

OUR VALUES – Indianola Freedom Fellowship Church

At Indianola Freedom Fellowship Church we recognize that life revolves around relationship. Because God created man in His image with the capacity to relate to Him and other humans in meaningful ways, it is of no surprise that He desires to have mutual communication between us. God has revealed Himself and His will to us through the Bible. And we can respond to Him through prayer. Our values reflect our unique ability to relate to our Creator and His creation. In each of the three following relationships, we find four qualities that should characterize our lives.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (Jn. 4:24-25)

God is a personal God who looks upon the heart and seeks worshippers who willingly praise Him for who He is and what He has done. He is the God of truth and we must respond to Him in ways that reflect the truth He has revealed.

- **SPIRITUAL** (Mt. 5:33; Php. 3:7-14)
Jesus calls us to seek God's kingdom as a priority in life, not being preoccupied by material needs. In this earthly life, we walk by faith in the spiritual realm. The Apostle Paul exemplifies for us the passion that should characterize our pursuit of spiritual reality.
- **AUTHENTIC** (Jas. 1:21-27; 1 Sa. 15:22-23)
Observing a liturgy, giving an offering, or performing good deeds are not substitutes for a relationship with the living God. Rather than religious activity, God desires a relational attitude that results in authentic service for the right reasons—our love for Him. The reality of our faith in God will be demonstrated by our obedience to His will.
- **TRANSFORMING** (Ro. 8:29-30; 12:1-2)
Far from being static or petrified, our lives should reflect spiritual growth as the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to "*renew our minds.*" As our minds are changed, our behavior will change as well. Our past never need prevent us from progress because God can forgive it, grant us His Son's righteousness, and transform us into the likeness of Christ.
- **EMPOWERING** (Eph. 3:20-21; 6:10-18)
When we receive eternal life, an empowered life begins at that moment. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer to enable them to carry out God's will. We may lapse into a period of living by sight rather than by faith, but we can be encouraged that God's divine power has granted not only His Spirit and His weapons of spiritual warfare, but everything we need "*pertaining to life and godliness*" (2 Pe. 1:3).

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE (Jn. 13:34-35)

Church is not merely a social club though, no doubt, some churches function that way. The Church is a living organism that is empowered by Christ to do the supernatural—loving the unlovable. No church will ever be perfect because they contain imperfect people. Nevertheless, Jesus calls us to "*love one another*" by the measure of sacrificial love that He Himself has shown in His life and death. That kind of love is the unique mark of His followers.

- **SPIRITUAL** (Jn. 17:22-23; Eph. 4:1-6)
Our love is spiritual in that it is characterized by a divine unity that the Godhead enjoys. Only when God's love indwells us through His Spirit is the Church "*perfected in unity.*" When the watching world observes that kind of selfless love, it can only conclude that Jesus was truly sent by the Father to be the Savior of the world.
- **AUTHENTIC** (1 Jn. 3:14-17; 1 Th. 4:9-10)
Our relationships are authentic when our love is not simply expressed in words but in our service to fellow believers. Talk is cheap. Only our actions show the extent of our love. Jesus laid down His life for us, and only His amazing grace can enable us to do the same, if need be, for those we should be loving supernaturally.
- **TRANSFORMING** (Heb. 10:24-25; 12:14-16)
You've probably heard a professing Christian admit that he believes in God but that he doesn't attend any church. Such a notion fails to understand the transforming work accomplished through God's Spirit as we interact with believers and exercise our spiritual gifts and responsibilities.
- **EMPOWERING** (Ac. 1:8; 2:41-47)
No doubt when Paul confidently wrote, "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*", he knew the promise of the Savior to empower His people to express unity and selfless love with such "*gladness and sincerity of heart*" that they had favor among the people who witnessed their powerful transformation.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S WORLD Mt. (28:18-20)

The Church has not been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light to simply enjoy one another. We have been commissioned with a seemingly impossible task of making "*disciples of all the nations.*" The guarantee of the Church's success is rooted in Jesus' unique authority and unending presence.

- **SPIRITUAL** (1 Pe. 2:9-15; Eph. 6:4)
God has chosen to work through His people to reach the world. The priority of our mission to the world is the proclamation of the saving power of our great God. Interwoven in our proclamation is our excellent behavior and good deeds that can only prompt those who eventually trust in Christ to give God glory in working so mercifully in and through an undeserving people. Our spiritual outreach must first begin in our own homes as we share the truth and love of God with those He has entrusted to us.
- **AUTHENTIC** (Ro. 12:17-18; 1 Co. 9:19-23)

Our authenticity will be fostered in our integrity. When we practice what we preach we will be credible witnesses to the world. Although not everyone will agree with us, we will nevertheless strive to *“be at peace with all men.”* Being careful not to love the world system with all of its ungodly distractions, we will interact with those in the world for the purpose of leading them to Christ.

- TRANSFORMING (2 Co. 10:4; 1 Th. 1:2-10)
We will never bring God’s kingdom on earth through political means though we pray that His will would be done here *“as it is in heaven”* (Mt. 6:10). Nevertheless, *“the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful.”* When we use the weapon of God’s Word, He can transform idol worshippers into His servants characterized by their *“work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- EMPOWERING (Re. 3:7-11; 1 Co. 4:1-4)
Jesus promises that even a small church that upholds God’s truth and exalts Christ’s name will be granted *“an open door [of ministry] which no one can shut.”* We are not called to be big and successful by the world’s standards—we are called to be faithful to our Lord’s commands and willing to pursue the opportunities He has placed before us.

Understanding how we were created and what is important to God teaches us to value those things that are important to Him, our Designer. Therefore, we believe that we should personally respond to these values with these three individual commitments:

I will abide in Christ and bear fruit that God would be glorified. (Jn. 15:7-8,16)

I will love fellow Christians without hypocrisy. (Ro. 12:9-13)

I will invest my time, talents, and treasures in extending God’s Kingdom. (Mt. 25:14-23)