

Title: Our DNA

Text: Acts 2:42-47

Target: The collision of what we preach and what we practice is who we really are!

I. **The Mission of our Church resides in our Mandate:**

- A. Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-40
 - 1. Love God Supremely
 - 2. Love Others Sacrificially
- B. Great Commission: Matthew 28:17-20

We (Us is I and I is Us) **CHAMPION** (equip/elevate) **every person** (yes, you!) **to be** (not just do) **the good news** (salvation) of **JESUS** (His representative) **in every place** (live, work, play).

Discussion Question: It has been said that we are human beings, not human doings. Yet, we tend to be hyper-focused on the doing aspect of our Christian life. We operate in our own strength and our gifts. Have you ever found this way of doing things to be sustainable? Has this way of operating felt fruitless and tiresome in the past? Read John 15:1-11. Jesus calls us to abide in Him. He promises that we will bear much fruit, but only if we abide in Him. This abiding is what will allow us **to be the good news** to those around us. What areas of your life do you need to release from your power so that you can abide in the power of Jesus?

II. **The Values of our Church reflect our Motives:** Acts 2:42-47

- A. **We Deliver Real Hope:** *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”* (Acts 2:42)
 - 1. **Condemnation is not the heart of God.**
 - 2. **No one is beyond the reach of grace.**
 - 3. **It’s never too late for a new beginning.**
 - 4. **It’s ok to not be ok, but it’s not ok to stay that way.**
 - 5. **Jesus is our Freedom.**
- B. **We Build Kingdom Family:** *“...and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* (Acts 2:42b)
 - 1. **Together is always better.**
 - 2. **Circles matter more than rows.**
 - 3. **Friends become Family**
 - 4. **2am calls are welcomed**
- C. **We Celebrate Life Change:** *“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”* (Acts 2:43)
 - 1. **Repentance Death to Life Stories Matter.**
 - 2. **Every step of progress is a Victory Lap.**
 - 3. **“We are the right fit for the misfit” (Jeff Wallace)**
 - 4. **Obedience to the voice of God is liberating.**
- D. **We Practice Radical Generosity:** *“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need”* (Acts 2:45) *...they received their food with glad and generous hearts,”* (Acts 2:46)
 - 1. **Blessed people- Bless people.**
 - 2. **We are stewards of everything.**
 - 3. **Can’t outgive God.**

4. Military town USA gets sacrifice.

Discussion Question: What would happen to those in the CBC sphere of influence (that's every person, space, and place that each of us comes in contact with) if 25% of our congregation embraced these values and lived them out as an overflow of their abiding in Jesus? What about 50%? Dare we think about what could/would happen if all of CBC embraced the mission and values (a mission, by the way, that is given to each of us as a follower of Jesus Christ by Jesus Himself)? It starts with you and it starts with me. Let's resolve, with The Holy Spirit's leading and help, ***to be the good news of Jesus in every place.***

Takeaway: When the mission and values of a church is clear, and people feel empowered, then the Lord will *"add to their number day by day those who were being saved."* (Acts 2:47)