

DNA Culture- Faith, Hope and Love

If you were trying to define what Christian City Church San Diego was like to somebody, what words would you use to describe it? This is what is meant by culture.

CCC San Diego is desiring to build a church that has a ministry philosophy of Faith, Hope and love.

We want to be a church that inspires FAITH, Produces HOPE and operates in LOVE!

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(i). Faith

Habbakuk 2:4: "The Just shall live by faith"

What is Faith?

God desires us to have faith. Zecharias was struck dumb for having no faith, when the angel Gabriel appeared to him with news that God was going to answer his prayers. Miracles happened when people exercised their faith. The bible says that "Abraham believed God and it was accredited to him as righteousness"

James 2:23 "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of **God**.

God loves faith!

Faith is the currency of the kingdom of heaven. Faith has an all access pass to the treasures of the kingdom of heaven.

Faith is believing God, over the circumstances.

Faith is a choice, based upon the word of God which is the character or

bond of God.

Hebrews 11:6: Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

There are two elements to the kind of faith that we are to have;

1. We are to believe that God is,
2. we are to believe that HE IS A REWARDER of those who diligently seek him!

CCC San Diego is a church that desires to please God. So we are a church that will always operate in faith. We will always stir people towards faith. We will always preach and inspire faith because that is where heaven and earth connect, at the junction of faith.

Woman with the issue of Blood Luke 8:43 – 48: Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. 45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" 46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

JAMES 5:15: And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really **find faith** on the **earth**?"

(ii) Hope

"A man can live 40 days without food, 3 days without water, but he cannot live one minute without hope" Author Unknown.

What is Hope? **Hebrews 11:1** Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is the substance of Hope. Hope is the culture of faith. Hope is the

conduit of faith.

When a human being has hope, anything is possible. When a human loses hope all is lost.

Ecclesiastes 9:4 *"But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion."*

CCC San Diego believes that "With God, all things are possible!" The key is being **with** God. We will always be lifting people up, encouraging them, restoring hope. Dreams cannot reside in a heart that has lost its hope, Vision cannot reside in a heart that has lost hope. If the Holy Spirit brings visions and dreams then it is our responsibility to ensure that He has fertile soil in which to plant his seeds.

Have you ever met anyone devoid of hope?

Hopelessness is a heaviness that crushes the life out of the human soul. Our services will always be designed and structured to be light, and life, to restore hope.

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(iii) LOVE

"...But the greatest of these is Love" **1 Corinthians 13:13**

CCC San Diego must be a church that manifests the heart of God which is LOVE!

John 8:3 - 11: 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers

of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Jesus came to reveal the father, in this story what did Jesus show us about God's love?

Love is not a noun, but a Verb. Love should always be felt, evident not hidden.

Love forgives – "*Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.*" **Proverbs 10:12**

Proverbs 17:9 He who **covers** a transgression seeks **love**, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a **multitude** of **sins**."

Perhaps the most famous verse in scripture is **John 3:16**. What does this verse say? What is the key word in this verse?

Does Hell fire and damnation bring people to salvation and The fear of God?

Romans 2:4: Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Schindlers list "I pardon you" analogy.

Our mission is our gratitude, He has asked us to tell the world about this free gift of eternal life. NB It is only free because the highest price possible has been paid for it already!!!