# WESTMINSTER

# **CULTURE**



# CALVARY CULTURE TOP-TEN

- 1. HISTORY & FUTURE
- 2. CHANGE IS CONTINUAL
- 3. SUPPORT OUR PASTOR
- 4. LOCK YOUR SHIELDS
- 5. ONE MISSION
- 6. COMMITTED TO THE SCRIPTURES
- 7. WORSHIP PARTICIPATION
- 8. OPEN TO ANYONE, BUT NOT FOR EVERYONE
- 9. GENEROSITY CREATES CAPACITY
- 10. GOD CALLED YOU



# **SUMMARY:**

THESE STATEMENTS DEFINE OUR CALVARY
CULTURE AND IDENTIFY THE PART WE PLAY IN THE
BODY OF CHRIST. THESE BELIEFS ALIGN OUR
CALLING ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, WHILE BEING
UNITED IN THE METHODS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES.



# 1. HISTORY & FUTURE

We share the stories of how God has led and blessed us. Celebrate what God has done in our past and stay faithful to what He is doing in the present. Jesus will return at a moment we least expect Him.

"... Your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did. Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, 'a land flowing with milk and honey." (Deut. 11:7-9) NKJV

It's fun to look back and see all the Lord has done. He has shown Himself faithful repeatedly. Yet, there is still new land up ahead, and we must stay open to what the Spirit wants to still do.

# 2. CHANGE IS CONTINUAL

We believe that God moves in many ways. The leadership and vision God provides doesn't always come in the same pattern. We embrace change as the Lord leads us into the future; and we don't become rigid to a single method.

God does not always work in the same ways.

Therefore, we recognize that the gospel message never changes, but methods will always evolve.

"Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, 'Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.' So his armorbearer said to him, 'Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart.""

(1 Sam 14:6-7) NKJV

God's methods change all the time. The methods we employ in spreading the gospel should adapt to the needs in front of us. God has given us new technologies and creative people to reach a lost world. So, we want to step out in faith and see what He might do. Somethings will work other things will not. But remember, being led by the Spirit is about being faithful and leaving the results to God. We can trust that He is using us. And we understand there will be lots of changes in the church until He returns.

# 3.SUPPORT OUR PASTOR

We are united to fulfill the vision that God has given to our Pastor.

Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remains till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." (John 21:22) NKJV

There is one, and only one Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ. He alone is our leader. He has given His Church one vision, His. Yet Jesus has delegated authority to pastors and leaders in His Church on the earth. Any good under-shepherd will follow the Good Shepherd.

KEY: Where there is godly leadership, there is to be godly submission. We are to lovingly follow the leadership God has given to our pastor. Pastors are placed in the church to equip the saints for the work of ministry. As our pastor follows Jesus, we follow along with his vision.

# 4. LOCK YOUR SHIELDS

We fight the enemy NOT each other. Our battle is not against our fellow Christian! God has given the church His word to defeat the tactics of Satan. He tells us NOT to be ignorant of Satan's schemes that separate us – (2 Cor. 2:11).

It is written: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Eph 6:12-13) NKJV

Any successful army must be unified and organized around authority for victory. For example, the Roman Army was known to lock their shields together to defeat their enemy.

If we are not marching together as the friends of the King, we will never present a united front to the enemy. Our fellowship must NOT fight against each other. Paul strongly warned about biting and devouring each other. The real battle is against the devil himself. We do away with petty critiques and join forces to advance the Kingdom of God. We do this by a.) Dealing with division quickly; b.) Supporting each other with long-suffering; c.) Talking to those who have offended us and NOT about them.

Unity is key in serving Jesus.

# 5. ONE MISSION

We make disciples by pursuing a lost world with the Gospel. Jesus said,

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" (Mark 16:15).

God has put us in this community to reach the lost.

Over the years we have prayed, preached, and pursued people with the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus Christ. We continue to see people saved, changed, and sent out. Jesus gave the church a Great Commission, not a Great Suggestion. Therefore, we are bold and courageous in living out and sharing the gospel message.



# **6. COMMITTED TO THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe and teach the whole Bible. The word of God is powerful and can change anyone who responds to it (Him).

"But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine." (Titus 2:1) NKJV

God's word from Genesis to Revelation is taught in a steady and consistent way. We are committed to the power of God's word and teaching it accurately.





# 7. WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

#### We worship God wholeheartedly.

God is worthy of praise and is looking for people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. The songs we sing are expressions of praise to an awesome God!

We worship Jesus with a variety of contemporary music and occasionally some hymns. The church is the choir singing to an all-deserving God. We understand worship requires participation and that it is NOT a spectator's event.

The Bible describes many different positions for worship, hands raised, kneeling, & even dancing! Sometimes worship is low key; other times it is loud and enthusiastic.



# 8. OPEN TO ANYONE BUT NOT FOR EVERYONE

We believe God has a specific place for all His followers. This church is for anyone that will come, but we realize that not everyone likes the way we do things—and that's okay. We refuse to cater to personal preference and pacify the critics. Our pursuit of God is more concerned with reaching the lost and we take it seriously when the Bible says:

"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"
(Amos 3:3) NKJV

It is a miserable journey to walk with someone that is consistently disagreeable, always unhappy, and never friendly. God desires us to be of one mind and one spirit. This does not mean we will agree on everything. However, it does mean we should agree on most things. There is beauty in diversity, but divisiveness is ugly. Some disagreements are healthy, but not on major issues.

So, if this church doesn't inspire you in Jesus, it's best to find another church. It's not God's will for you to be complaining, miserable, and unhappy in Him. Please allow the Lord to direct you where He needs you.

#### 9. GENEROSITY CREATES CAPACITY

We encourage a culture of regular generous giving.

Giving obediently to God for the advancement of the mission of the church is for all members of the body of Christ. Our vision for ministry always exceeds our capacity for ministry. But we believe that if each of us takes the responsibility of stewardship personally, God will multiply our means and provide the capacity to do things that may seem impossible.

"Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation." (2 Cor. 9:5) NKJV

#### 10. GOD CALLED YOU

We believe that God has called His people to serve Him. We believe each person in the church has a role to play. We are called to ministry whether there is a paycheck or not. It's not a job; it's a calling.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." (1 Tim 1:12) NKJV

Whether your paycheck is signed by Amazon, UPS, or the Church, you are a minister for God! Everyone is an important part of the Body of Christ. So find out what God has called you to do and do it faithfully.



# WHERE WE'VE BEEN

#### 2017

"HE SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM, AND DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DESTRUCTION. " PSALM 107:20 NKJV

#### 2018

"SO LET US STOP GOING OVER THE BASIC
TEACHINGS ABOUT CHRIST AGAIN AND AGAIN. LET
US GO ON INSTEAD AND BECOME MATURE IN OUR
UNDERSTANDING." HEBREWS 6:1 NLT

#### 2019

"HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD, AND WHAT THE LORD REALLY WANTS FROM YOU: HE WANTS YOU TO PROMOTE JUSTICE, TO BE FAITHFUL, AND TO LIVE OBEDIENTLY BEFORE YOUR GOD." MICAH 6:8 NET

#### 2020

"THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE..." MATTHEW 28:19 NLT

# WHERE WE'VE BEEN

#### 2021

"COME, FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO FISH FOR PEOPLE." MARK 1:17 NLT

#### 2022

"FOR I AM ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING NEW. SEE, I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN! DO YOU NOT SEE IT?" ISAIAH 43:19 NLT

#### 2023

" I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO; I WILL GUIDE YOU WITH MY FYE. PSAI M 32:8 NK IV

#### 2024

"YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU THAT YOU SHOULD GO AND BEAR FRUIT, AND THAT YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN..." JOHN 15:16 NKJV

# **CALVARY'S 2025 VERSE OF THE YEAR**

"SO NOW I AM GIVING YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT: LOVE EACH OTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU SHOULD LOVE EACH OTHER." JOHN 13:34 NLT

