



## STUDY 5 - Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

We have highlighted five core values. Is there anything that you sense is missing from these summary statements?

As we continue to address the area of pastoral transition – do feed back any

comments or specific thoughts you have to the leadership team.

You can use the dedicated email address if that helps – [transition@wbc-ashford.co.uk](mailto:transition@wbc-ashford.co.uk)

### CORE VALUE 5 – INCLUSION

Reading Ephesians 2.11-22

Remember that the key words, indicate key foundation stones on which we build the life of WBC but also, they remain aspirational and call us to pray and work together in a focused manner in order to see these values flourish and develop.

**INCLUSION – Promote a sense of acceptance, belonging and togetherness in all we do, and encourage each person to achieve their God-given potential.**

Imagine that you are the Mystery Worshipper attending WBC – go to website **ship-of-fools.com** and on their site mystery worshippers report back on questions which go to the heart of church life: How long was the sermon? How hard the pew? How cold was the coffee? How warm the welcome? Go to the website and see some of the reports!

- How do we continue to create and sustain a welcoming spirit within the life of the church?
- Are there areas that we can improve on or even introduce?  
What is our responsibility in making a difference?

### In considering this core value of INCLUSION, we find JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE.

There were times when Jesus was scandalously inclusive – and was criticised for his action.

Inclusive - **Age**  
**Gender**  
**Social status**  
**Marginalised**

- Find some appropriate passages that indicate this inclusive attitude of Jesus and the implications that it held for those who were receiving a genuine welcome and acceptance.
- What are some of the divisions that we readily see around us within the church and outside of the church?

Whenever we think about inclusion, we tend to presume God's love reaches out to all in an unqualified manner.

Think through how Jesus expressed **EXCLUSION** as well as INCLUSION.

The door of the Kingdom of God was not open to all. Entry into the Kingdom was through repentance and faith.

- Take the Rich Young Ruler introduced to us in Mark 10.21-22 who wanted to follow Jesus but went away *downcast in spirit* because Jesus did not lower the bar of entry into the Kingdom for this man.
- Jesus frequently was outspoken towards the religious leaders. He spoke openly of how they would be excluded from the Kingdom for the Kingdom of God is not just about obeying a set of legalistic rules.
- In Matthew 11.28-30 there is the inclusive call to people *come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest* but there is the exclusive side that says *take my yoke upon you and learn of me and you will find rest for your souls*.

### **There is healing and hope through the gospel.**

Galatians 3.26-28 declares the power of new community in Christ.

No more cultural divisions -*neither Jew nor Greek*

No more class divisions – *neither slave nor free*

No more gender divisions – *neither male or female*

- What are the challenging implications for us today? Does prejudice still happen among God's people? What are the barriers that divide people here in Ashford? How can we make sure they are broken down within the ministry of WBC?

### **There are many illustrations of the church spreading out into Gentile regions.**

Acts 10 and the episode of Peter and Cornelius, a Roman centurion

Acts 11 and the rapidly growing church in Antioch that had a mixed congregation and therefore mixed leadership team.

How do we stimulate and nurture the core values of acceptance, belonging and togetherness in all we do as a church family?

### **The final phrase *all achieving their God given potential*.**

- Reflect on Ephesians 2.10 where Paul talks about being *His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works* i.e. to reach our full effective potential.
- Do you ever sense that you were made for more?  
**1 Corinthians 12:7-8 (MSG)** *Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful*

## **FOR YOUR OWN NOTES**