't it feel the same way when we come to a new church? As the new guy, I will freely admit that the question that has been filling my head repeatedly over the last 9 months is simply this: What is Calvary Bible Church all about? What is our heartbeat? What is our culture? What is our calling, both in Hanover and in the world?

**Clarification:** You will understand that preaching about a mission/vision statement is not my ordinary approach to preaching, so give me some grace. The elders have been working on this statement for a while before I got here, so please understand that I will be focusing on this statement as a shared conviction from the leadership team. Full disclosure: I have tweaked a couple of words here and there in order to translate it from a document to a sermon.

### I. Introduction

#### A. What are we trying to accomplish?

1. We are trying to set a tone.
  - a. How do we reply when someone asks, "What is Calvary Bible Church all about?"

**ILL:** Getting lost in this building. I had a very hard time at first (and maybe still a little) figuring out where everything is in this building. I felt very disoriented. That's how we can feel, spiritually, sometimes. We know we are in church, but where do we fit? Why are we here? What are we trying to accomplish?

2. We are trying to set a course.
  - a. Where are we going?

**Point:** I would love to tell you that everything will soon go back to normal, and that everything will go back to the way it was in our society and in the church. It won't. The saying goes, "The only thing that is constant in this world is change." There is no such thing as standing still. So, how do we know where to go? The first step is clearly understanding our family values...the things that we care about and emphasize. This will help us determine:

- i. What sorts of things are
  - a) Temporal?
  - b) Changeable?
  - c) Adaptable?
- ii. What sorts of things are:
  - a) Eternal?
  - b) Unchangeable?
  - c) Foundational?
- b. What does the CBC of the future:
  - i. Look like?
  - ii. Believe?
  - iii. Cling to?
  - iv. Teach?
  - v. Celebrate?
  - vi. Etc.

#### B. Why should I care?

1. If you are new (like me):
  - a. This orients us to what CBC is trying to be and to do.
  - b. This clarifies for us what CBC is meant to emphasize.
2. If you have been coming here for a long time:

- a. This series is intended to stir you up by way of reminder.
- b. This series is intended to communicate how every part of CBC's ministry contributes to the whole.

### C. What will be our approach?

1. This morning:
  - a. We will focus more on the big picture.
  - b. We will then focus on the doctrinal aspects of our family values.
2. Next week:
  - a. We will focus on the specifics.
  - b. We will focus more on the practical aspects of our family values.

**Point:** I already need to stop and clarify something. We have to be careful drawing too bold a line between what is "doctrinal" and what is "practical". In Christianity, everything doctrinal is practical and everything practical is doctrinal. That being said, I do think it helps in terms of explanation to split up these values in this way for our purposes together.

## II. What is our motto? *John 17*

**Point:** Does the church exist for worship and discipleship or for evangelism? Answer: Yes.

### A. To Know Him and make Him known. (John 17:3)

1. What does this mean?
  - a. That discipleship is our purpose.
    - i. Our heartfelt desire must be to know Him. That is to say that we start with our own heart.
    - ii. This is true of every individual.
    - iii. This is true of the congregation as a whole.
    - iv. Knowing God, ourselves, must be as diligently pursued as bringing Him to others.

**ILL:** Shared church meeting. Another Pastor preached, "If there were no unbelievers, there would be no reason for us to be here." I had to gently correct him.

- b. That relationship is our pursuit.
- c. That submission is our posture.
- d. That reverence is our perspective.

### B. To Know Him and make Him known. (John 17:18-23)

1. What does this mean?
  - a. That others are our focus.
  - b. That evangelism is our heartbeat.
  - c. That we embrace our position as representatives of Christ in this world.

## III. By the grace of God, Calvary Bible Church aspires to be a people who:

### A. Make the Cross central in all we do.

**Point:** When we say "the cross" in this context, we don't mean that physical, literal cross. There is nothing powerful or sacred in the wood on which Christ was crucified. Instead, what we mean is the death, burial and resurrection...the sacrificial work of Christ.

1. The Statement says:
  - a. The doctrinal content:
    - i. God's majesty, holiness, wrath and justice meet His grace, love, mercy and forgiveness at the cross.
      - a) **Romans 3:25-26** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;<sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His

righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- ii. The cross is the power of God to those being saved (I Cor. 1:18).
    - a) **1 Cor 1:18** For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
  - iii. Through the cross, Jesus reconciled all things to Himself (Col 1:20).
    - a) **Colossians 1:20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
  - iv. The cross is the reason we daily die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:24).
    - a) **1 Peter 2:24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
  - v. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, all our efforts are meaningless (I Cor. 15:13-19).
- b. The exhortation:
- i. Therefore, we want the Person and work of Jesus Christ to be at the center of our thinking, the center of our ministry, the center of our very lives.

## 2. Conclusions:

- a. Because of this, we must always keep sin clearly in focus. People need to know the problem if they can be expected to desire the solution.
- b. Because of this, we must be unashamedly focused on Jesus.
- c. Because of this, we must battle our pride.
  - i. CBC is not a fraternity of the perfect. It is a community of the desperate.
    - a) Fully understanding our sin and unworthiness, we rejoice inexplicably at the cross of Jesus Christ.

*By the grace of God, Calvary Bible Church aspires to be a people who:*

## **B. Celebrate the Bible, diligently studying and applying it to everyday life. 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

### 1. The Statement says:

- a. The Bible is more than a book, it is the very words of God (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- b. The Bible is to be celebrated and magnified (Psalm 119:161b) and studied with reverence and care.
- c. The Bible is true and it gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). It tells us the only way to know God and live for Him.

### 2. The Exhortation [Psalm 119]:

- a. Therefore, we want to delight in the Bible, magnify and study it, meditate on it, obey it's commands and apply its principles to everyday life.
  - i. Delight/Magnify:
    - a) **Psalm 119:24** Your testimonies also are my delight; *They are* my counselors.
    - b) **Psalm 119:47** I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love.
    - c) **Psalm 119:103** How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
    - d) **Psalm 119:97** O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
  - ii. Study:
    - a) **Psalm 119:99-100** I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. <sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.
  - iii. Obey/Apply:
    - a) **Psalm 101-102** I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. <sup>102</sup> I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me.

3. Conclusion: Calvary Bible Church must be and will be a place and a congregation in which the Bible is understood to be the Word of God. We will:
- a. Submit to the authority of the Bible.
  - b. Delight in the beauty of the Bible.
  - c. Carry the message of the Bible.

#### **IV. What does this call us to?**

##### **A. Please pray for the leadership of Calvary Bible Church!**

1. Pray that we hold to these things!
2. Pray that we hold up under the pressures of modern church leadership.
3. Pray that we hold each other up as brothers and partners in this cause.

##### **B. Please pray for the people of Calvary Bible Church!**

1. Pray that the sheep wouldn't wander due to the pressures and fears we are all facing.
2. Pray that the sheep would fester in petty squabbles and disagreements. Hey...we're family!

##### **C. Please pray for the future of Calvary Bible Church!**

1. That we (individually and corporately) would know Him more deeply!
2. That we (individually and corporately) would share Him more faithfully!
3. That we (individually and corporately) cherish the cross!
4. That we (individually and corporately) would celebrate the Bible!