

Conversation Starters

- What has your church background looked like?
- Has it ever been important to you? If so, when?

Discuss

At Meck, we are a church that holds strong to the essential doctrines of the Christian faith. Beyond the essentials, we allow liberty and practice love towards others with differing opinions on non-essentials. Our number one guiding value is that the Bible is true and the catalyst for life-change in individuals' lives and in the church. Therefore, for any decision, question, or action to take, we first go to the Bible and then go with the Bible.

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 LB)

- How do you view the Bible?
- Do you look to it for guidance and instruction in life?

We also believe that followers of Christ should manifest authenticity and strive for continuous spiritual growth. Beyond knowledge, we strive for application of that knowledge. With application of the Bible, we experience life-change, not according to our own desires, but God's desires. God is not just our forgiver, but also our leader.

Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done. (Colossians 2:7 LB)

- How has your life changed because of the Bible?
- How can you put the instructions of the Bible more into play in your life?
- Is there an area in your life you need apply the Bible right now?

Another value we share is that the church should operate as a unified community of servants stewarding their spiritual gifts. The mindset and heart behind this is to have an attitude of service, to think more of others and less of ourselves.

They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?" The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest. He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all." (Mark 9:33-35 The Message)

- Do you more often look to be served than to serve others?
- How can you be using your gifts to serve others?

Loving relationships should permeate every aspect of church life. We work, not towards uniformity or unanimity, but a oneness of heart. We choose to be kind, gracious, forgiving, generous and giving others the benefit of doubt. This takes intentionality and work; it does not just happen.

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34-35 NLT)

- How would you describe your relationships with others? Do you share these aspects?
- Are there any relationships that need healing?
- How can you work on growing in your love towards others?

Next Steps

The values of an organization are important because they shape who you are trying to be. At Meck, we try to set up and function as a family. Values also shape our goals. We are not a family just to be a family. We are also on a very important mission. But it is important to get these values right first. When we hold to these values built on a biblical foundation, we stick together and can accomplish so much more than we could on our own. Reflect on these questions:

- Do you have a regular time of reading the Bible?
- How am I doing at applying what I read?
- How can I serve others more?
- How can I show more love to the people around me?

Further Reflection

Read Romans 14; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 Peter 3:8.

Pray

God, thank you for a blueprint on how to approach our daily lives and our relationships with others. Thank you for Jesus and the life and relationship we can have with you, and the community of others who look to you for leadership. Help us to use wisdom and apply all that you teach us, to grow in a spirit of service, and to be more loving towards others.