



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	Culture of Excellence	<b>SPEAKER</b>	DSP Edric Sng
<b>THEME</b>	Building the Right Culture	<b>DATE</b>	19 & 20 Oct 2024

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Every church should strive to build a church culture that is Christlike. When every individual works towards imitating Christ and are united in purpose and vision, the Church's culture can then be collectively shaped towards Christlikeness.

The prophet Daniel exemplified the culture of excellence. Daniel was one of the three presidents appointed over the 120 officials set by King Darius over the kingdom of Babylon. He was preferred above others because of an excellent spirit (Dan 5:12, 6:1-3).

- a) Daniel had an excellent character. He would not defile himself with the king's food (Dan 1:8); he was trustworthy (Dan 6:4-5) and he was innocent in God's sight (Dan 6:22).
- b) Daniel had excellent competence. God gave him skills in wisdom, understanding, discerning knowledge and interpretation of vision and dreams to serve in the king's palace (Dan 1:4, 17, 20).
- c) Daniel had excellent chemistry with the people around him. God gave him favour and compassion with the master of the officials (Dan 1:9); he had wisdom and tact to speak with the commander of the king's guard (Dan 2:14) and he saw to the affairs of Babylon together with his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan 2:48-49).

The Church can build an excellent culture if the excellent character, competence and chemistry of Christ is present in every member within the body of Christ.

## CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

### 1) Excellent Character - Christ-like Character

In the world, excellence is appraised by what men see and expect such as measurable factors, grades and results. However, while people look at the outward appearance, God looks at the heart and He is looking for a man after His own heart (1 Sam 16:6-7, Acts 13:22, 1 Sam 13:14). God looks at our character, our heart towards Him and others, instead of outward appearance and worldly accomplishments. An excellent character models after God's heart.

- a) God's heart is loving. He desires that our love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment (Phil 1:9-10).

- b) God's heart is pure, true, honourable, just, lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise (Phil 4:8).
- c) God's heart is redemptive, as he called us out of darkness into his marvellous light to proclaim the excellencies of Him (1 Pet 2:9).
- d) God's heart is gracious. As we excel in faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness and love, he calls us to excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor 8:7).

## **2) Excellent Competence - Christ-given Competence**

We are saved by faith, not by works; and we are saved by faith for good works to glorify God. God gave us talents and He wants to see how we use our talents, as seen in the parable of the talents (Matt 25:24-30) and Samson. To God, excellence is not that we be the best, but that we do our best and give Him our best. The spirit of excellence is summed up in Col 3:23-24, "whatever we do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Competence is part of our witness, as we can redirect the praise of character and good works to glorify God and point people to Him (Pro 22:29, Matt 5:16, Titus 2:9-10). Through Daniel's competent service, King Nebuchadnezzar believed that God is a God of gods and King Darius recognised that the God of Israel is the living God (Dan 2:47, 6:26-27). In the same manner, we can work towards every obstacle that comes between man and God and use our talents in church for God's glory.

## **3) Excellent Chemistry - Christ-pleasing Chemistry**

In 1 Cor 12:27-13:13, the most excellent way for the body of Christ is to excel in love. A culture of excellence is a culture of love. It is demonstrated by how we interact with one another and commune in a manner that pleases Christ. Besides refraining from the 5Cs (no condemnation, no comparison, no competition, no complaining and no critical spirit), we need to love one another and outdo one another in showing honour (Rom 12:10). As love is our witness for others to see the love of God (John 13:34-35), we are called to be intentional in relating well with others in a manner that pleases God.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion:

- 1) A culture of excellence reveals Christ-like character. Whatever we do, we do with the heart of God.
- 2) A culture of excellence relies on Christ-given competence. Whatever we do, we do with the anointing of God.
- 3) A culture of excellence requires Christ-pleasing chemistry. Whatever we do, we do with the love of God.

God loves us and as we receive God's love, His love will overflow in us to reach out to people among and beyond the church through our character, talents and love for others. Everyone in church has a part to play in building the culture of excellence, which is a culture of love.

# QUESTIONS

**1. Think of a person or place that has demonstrated a culture of excellence. How have you been blessed by it?**

**2. What gifts or talents has God given you and how can you use them to build up the church and glorify God?**

**3. Daniel demonstrated excellent chemistry and was in harmony with those around him despite challenging situations. How may we foster a Christ-centred culture of love and unity within the Church that reflects Daniel's example of relating well with others?**