

BELIEVE: TRANSFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

A. Core Values

1. Fundamental beliefs of a person / organisation.
2. Represent highest priorities as well as core, fundamental driving forces.
3. Inform our thoughts, words and actions.
4. Create the future we want to experience.

Discussion: Sharing on personal or family's core values and why these values are held.

B. FPBC's Core Values

1. Belong, Believe & Bless.
2. Essence of FPBC's identity as God's people.
3. Shape our culture and practices.
4. Support our vision to be a "City On A Hill".

Discussion:

- (a) Do you think these values adequately help us live out our identity as God's people?
- (b) How can these values be embraced by individual members?

C. The Core Value of Believe

1. We value spiritual growth and maturity with Christlikeness being our ultimate goal.

2. Two Problems:

- a) Failure to grow and mature spiritually

Discussion: What are some reasons Christians fail to grow? How can this problem be addressed?

- b) Cultural Christianity

Discussion: How do we effectively pass on our faith to the next generation?

D. Becoming Like Christ

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be transformed to the image of his Son. (Rom 8:29)

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

1. This means being like Christ in character and living like Him.
2. Transformation is needed – a deep work in the heart and mind.

E. Transformation

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12)

1. Basis of Paul's appeal: God's mercy

2. Paul's 2 Appeals

- a) Present Your Bodies As A Living Sacrifice To God

- 1) A sacrifice of worship and not a sacrifice for sin.
- 2) A sacrifice of bodily behaviour / action
- 3) To make visible the beauty of Christ through our behaviour

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- 4) It is the “living” that is the act of true and acceptable worship
- 5) We become what we worship

Discussion:

- (a) What does “presenting your bodies as a living sacrifice” to you? How does it apply in your life? Why?
 - (b) Do you agree with the statement – “We become what we worship?” Give reasons for your answer.
 - (c) What are the objects of your worship?
- b) Do Not Conform To The World But Be Transformed By The Renewing of The Mind
- 1) The Greek word for “transform” is metamorphote which gives us the English word – metamorphosis.
 - (a) What do you understand about the meaning of metamorphosis and what is the implication on spiritual growth and transformation?
 - 2) The key to transformation is the renewal of the mind.
 - 3) According to Romans 1 the problem is that the mind is hostile to God.
 - (a) What does that mean?
 - 4) The work of renewing the mind is firstly and decisively the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) How does the Holy Spirit work in the process of renewing the mind?
 - 5) The alternative to being transformed by the Holy Spirit is to conform to the patterns of this world.
 - (a) Why do you think this is so?

F. Personal application

1. What is one action of obedience that you sense God is wanting you to do?