

Everybody's Important!

Part 1

To God, Everybody's Important and Everybody Matters

We all come from different directions with our backgrounds, our social status, our financial background to converge here at Cornerstone Church on any given Sunday for the simple reason that we might leave here every Sunday with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to complete His will through you to affect your sphere of influence.

Jesus was doing the same thing with his disciples every time he would meet with them and had some of the problems we face in our churches today...

A Towel and Basin- Bring attention to it and talk about it later.

²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them."

Matthew 20:25

*²⁶Not so with you. Instead, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,** ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Matthew 20:26-28

We believe that when we embrace the values of Christ we will see the power of Christ! We have spent many hours over the last few months seeking God to define what matters to Him. The Four Values that are represented by the four banners on our walls characterize God's purpose for our church.

Our Purpose Statement

Purpose Statement: The purpose of Cornerstone Church is to **serve** unselfishly, **share** our lives openly, and **shape** healthy disciples to **send** out with irresistible lifestyles that will change the world.

The First Banner: Serving is Looking Like Jesus

There are characteristics that look like Christ. These characteristics have the healing power of Christ in those actions. There are characteristics of Christ that we want to embrace as a Cornerstone Characteristic.

- **Everybody's Important and Everybody Matters To God!**
- **Greetings in California:** I went to church in San Diego one Sunday morning while we were on vacation. It was meet and greet time and I stood there waiting to be approached. No one said anything but I understood that I needed to be friendly and turned to the woman next to me and said good morning. She was friendly and smiling. We sat down and they asked for visitors to lift hands and we both lifted hands.
- **Illustration: Pastor Ted's House:** This summer I was randomly invited with hundreds of other pastors, I'm sure, to attend a backyard BBQ at Pastor Ted's house, the pastor of New Life, a 14,000 member church. Interestingly enough, about 40 pastors showed

up. Awkwardly, Carol and I attempted to fit in knowing only one other pastor. It's been a while since we had been "someone else" in someone else's crowd. We smiled and made eye contact with other people trying to get to know someone that we could tie out boat to. We were directed to nice tables with decor and clean table cloths sitting under a canopy to protect us from the sun.

- Our table host's were a young couple of about 22 years of age. They were wonderful at making us connected and feel comfortable. As the conversation passed we discovered that this young couple had just returned the day before from a prayer walk in Tibet, their recovery of an exhausting **20+ hour trip** would have to wait since making us feel **connected and comfortable** was their number one goal. **Their absolute "Unselfish Acts" of kindness, their ability to make us feel valued and going above and beyond our expectations greatly impressed Carol and I.** Never once did **Daniel Grothie** or his wife complain of fatigue, exhaustion or jet lag. He was 100% focused on the task at hand. He understood what "unselfish acts" were all about. Interestingly enough, Pastor Ted surrounds himself with these kinds of people.

The reason Daniel and his wife would sacrifice not only sleep, but also sacrifice an attitude of a martyr to bless us because they knew that everybody's important to God!

God Invites Us To Be Involved In His Interests

- **Everybody's Important and Everybody Matters To God!**
- **Candle Stick Proclamation-** How appropriate that a candle stick would sing this song.

**"Life is so unnerving
For a servant who's not serving
He's not whole without a soul to wait upon"**

- **Are we discontented when we are not serving?**

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, **that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."**

Matthew 5:14-16

1. **Serving- EVERYBODY'S IMPORTANT AND WE SHOW IT BY UNSELFISH ACTS OF SERVICE**

1. Unselfish Acts

- **Baby:** We have had so many couples in our church who have had these incredible little things that scream, cry and expatiates at the most inconvenient times of the night and day. These beings, these little miracles become highly dependent and demanding. And when one of these demanding times occur in the middle of the night a living mom or dad will reach over and kindly whisper, **"It's your turn!"**

¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Romans 12:10

- **Unselfish Acts are driven by a love for people and a love for God!**

- **Mission Offering-** Deborah Stevenson: \$2300
- **Connection Banquet-** If there is something I love more than anything in our church, it's the connection banquet. It is an absolute way to express unselfishly, your love and acts of service toward others. At our last connection banquet many people were exhausted and had already had a full weekend. But as our team developed, people started coming in and the level of excitement went up and so did the level of love and service. Everyone served in a high fashion. Wow, thanks for serving unselfishly.
- **Setting up chairs for events**
- **My love for people and Mission from God will change my behavior.**
- **Unselfish Acts are driven by a love for people and for God!**

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails.”

I Corinthians 13:4-8

1. **EVERYBODY'S IMPORTANT AND WE SHOW IT BY UNSELFISH ACTS OF SERVICE**
2. **EVERYBODY'S IMPORTANT AND WE SERVE OTHERS BY IMPARTING VALUE**

2. Impart Value to Others

In the book, **Contagious Success**, Hudson Highland Center for High Performance conducted the largest and most in-depth global study ever of the workforce. More than 5.5 million people settled on more than three thousand qualified participants in this study. Participants represented highest paid, best educated, and most highly recruited employees whose income was in top 10 percent of participants' respective countries. Thirty percent of the companies in the global Fortune 500 participated.

One of the most incredible findings of the research is that two characteristics considered as the crux of success of these workers was **hard work** and **high expectations**. But what made the high performing workgroups stand out was that they **linked respect for people with those two factors**. **In other words, if the members don't feel valued for their contributions, all the hard work and high expectations in the world will not be enough for the group to be high performing.** “The best way to value people is to show respect by treating smart people as if they are smart people.” (Susan Jucia Annunzio, Portfolio, Penguin Group, New York, 2004, pgs 31, 50)

Important Statement: **Your impact on people is in equal proportion to your value of people**

- **Example: Video Store-** This last week I was looking for a video for Carol and myself. To my right was a young man, maybe 19, with his younger sister who were also looking for a video. What caught my attention was the size of this guys cowboy hat, it looked like the largest taco I had ever seen. I had never seen a cowboy hat like that in my entire life. Not only that, but he had his pants tucked into his knee high boots with his spurs a' jingleling. Immediately I had twenty thoughts rush through my mind, all of them incriminating this young man. As they passed by me I thought, “Has anyone ever told him how he looks?” And

immediately the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "You can't share my love with him." As I stood there, battling within me, conversing within my spirit, I responded, "He would be so easy to share your love with...look at him." What I wasn't saying, but what I meant was, "Look how pitiful he is Lord, surely he needs you. All losers need you!" I hadn't realized that I was entertaining a country club mentality of Christianity. I saw his need of Jesus out of pity, not mercy, not value. Jesus didn't look at him and say, "Bless his heart." Jesus was looking at him and saying, "You were worth dying for. You're important to me. I'd love for you to get to know my father."

- **Everybody's Important and Everybody Matters To God!**
- **Your impact on people is in equal proportion to your value of people**

There are all kinds of people around us that **doesn't fit into our "band width"**

- They may be **straitlaced or dress too casual.**
- They may have **no hair or hair that stands on end will multi-colors.**
- They be from a **different generation or ethnic background.**
- They may be **quiet or obnoxiously loud.**
- They may have **little to offer** or they may be a **superstar.**
- You have to ask yourself a question:

"How do I feel about people who do not fit into my Band Width?"

- **Everybody's Important and Everybody Matters To God!**
- **Your impact on people is in equal proportion to your value of people**
- They **don't dress like me or like the same kind of music.**
- They **may not like to hunt or sports.**
- They **may read a lot.**
- **How do I feel about them?**
- **I will Change my behavior because of My love for people and Mission from God**
- **My impact on people is in equal proportion to my value of people**
- **A Serving Believers have to answer these questions:**
 1. **"Is everybody important to God?"**
 2. **"Are some people important to God and some not?"**
 3. **"Are people not important to God and He's consumed with me?"**
 - **What Is Your Conclusion With Those Questions?**
- **Everybody's Important and Everybody Matters To God!**
- **Your impact on people is in equal proportion to your value of people**

"To the weak I have become weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."

1 Corinthians 9:22

Do You Value:

- **Some people?**
- **Beautiful people?**

- Rich people?
 - Popular people?
 - People your age?
- **Your impact on people is in equal proportion to your value of people**
 - **Mike Foster: Co-founder of xxxchurch.com** was recently interviewed, (Catalyst Episode 8- Podcast) He founded xxxchurch.com four years ago for the purpose of helping men and women to stay accountable for computer use with suggestive and pornographic material. Over the last four years Mikes team has set up booths at two of the largest Porn conventions in America; one in L.A. and the other in Las Vegas. His initial thought was that they were going to be eaten alive and that no one would be interested, and worse they thought they would probably be highly opposed to their Booths presence. There were porn stars, directors and pretty dark characters intermingled throughout the 50,000 people who attended the conference. During the interview the question was asked, **“How were you received when everyone who intended on coming to a porn show saw a Christian booth?”** Here's his response:

*“I think the response was generally positive toward us and to be real honest, it was real surprising. In the beginning we felt like there would be a lot of resistance to us being there. **But one of the things we really stressed to the people working the booth is how we treat people. We do show respect. We are not there to debate, criticize or judge. We are there to love on people, to generously listen to people. So when you are doing this thing, whether you are at a Porn Show or at your Church, or at a football game with your friends, when you do this thing, people are a lot more receptive and a lot more open to you as a person and as a Christian.**”*

Mike Foster and team handed out 3200 Bibles during the porn conference!

- **Illustration:** Bill Hybles tells a story of when he was a child about 8 years old. There were about 15 kids standing at the bus stop when a kid came up who was mentally challenged. The kids started calling him “retard” and other names. Bill was one of the youngest ones there and as he stood on the outside of the circle watching this all take place the bus came and that was the end of it. Later that evening his family of five kids was sitting around the dinner table and he was telling a story about what happened at the bus stop. He laughed and said, “You should have seen what happened at the bus stop today. This kid came up and the other kids started calling him “retard” and...”, before he could finish his sentence Bill relays that the only time that he could ever remember of his father carelessly disciplining anyone of the five kids was at that moment. His father reached over and not violently, but cuffed the back of Bill's head as it came up from behind him, for which he apologized later. In a continuation of his explanation of what went on, Bill conveys that there were only two times in his whole life, between his birth and death, that he had ever seen his father cry, and this was one of them. He said to him:

“Billy, God made that little boy and he loves him every bit as much

as He loves you. How could you just stand there and not defend him. Both your Mother and I have disabled brothers and we stood up for them and we protected them and made sure that other kids treated them with respect. That's what we expect from you from this day forward. You go to your bedroom right now and think it over."

Bill said that it still resonates inside of him as a fresh experience and that was at eight years of age. His Dad came a little while later to his room and told him,

"Billy, there are some people in this world who need to be protected, and there are people who need love in special ways. I want you to grow up and be one of those kinds of people."

When Bill Hybles was off at summer camp or later at College, his dad who was considered a firm business man who showed little emotion, would write him and end the letter, ***"Remember Billy, love people who need love the most."***

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
Proverbs 31:8-9

To God, Everybody is important and Everybody Matters: (Luke 14-15)

- **Parable of the Great Banquet-** Luke 14:15-24

"Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame."

Luke 14:21b

- **Everybody is important and Everybody Matters To God!**

- **Parable of the Lost Sheep-** Luke 15:1-7

"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Luke 15:7

- **Everybody is important and Everybody Matters To God!**

- **Parable of the Lost Coin-** Luke 15:8-10

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:10

- **Everybody is important and Everybody Matters To God!**

- **Parable of the Lost Son-** Luke 15:11-32

"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:24

- **Everybody is important and Everybody Matters To God!**

Outreach Center

*“He who mocks the **poor** shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.”*

Proverbs 17:5

*“He who is kind to the **poor** lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.”*

Proverbs 19:17

*“If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the **poor**, he too will cry out and not be answered.”*

Proverbs 21:13

“He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.”

Proverbs 28:27

*“The righteous care about justice for the **poor**, but the wicked have no such concern.”*

Proverbs 29:7

*“He who oppresses the **poor** shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”*

Proverbs 14:31

Look What God Has Done

“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.”

Isaiah 41:17-18

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3. **EVERYBODY'S IMPORTANT AND WE SERVE OTHERS BY GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND EXPECTATIONS**

3. Go Above and Beyond Expectations

The Spirit's Purpose

“¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”

Isaiah 61:1-3

The claim of a Spirit filled church or individual is expressed in 11 ways:

- ***To preach good news to the poor***
- ***To bind up the brokenhearted***
- ***To proclaim freedom for the captives***
- ***To release from darkness for the prisoners***
- ***To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor***
- ***To proclaim the day of vengeance of our God***
- ***To comfort all who mourn***
- ***To provide for those who grieve***
 - ***To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes***
 - ***To bestow on them the oil of gladness instead of mourning***
 - ***To bestow on them a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair***
 - ***They Will Be Called Oaks of Righteousness!***

Jesus Teaching On Going Above and Beyond Expectations

⁴¹If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."

Matthew 5:41

Neither post-offices, radio communications or satellite's were known during Jesus day. In order that the royal commands might be delivered with safety and dispatched in different parts of the empire, King Cyrus stationed horsemen at proper intervals on all the great public highways. One of those delivered the message to another, and intelligence was thus rapidly and safely communicated. These heralds were permitted to *compel* any person, or to press any horse, boat, ship, or other vehicle that they might need, for the quick transmission of the king's commandments. It was to this custom that our Saviour refers. Rather, says he, than resist a public authority, requiring your attendance and aid for a certain distance, go peaceably twice the distance. (Barnes' Notes on the New Testament)

Back To A Towel and Basin

¹It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. ²The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

John 13:1-2

³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist."

John 13:3-4

Three Things That Jesus Knew

1. He knew that the Father had put all things under His power (Authority)
2. He knew that He had come from God (Mission)
3. He knew that He was returning to God (Destiny)

I believe that the greatest inhibitor of serving God is the inferiority that a believer has

because of the lack of who they know or an over consumption of their position in God.

Four Things That Jesus Did

1. **He got up from the meal-** Jesus got up from feeding himself. He push away from the table. In the next day he would be starved, beat and hung on the cross. Hey, it's my last meal! Prisoners get their last meal.
2. **He took off his outer clothing-** *Laid aside his garments.* His outer garment. The Jews wore two principal garments, an interior and an exterior. The *interior*, here called the "*coat*," or the tunic, was made commonly of linen, and encircled the whole body, extending down to the knees. The coat, or tunic, was extended to the neck, and had long or short sleeves. Over this was commonly worn an upper garment, here called "*cloak*," or mantle. It was made commonly nearly square, of different sizes, five or six cubits long, and as many broad, and wrapped around the body, and thrown off when labor was performed. This was his *mantle* or robe, which is said to have been without seam. It was what they had cast lots for as he hung on the cross. It was customary to lay this aside when they worked or ran, or in the heat of summer.
3. **He wrapped a towel around his waist-** Took a towel and girded himself. This was the manner of a servant or slave. The custom, ancient manner of dress was a long flowing robe as their outer garment. When they labored, or walked, or ran, it was necessary to *gird* or tie this up by a *sash* or girdle about the body, that it might not impede their progress.
4. **He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciple' feet**
 - It was uniformly the office of a servant to wash the feet of guests. At this moment of deep meaning, Jesus did something that must have almost seemed crazy. He began to do the job of the lowest servant in the household. He **began to wash the disciples' feet**. It was customary that the lowest servant of the house would wash the feet of the guests as they came into the house, especially for a formal meal like this. For some reason, this didn't happen when Jesus and the disciples came into the room. So they ate their meal with dirty feet. This was more awkward than we might think. First, because of the sandals they wore and the roads they walked on, the feet would be dirty. Second, the disciples would eat a formal meal like this at a table known as a *triclinium*. This was a low (coffee-table height), U-shaped table. The guests would sit, and their status at the meal was reflected by how close they were seated to the host or leader of the meal. Because the table was low, they didn't sit on chairs. They leaned on pillows, with their feet behind them. This meant that dirty feet could be unpleasantly close to the table during the meal. So the unwashed feet were conspicuous. So why didn't any of the disciples do this first? Any of the disciples would have gladly washed Jesus' feet. But they could not wash *His* without having to be available to wash the others' feet, and that would have been an intolerable admission of inferiority among their fellow competitors for the top positions in the disciples' hierarchy. So no one's feet got washed! (David Guzik)
 - And he "girded himself with a towel," just as Paul also records that he "took the form of a servant," and "humbled himself and became obedient

unto death," (Phil 2:7-8). So here he humbles himself, taking the role of a slave, girding himself with a towel. (Ray C. Stedman- THE TOWEL WEARERS)

⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

John 13:5-7

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." **Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."**

John 13:8

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am."

John 13:9-13

¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵**I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:14-17

It was an unselfish act, It valued everybody there and it went above and beyond their expectations. Why would Jesus do that? Because Everybody's Important and everybody matters to God!

- **Everybody is important and Everybody Matters To God!**
- **Serving Is:**

1. **EVERYBODY'S IMPORTANT AND WE SHOW IT BY UNSELFISH ACTS OF SERVICE**
2. **EVERYBODY'S IMPORTANT AND WE SERVE OTHERS BY IMPARTING VALUE**
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