

## EM Vision & Values 3

### **3 Sermons:**

1. Upward: Love God supremely
2. Inward: Love ourselves rightly
3. Outward: Love and serve others unconditionally

FCBCEM vision/mission statement: FCBC English Ministry is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped ministry that exists to lead people to love God supremely (Upward), love ourselves rightly (Inward), and love and serve others unconditionally (Outward).

### **Outward: Love and serve others unconditionally**

#### **Read Ephesians 2:4-10**

**We love and serve others unconditionally because of grace.** Why unconditionally? Because of GRACE and grace is unmerited favor.

We are saved by grace through faith (read aloud together): **Ephesians 2:4-10:** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— **by grace you have been saved**—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Grace is unmerited favor. We cannot do any good works to receive eternal life. We cannot even claim faith as a good work. Faith is a necessary condition for salvation, but saving faith is given to us as the gift of God. We cannot boast about our faith.

Unconditional means God the Father didn't put any conditions on us before he sent his Son to sacrifice his life for us. God the Father didn't say, "If you meet these 10 conditions then I will love you and give my Son to save you." We wouldn't be able to meet the conditions! We fail to keep the 10 Commandments.

Everything else in life is conditional. The only place a person can receive unconditional love and service, other than his/her own family and *Chick-fil-A*, is the family of God the Father redeemed by God the Son, Jesus Christ.

**Loving and serving others unconditionally means we welcome anyone to worship with us.**

Solomon prayed for the temple he built to be a house of God for all the peoples of the earth: **2 Chronicles 6:32-33**: <sup>32</sup> *“Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this house, <sup>33</sup> hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.”*

If the OT house of God was meant to be a house for all peoples on earth to know the Lord, then how much more the NT house of God, the church.

Unconditional means not restricted to one ethnic group. We may have Chinese in our name, but we want to be multicultural and multiethnic like the whole body of Christ. *(Change the FC in FCBC to Faith Community Baptist Church and put Chinese characters next to it. Wilmington Chinese Evangelical Church changed to Wilmington Community Evangelical Church.)*

This worship service isn't just for believers. We welcome anyone seeking God and truth.

- A person of any ethnicity who visits our worship will be welcomed.
- If an atheist or agnostic visits our worship service, then he/she will be welcomed.
- If a Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist visits, then he/she will be welcomed.
- If a person caught in the sexual/gender confusion of our culture visits, then he/she will be welcomed.
- If a big biker with tattoos visits, then he/she will be welcomed.
- HOSPITALITY is very important! Hebrews 13:2: *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

## **Loving and serving others unconditionally means sharing the gospel and doing good works: Good news + Good works.**

We will share the gospel good news with anyone.

**Romans 1:16-17:** *<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

St. Francis is reported to have said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words." It's misquoted, but it's often quoted. He did tell his fellow friars to "preach by their works."

That's like saying, "Feed hungry people, and when necessary, use food."

We welcome anyone to worship with us, but we will never compromise the gospel. We don't compromise the message for fear of being offensive. The Gospel and **all biblical truth** will be preached and taught.

- If an atheist visits our worship service, then I will preach **Genesis 1:1:** *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*
- If a Muslim ever visits to worship with us, then I will preach **1 Corinthians 15:3-4:** *<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.* Christ is more than a prophet; he is the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins and was buried and raised on the third day.
- If a Hindu visits, then I will preach **Hebrews 9:27:** *<sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.* There is no karma and reincarnation. We are born once, die once, and then judgment. Christ paid for our sins and there is no condemnation.
- If a Chinese Buddhist visits, then I will preach **Hebrews 4:14-16:** *<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in*

*every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* No Guanyin. We have a compassionate High Priest (not a bodhisattva) who sits on a throne of grace in heaven. Receive him as Savior and draw near to him with confidence.

- If someone caught in the sexual/gender confusion of our culture visits our worship service, then I will preach **Genesis 1:27**: *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Matthew 19:4**: <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*
- If a racist visits, then I will preach **Acts 17:26-28**: <sup>26</sup> *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us. There is only one human race, not races. We are all of one blood. We are all made in the image of God. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard. If you claim to be a Christian, then you cannot be a racist.*
- If a Pharisee or a tax collector visits, then I will preach **Romans 3:23-24**: *For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...*

Repent and receive Christ and be reconciled to God will never be compromised. Living a holy life according to the word of God will never be compromised.

*Chick-fil-A* loves and serves its customers unconditionally, but it will never compromise the quality of its food. We love and serve other unconditionally but we will never change the content of our message.

We will do good works to anyone. Faith without works is dead.

**James 2:14-26:** <sup>14</sup> *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?* <sup>15</sup> *If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,* <sup>16</sup> *and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?* <sup>17</sup> *So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

**Loving and serving other unconditionally is being like Jesus Christ.**

Jesus healed everyone who came to him in faith. Jew or Gentile. Rich or poor. His healing mercy was unconditional.

- Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28). He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5-13). When Jesus heard this, he marveled (at the Roman's faith) and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness."
- Samaritan woman (John 4.) This is also crossing a gender barrier.
- Demon-possessed Greek from Decapolis (Mark 5:1-20).

The primary reason we are starting an English worship service: We obey the great commission: Matthew 28:19-20. 9/8 I will introduce the *TrueLife* personal evangelism effort in obedience to Christ's commission. You will enjoy it as you overcome fear and step out of your comfort zone.