

# W.O.R.D: Relationship

Our first value is worship

*Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the King. He rules now over his Kingdom and our glad response for his life, death, resurrection and rule is worship: obedience, giving, singing, witness and declaration to name just a few facets of the worshipful life. Our life of worship of Jesus as King is our daily intentional relationship with him.*

If something is valuable you are willing to pay a high price.

- What greater price is there than willingly dying for what you consider valuable?

Christians have died because they worshiped Jesus throughout church history.

**And today.**

- Brothers and sisters who don't look like us.
- Who worship Jesus differently. Who believe things differently.
- But who's obedient response to a glorious king is to be martyred for him.
  - Don't be so proud about your version of Christianity.

Our second value is outreach.

*A natural extension of our worshipful relationship with Jesus is his heart becomes our heart, his kingdom becomes our kingdom and his mission become our mission. We exist, and it is our joy, to proclaim the good news that Jesus is the promised King of God's people, who has come to pay the price for our rebellion against him, to heal humanity of it's brokenness and to lead us into the fullness of the new creation.*

*We live a life of outreach by intentionally creating space in our minds and daily lives for those who don't know Jesus as their King. With our minds we outreach through prayer and with our daily lives we outreach through inviting people to be part of our lives, our homes and our community.*

Christians have died because they have outreached for Jesus throughout church history. **And today.**

Values can be a matter of life and death.

Our third value is relationship.

**Luke 18** 28 Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" 29 "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the

*kingdom of God 30 will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”*

Sometimes it seems to cost us everything to follow Jesus.

- But our reward is not just after we die - it's here and now and it's greater than whatever we give up.
- How is it possible to have the most intimate of human relationships replaced many times over? How can family be replaced?
  - If you leave one set of relationships to follow Jesus, Jesus will give you many times more in the church.

The church is Jesus' promise to those who give up family to follow him.

- **Really!** The church is full of conflict and hypocrites, broken relationships, manipulation, cliques and abuse.
  - Tell me about it.
- The church can be like that, but it can also be something very different when we value relationship. Like we value worship and outreach.

**Acts 2 44** *All who believed were together and held everything in common, 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts,*

This is a church that valued relationship.

- It died for the worship of Jesus, to outreach his message and mission and it became family.
- This was a family from around the world. 17 different nations. They valued relationship and became a family.
  - Family that did life together. Worship and mission together
  - Family that feed each other
  - Family that sacrificed for each other.

Can we be that kind of family? **Can we have that kind of relationship?**

- Not in our own strength. That's when we get the dysfunction of church.

Only the Holy Spirit can enable this.

- Relationships are difficult because humans are complicated.
  - Different languages, histories, experiences, triggers, hopes, dreams, stories.
- Relationships are difficult because they need conflict.

- Conflict is inevitable but greater strength and witness is on the other side. (Dispute with the Hellenic Jews)
- Relationships are difficult because they take commitment.
  - Just like worship is more than singing. Maybe we could do it in our own strength is being nice to each other at church was all relationships are. **Relationships take commitment.**

### **Conclusion**

Relationship is hard.

- Humans are complicated. There's conflicts and testing. It's our whole life not just a moment.
- It's takes the Holy Spirit to make it possible and we have to be willing to serve, feed and sacrifice each other.

So why value relationship?

- Because it's our greatest outreach tool.
- It shows the world that Jesus is great.
- We see this in Acts 2.

***Acts 2** 44 All who believed were together and held everything in common, 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, 47 praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.*

We value relationship at EN Melbourne.

- Next week is Family Feed.
- Aug 18 is Church 246.
- We have LGs

We value relationship because

- Relationship makes our worship truer.
- Relationship makes our outreach more powerful.
- Relationship is the reward for our sacrifice.