

Formational Leadership
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The Relation of Church and Culture:

“Gospel' always involves a way of living in a given social environment as a Christian community.... To ask about how the gospel relates to culture is to ask how to live as a Christian community in a particular cultural context. . . . Indeed, there is no other way to reflect adequately on gospel and culture except by reflecting on how the social embodiments of the gospel relate to a given culture.” (Miroslav Volf).

Though my involvement in local Church at Cleveland, TN, is much shorter, but the effects of those few months have truly inspired my life by the living testimonies of Church leaders, Biblical teachings and ministerial works.

The main core values of the Church are:

- Hospitality is a Christian virtue.
- The gospel creates a new community.
- The gospel completely transforms our relationships with one another.
- Emphasizing leadership development and empowerment in order to encourage Christians to initiate and lead team-based ministries.
- The key to the rapid expansion of kingdom movements is disciples multiplying disciples.

The primary focus of the Church is to strengthen the body of Christ to impact lives in their own communities and neighbors. Church has expanded their feeding program from soup kitchen to door to door food distribution to the less fortunate people in the area with free medical clinic once a week.

The majority of the Church attendees are from lower middle class who are working full time in order to meet the needs of their families. Worship, preaching, teaching, culture and practices of Church are deeply rooted in Wesleyan Pentecostal traditions.

The result of “community vs society” interviews clearly identifies that most of them are satisfied with the leadership and also understand the effectiveness of team work as a community. Although is a multicultural Church but most of them like to remain simply because they can feel sense of community, relationship and friendship with other people. I believe leadership successfully managed to develop own mutual identity and Church culture.

I think Christians of all traditions have been challenged to think more broadly of their own identity as a follower of Christ. With the recent expansion of Christianity around the world and the anticipated spread of the gospel into all peoples, we can hope to realize the beauty of both the particular and the universal in a truly global Christianity.

And I am excited. Because the future is one of unity, diversity, LOVE, tradition, innovation, community, justice, and Christ centered disciples.