

How Christian values are rooted in the Gospel

Creation / Creativity

God made us and he made the world. The Bible tells us we are made in his image, so we too have the potential to be creative in many life-affirming ways. But God also gave us responsibility to look after the world around us and to hold it in trust for future generations. We should not use our imagination and creativity in harmful ways.

God is wonderfully creative. Being made in His image means that we should be creative in the world He has made.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1

Friendship and Community

God has given us a pattern for healthy friendships: to say sorry when we are unfriendly and to give and receive forgiveness. In a loving community barriers are broken down. Each person is valued as a unique individual, none are excluded and everyone is a friend. We have something in common in Jesus' love for us and his death on the cross for us. We love each other because Jesus loved us first.

With Jesus at the centre, our community is kept strong and healthy.

If one falls down, a friend can lift him up. Ecclesiastes 4:10

A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17

The son of man (Jesus)... a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Luke 7:34

Thankfulness

Being thankful helps keep our relationships in good health. It reminds us that we do depend on one another and, ultimately, on God for everything. We have much to be thankful for!

Remembering what Jesus has done for us keeps us thankful.

Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Service

Jesus came “not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”. He calls us to follow his example and serve one another out of love. The parable of the Good Samaritan shows we should serve those in need whoever they are by ‘going the extra mile’, putting ourselves out for someone else’s benefit.

We follow the example of Jesus in the way we serve one another out of love.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1Peter 4:10

Perseverance

Life can be hard. Sometimes very hard. But God promises to be with us and to help us so he expects us to keep on trying and not to lose hope. This means that we have a reason to keep going and not give up, even when life is hard!

We support and encourage one another to persevere knowing God is with us.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1-3

Truth

Jesus came to show us truth. Truth affects every part of our lives. As we learn, we discover that some things are true and some false. In our relationships, when we are not truthful we break trust and damage each other. When we are truthful, we learn to trust one another and build healthy, sustaining and supportive relationships.

When telling the truth might be hard for someone to hear, we have to be very careful. We must first stop and ask, “Does this person trust me? Do they know I love them? How can I tell them the truth in a kind way to encourage and bless them?” We are to ‘speak the truth in love’. Ephesians 4:15.

Jesus is our best example to follow of being truthful and loving.

(Jesus) came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1: 14

Jesus said, ***“I am the way and the truth and the life.”*** John 14:6

Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31