PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE: CULTURE PART 2

KEYS TO BUILDING A HEALTHY CULTURE

1. DINE (eat) TOGETHER

JOHN 1:35-39 NIV
35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"
37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"
They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"
39 "Come,"he replied, "and you will see."
So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Leaders must initiate informal social interactions and fellowship, and members should respond and be involved.

2. DECLARE (entertain) customs and practice REPEATEDLY

PHILIPPIANS 3:1A NIV
1 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again,

PHILIPPIANS 4:4 NIV
4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

2 PETER 1:12-15 NIV
12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

"One of the signs of a great society is the diligence with which it passes culture from one generation to the next." – Winston Churchill

3. DEFEND (evolve for) THE CULTURE TIRELESSLY

NEHEMIAH 5:9-13A NIV
9 So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? 10 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! 11 Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil." 12 "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say."

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. 13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!"

As a church, we should care and stand up for what is right. We have to defend and practice what followers of Christ stand for.

4. DEMONSTRATE (emulate) the CULTURE of the Church

Things are not always taught; they are caught. There are words and actions that we need to model and spread across our churches.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 NIV
1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:17 NIV
17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:6A-8 NIV
6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord... 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

5. DELEGATE (expand) LEADERSHIP

"No matter how competent people are, if they don't fit our culture, they will end up hurting our company. Every person at your company influences every other person somehow, and so hiring someone who didn't fit our culture, and who wouldn't have been happy, would have had an adverse effect on every individual and every team in some way. The effect may be small, or it could be dramatic, but you have the opportunity to prevent it when you hire people."
– James Collins, Good to Great

ACTS 12:12B NIV — JOHN MARK WAS A SON OF A RICH WOMAN
12 ...he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

ACTS 12:25 NIV — THEY TOOK JOHN MARK
25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

ACTS 13:5B NIV— JOHN WAS THEIR HELPER
5 ...John was with them as their helper.

ACTS 13:13 NIV — JOHN LEFT THE TEAM
13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

ACTS 15:36-38 NIV
36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

6. DIAGNOSE (examine) the Relevance of the Church

"When he was COO of eBay, Webb said the task was to "figure out how to stay true to our core values while being open to changing some of our practices. He suggests that during seasons of explosive growth, leaders should "do a culture check every six months" to determine if we are doing things that worked in the past, but need to change to foster future growth."
– Steve Murell

PHILIPPIANS 3:2-3 NLT
2 Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. 3 For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Out of these KEYS TO BUILDING A HEALTHY CULTURE, which do you think you do the best? Which challenges you the most? Please share why.

2. What is one personal action step that God is calling you to strengthen the culture of PV?