

# Vital Values of Cedar Point

## Week 1 – Knowing God

First, let's talk about the church— Jesus said, **Matthew 16:18** <sup>18</sup> **And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

The establishment of the church was Jesus plan and idea. The OT synagogue or temple was where the presence of God dwelled. When Jesus died on the cross the veil was torn releasing the Holy Spirit to be able to cover the whole earth. So, the church no longer needed to happen where God was – He was now everywhere by His Spirit.

The cross was the key and the end product in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts is the establishment of the Church. That is why this shirt and the cross that it displayed is hated in so many parts of the world. It is illegal in 51 countries, restricted in 40 and in 11 areas it is treated with hostility!

But, I am here to tell you that there are 195 countries on this planet and that Jesus is not illegal in 144 of them His word will never be restricted and those who are persecuted for the cause of Christ will have a greater reward in Heaven.

What is the job of the Church? In times of hostility it goes underground – fish in the sand – house churches of China, underground church in Vietnam. Christians meet secretly to let God speak to them and to be encouraged.

Where the Church is free – like in the U.S. – the church's mandate is clear– become a gathering place for those who believe and a refuge to those who are searching. To equip the believer for the work of ministry to fulfill the Great Commission to go out and make disciples.

Acts 2:<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Values – We all have values – talk about espoused values and real values.

This morning I want us to talk about the church and its purpose and values. Knowing, worshipping, telling

On our website you will see that we have listed five life purposes – Knowing God is complex but definitely includes these two of our five life purposes.

3. Discipleship...Becoming Like Christ  
You were shaped in the image of God so that you might be like Him.  
(Genesis 1:27; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

**Genesis 1: <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.**

**2 Cor. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. <sup>13</sup>We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup>Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**

**4. Ministry...Serving God' s Church and Others  
You were made to serve God and His Church.  
(Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:1)**

**Ephesians 2:<sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**Romans 12:<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as  
living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.**