



Values: *Creating a Context for Courageous Living*

- Why do we do what we do?

- **What is your motive for action?** What is it that's shaping your ability to be fruitful?
 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, **will produce much fruit**. For apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NLT-SE)
- **We live in a culture that creates your value by mostly looking at your past...** Biography is destiny. God has called us into a culture that is not defined by our past, but empowered by our future!
- In a recent Ted Talk, **Tony Robbins** addressed this same question, "Why do we do what we do?" explaining to the crowd that it all really comes down to the decisions we make, "***The Three Decisions of Destiny.***"
 - What am I going to focus on?
 - What does it mean?
 - What am I going to do? Are you going to give up or move forward?
- **He says that there are six human needs that motivate us all:**
 - 4 Needs of "**the personality**":
 - **Certainty**...if we got total certainty, we would ultimately be bored.
 - **Uncertainty**...variety is important...we need surprises.
 - **Significance**...your life matters.
 - **Connection/Love**..."Most people want connection because love is too scary."
 - 2 Needs of "**the spirit**": Where fulfillment comes from, requiring growth.
 - **Contributing beyond ourselves**..."Life's not about me, it's about we." He told a story about being a young boy at Thanksgiving, his family had very little to eat, someone anonymously left a bag of food on their steps. His father felt shame and decided to leave his family and Tony says that it made him believe "that strangers care." He unselfishly decided at the age of 17, to deliver food in the same way to 2 other families. That number increases until, 17 years later, his foundation fed 2 million people in 35 countries!
 - **Emotion**...The quality of your life depends upon the quality of your emotions.

- Why do I use **Tony Robbins**, who is obviously NOT a follower of Jesus, as an example today? Because you don't need to be a follower of Jesus to discover truth. The reality is that what Tony is "preaching" is truth that will be limited in its expression by an individual's inner strength. It's truth utilizing nothing but human power to accomplish the goal.
- **Let's look at all this through the eyes of a follower of Jesus.**
 - When we accept salvation from Jesus, **we are forgiven** (*completely freed from our past and receive a new identity*), **adopted into God's family** (*where we become the expression of Jesus on the earth, sharing in the mission of Jesus, and empowered by the indwelling Spirit of God to bear fruit*), and are **promised an inheritance** that will last an eternity!
 - So, again... "**Why do we do what we do?**"
 - We are **living** with a vital connection to Jesus through the Holy Spirit. (John 14:15-21)
 - We are **motivated** out of this connection to live our lives here on earth in a way that reflects the character and motivations of the one we are following. (Rom 12:1-2, 1 Cor 11:1, 1 John 2:6)
 - We receive a very real **push-back** from Satan and his demonic followers who oppose the purposes of God on the earth. (*John 10:10*)
 - We play an active role in **re-connecting people** with the person of Jesus so they can experience the freedom we have received. (2 Cor 5:19)
 - We have **believed** the truth of Jesus and have **made the choice** to receive Him as the Lord of our lives. His lordship in our lives should have an impact upon the daily choices we make. So, **what motivates the choices we make as Jesus followers?**
 - The **teachings** of Jesus
 - The **actions** of Jesus
 - The **promises** of Jesus
 - We say that we "**value**" these truths we believe to be true of Jesus and His lordship in our lives. As believers, we are all influenced by:
 - Cultural values: The **commonly held standards** of what is acceptable or unacceptable, important or unimportant, right or wrong, workable or unworkable, etc., that directly influence our behavior and decisions.
 - Corporate values: The **operating philosophies or principles** that guide an organization's internal conduct as well as its relationship with its customers, partners, and shareholders.
 - Personal values: Your values are **the things that you believe are important** in the way you live and work. They determine your priorities and give you a good sense of whether or not your life is turning out the way you want it to. **When the things that you do and the way you behave match your values, life is usually good.** But when these don't align with your personal values, that's when things feel...wrong.
 - Courage, resilience, and our values: **Courageous communities** consistently live in context with and aligned to their corporate values; empowering its members to trust God for the impossible, sustain them when the going gets rough, and wholeheartedly believe that the future is in God's hands, yet is manifest through the lives of the members.

- Our Relational Values

- As a **CONGREGATION**, we value unity and oneness and will endeavor by the grace of God to...
 - **COMMUNICATE IN A CHRIST-LIKE MANNER BY:**
 - **Keeping our word...**
 - **Don't make rash promises**, and don't be hasty in bringing matters before God. After all, God is in heaven, and you are here on earth. So let your words be few. (Eccl 5:2 NLT-SE)
 - A person who **promises a gift but doesn't give it** is like clouds and wind that bring no rain. (Prov 25:14 NLT-SE)
 - **Having soft eyes and voice...**
 - **A gentle answer deflects anger**, but harsh words make tempers flare. (Prov 15:1 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁷ But the **wisdom from above** is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are **peacemakers** will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:17–18 NLT-SE)
 - **Responding, not reacting...**
 - A fool is quick-tempered, but a **wise person stays calm** when insulted. (Prov 12:16 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be **quick to listen, slow to speak**, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. (James 1:19–20 NLT-SE)
 - **Boldly speaking the truth in love...**
 - ¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to **equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ**. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, **we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ**, who is the head of his body, the church. (Eph 4:11–15 NLT-SE)
 - **Speaking to each other's potential...**
 - I pray that your hearts will be **flooded with light so that you can understand** the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. (Eph 1:18 NLT-SE)
 - **PRACTICE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE BY:**
 - **Walking in humility...**
 - The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place **with** those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I **restore** the crushed spirit of the humble and **revive** the courage of those with repentant hearts. (Is 57:15 NLT-SE)

- **Seeking forgiveness...**
 - ³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Eph 4:30–32 NLT-SE)
- **Believing the best...**
 - ²⁴ Let us think of ways to **motivate one another** to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but **encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Heb 10:24–25 NLT-SE)
- **HAVE INTEGRITY BY:**
 - **Being congruent in all we say and do...**
 - ³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: **Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.** ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. (Rom 12:3–6 NLT-SE)
 - **Being accountable to one another...**
 - Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. (James 1:19 NLT-SE)
 - **Keeping short accounts...**
 - ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Eph 4:31–32 NLT-SE)
- **BE VULNERABLE BY:**
 - **Being open and honest...**
 - Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: **Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves**, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. (Rom 12:3 NLT-SE)
 - **Owning our own stuff...**
 - You may think you can condemn such people, but **you are just as bad**, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. (Rom 2:1 NLT-SE)
 - **Being interdependent, working as a team...**
 - ²⁴ God has put the body together such that **extra honor and care** are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for **harmony** among the members, so that all the members care for each other. (1 Cor 12:24–25 NLT-SE)

- **How Do Our Values Engage with Courage and Resilience?**

- Our values **cause** us to lean towards God, not away from Him. God is calling us to courageously press in and press on...**Courageous people believe** that nothing is more important to their future than the health of their connection with Jesus!
- Our values **create** a context for trusting God at deeper and deeper levels, opening the door to take more risks and walk in greater courage...**Courageous people believe** that nothing of true value comes without risk and that “nothing is impossible *with* God!
- Our values **sustain** us when we run into obstacles and want to quit. This kind of resilience is essential for people who are courageously pursuing their assignment...**Courageous people believe** that God is not only giving them the courage to go forward, but the perseverance to press through resistance.
- Our values **redirect** us, helping to get back on track when we get distracted and our paths divert us away from the very thing courage has called us to...**Courageous people believe** that mistakes don't mean failure, but are part of the process of growing in boldness as a follower of Jesus.
- Our values **restore** our hope in the One who originally showed us what is truly valuable and necessary for us to complete the assignment...**Courageous people believe** that faith is dynamic and grows when it is stretched.