

Introduction:

- Have you ever wondered why a pigeon walks so funny? According to an interesting article in the Detroit Free Press, a pigeon walks the way it does so it can see where it's going. Because it can't adjust its focus as it moves, the pigeon actually has to bring its head to a complete stop between steps in order to refocus. This is the way it walks: Head forward, stop; head back, stop. Don't laugh -- that's how it goes! APPLICATION: In our spiritual meandering/journey, we face the same problem as the pigeon. We have a hard time seeing while we're moving. We also need to stop between steps--to refocus on where we are in relation to the Word and the will of God. That is what I started sharing last week things we value at Freedom Christian Center.
- On May 15th we are going to have a BBQ here on the grounds and celebrate by burning our 'former' mortgage!
- I wanted to catch up those who are new to our church over this past year by providing some information about who we are as Freedom Christian Center.
- *"For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* (2 Corinthians 3:17, NLT)
- *"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36, NLT)

I. Culture Is Everywhere

- A. Culture reflects Values. What you value the most in life will be reflected in the way you live life. So there exists the culture that is and the one we are creating.
 1. You can live in a culture and seek to bring the Kingdom of God into that culture. This is what I would refer to as a church that is living at an apostolic level.
 - a) Jesus operated at an apostolic level. He was a Jew, in Jewish culture, that brought the Kingdom of God into that Jewish culture. That Jewish culture was counter cultural to Rome (which was trying to Romanize it).
 - b) The early church, first apostles and Paul the apostle, operated at an apostolic level. They brought the Kingdom of God to all the gentile nations they entered. That tells me that the Kingdom of God can enter into any culture.
- B. Your values and your culture becomes your character or what others know/define you by.
- C. Freedom Christian Center has a culture that we are building. In other words, what will we look like when our culture most reflects what God has called us to? That is what I want to try and answer and describe to you today.

II. Freedom's desired culture

- A. A culture that is alive spiritually! Freedom! Eph 5:18 *"Be filled with the Holy Spirit."*; 2 Cor 3:17 *"For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."*; Logo.

1. It's alive because it is a culture where Jesus is the center of the believers life, family, etc. and it shows. IL. *On day six of the ill-fated mission of Apollo 13, the astronauts needed to make a critical course correction. If they failed, they might never return to Earth. To conserve power, they shut down the onboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a thirty-nine-second burn of the main engines. With no computer to guide them, they needed to come up with a way to stay on course during the burn. Astronaut Jim Lovell determined that if they could keep a fixed point in space in view through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually. That focal point turned out to be their destination—Earth. As shown in 1995's hit movie, Apollo 13, for thirty-nine agonizing seconds, Lovell focused on keeping the earth in view. By not losing sight of that reference point, the three astronauts avoided disaster. **APPLICATION:** Scripture reminds us that to finish our life mission successfully, we must fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).*
 2. It is alive because the people are baptized with the Holy Spirit and filled with the presence of God.
 3. A culture that is alive because we purpose to love well.
 - a) Do the two commands: love God, love each other. Mt 22:36-40.
 - b) Committed to growing in love and the fruit of the Spirit. 1 Cor 13:4-7; Gal 5:22
 - c) Committed to restoration and eliminating toxic behaviors.
 4. It is alive because Jesus is the center of lives; the Word is embraced; the Holy Spirit gifts are in operation; people are being born again; supernatural stuff is happening all the time.
- B. A culture that prays relentlessly and tenaciously. Luke 18:1; Neh 1:6; Eph 6:18
1. *"One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up."* (Luke 18:1, NLT)
 2. *"listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!"* (Nehemiah 1:6, NLT)
 3. *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion.* (Eph 6:18 NLT)
 4. It is prayer that is infused with Kingdom reality, activation and understanding.
 5. It is not so much personally focused it is focused on meeting the needs of God/ stewarding the heart of God and is based on understanding that our salvation is manifested in us so that we can fulfill the purposes of God in the earth and serve Him and not ourselves.
 6. Seek to birth and manifest the purposes of God. It is interested in the will of God. IE. Daniel prayed, Nehemiah prayed, Jesus prayed so much that His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. Prayer seeks to release Kingdom Dynamics into any life situation.

- C. A culture that worships God extravagantly. Why? Because God is deserving of it. Extravagant worship is infused with Kingdom reality. John 4:23-24
1. The extravagance is seen first in the heart of the worshipper.
 2. Worship that is done in spirit and in truth.
 3. Able to follow the movement of God and cooperate with the Holy Spirit. IE. Prophetically it declares and decrees. It can be meditative with soft adoration. It can be loud, bold and expressive of high adoration or praise. Heaven is full of movement!
 4. It must be life giving. It must have God on it! Anointed and skillful.
 5. Strong in the arts (dance, banners, drama, musical instruments)
- D. A culture that is prophetic. *"But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them."* (1 Corinthians 14:3, NLT); Amos 3:7;
1. Prophecy is simply God communicating his thoughts, will, plans and His desires with His people. Revelatory gifts – word of wisdom, knowledge, and prophecy. Dream and visions.
 2. Hearing God's voice is common.
 3. "The goal of revelation is so simple: See what God sees, hear what God hears, and speak what God speaks so we can all love the way God loves." Shawn Bolz, Translating God.
- E. A culture that is mission minded. Mt 28:18 Go and make disciples.
1. The flags are nations that we have been to as a church.
 2. We must stir our resolves to also reach our local community.
- F. A culture that is committed to the release of the supernatural. *"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,"* (1 Corinthians 2:4, NKJV)
1. Gifts of the spirit 1 Cor 12.
 2. Signs and wonders Mark 16 these signs. All of scripture is record of God doing supernatural stuff.
 3. God encounters - His voice, dreams, visions, God touches.
- G. A culture where lives are built on Kingdom principles (Truth). Living a life that is infused with the Word of God. Jn 6:63 *my words are Spirit and life.* (to whom shall we go); Mt 7:24-25; The Word works for those who work the Word!
- H. A culture that identifies and places people where they are strong. *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)
1. We are to be living stones fitted together. Everyone knows who they are, who they need and what they are to accomplish by being together. These people are:
 - a) Living-
 - (1) Their significance is found in Christ and not in what they do.

- (2) They are submitted to the Lordship of Jesus.
- (3) They work to grow in character and in integrity.
- b) Fitted together
 - (1) They know their gifts, strengths, and weakness and are willing to let others cover their weakness as well as cover others. That is love.
 - (2) They seek to fit into the big picture of the House.
 - (3) They live to accomplish the vision of the House.
- I. A culture committed to restoration. *"Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.""* (Isaiah 35:4, NKJV)
 1. Vision when we began was to see broken people restored and put into ministry.
 2. One of our themes this year is restoration.
 3. I asked you in January, "What do you want God to restore to you in 2016?"
 4. When we started FCC, I had a vision of our church as this apostolic center where broken people came in and were healed, restored and sent back out.
- J. A culture committed to raising forerunners/this includes strong calling to our kids.
 1. Takes back what the enemy has stolen
 2. Makes room for the next generation
 3. Lives committed to making disciples, beginning in the home.

Conclusion:

- Remember who we are.
- Invitation