

Core Values: Celebration!

Jamal shared with us last week about 2 of our core values, Community and Service.

Tonight I am going to talk about our last one, CELEBRATION!
If you look on the website, it reads like this:

WE value Celebration. That is why we sing, dance, and have fun. We do all this because we believe that Jesus Christ is The Good News.

Now believe it or not, this is actually a pretty biblical principle! Here are some examples!

1 Chronicles 16: 8-10

- ⁸ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
⁹ Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
¹⁰ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.”

Psalm 7: 17

- “¹⁷ I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness;
I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.”

Ephesians 5: 18-20

- “¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

James 5:13

- “¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.”

Each of these verses tells us something about our faith and our relationship with God. Every single one of them says something about singing to God, praising His name with song, rejoicing as we seek Him, being full of the Spirit and making music from our hearts! Are you happy? Are things going well? Sing about it! Lift up your voice to God and sing your blessings and joy! It also says to tell of all His wonderful acts.

We believe that Jesus Christ is The Good News. He is our reason for joy, for being full of gratitude, for singing and dancing and celebrating the life we have been blessed with and the security of an even greater life to come! Talk about it, tell people about it!

Here is a question, why do we celebrate? What types of things do we celebrate? President's Day is not a celebration; it's a day of honoring all the past presidents.

The dictionary definition of "celebration" is: The action of marking one's pleasure at an important event or occasion by engaging in enjoyable, typically social activity.

Celebration is a time of recognizing the achievement of something or someone, but doing it in an outwardly visible way! This is such a crucial aspect of our faith and our relationship with God! The greatest achievement in history is victory over death, the realm of evil being conquered. We must celebrate this! We must bring recognition to this! Jesus Christ is the One who conquered death and solidified our places in heaven. He is The Ultimate Good News.

This can be done in so many ways. It can be done in Eighteen22 Dance parties, lifting our voices as one in Worship, laughing and hanging out together (I had to relate this all back to Community somehow!) and even celebrating the amazing sacrifice and the even more amazing resurrection of Christ through our conversations and telling others in a casual manner why we sing what we do, why we dance the way we do, why we look for and find joy in every situation, and why we feel secured in our life and in our death.

I want to read a passage to you, and then I will pray to close us out.

Psalm 71: 22-24

²² I will praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, my God;
I will sing praise to you with the lyre,
Holy One of Israel.
²³ My lips will shout for joy
when I sing praise to you—
I whom you have delivered.
²⁴ My tongue will tell of your righteous acts
all day long,
for those who wanted to harm me
have been put to shame and confusion.