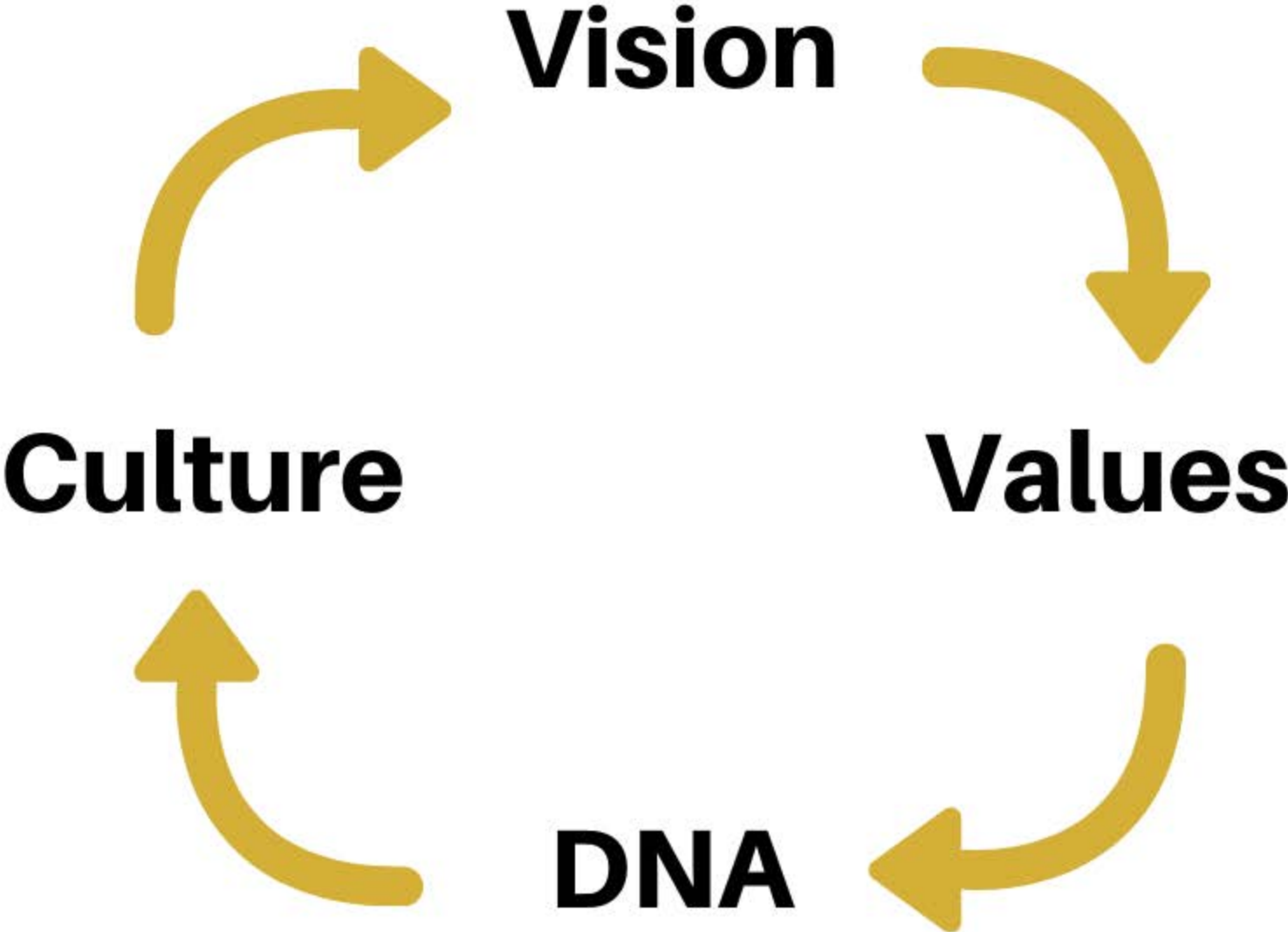


Values.

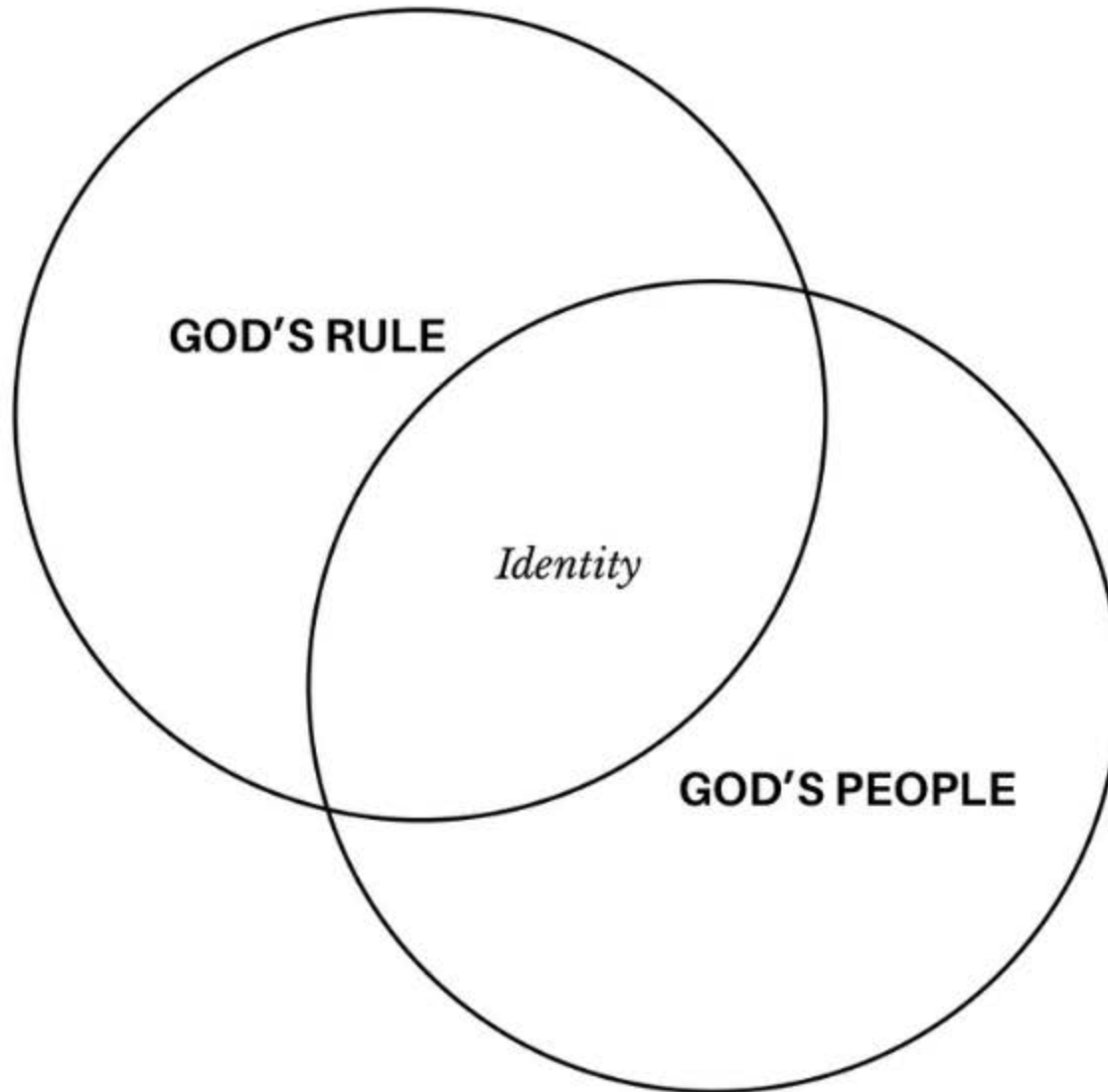
Values:

Essential core beliefs and biblical convictions about what is good, desirable and worthwhile; motivating meaningful and purposeful action.



Values.

Value #2: Identity



Identity is expressed uniquely as we are rooted in belonging to the Father, becoming our true selves in Christ and believing that this is only possible through the ongoing empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Identity.

Exodus 34:6-7

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”.

Identity.

Who am I? --> Whose am I?

Who am I right now? --> Who am I becoming?

What do I need? --> How do I become me?

Identity.

Isaiah 43:1

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

He calls us...

1. Image Bearer (Genesis 1:27)
2. Very Good (Genesis 1:31)
3. Bear Christ's Name (1 Peter 4:16; 1 Corinthians 6:17)
4. Child of God (1 John 3:1; Romans 8:16-17)
5. Friend of God (John 15:15)

David Benner

Too easily we have settled for knowing *about* God. Too easily our actual relationship with God is remarkably superficial. Is it any surprise, then, that we haven't learned very much about our self as a result of this encounter?

The Gift of Being Yourself

Identity.

Ephesians 1:3-11 TPT

Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because he sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate him with all our hearts!

And he chose us to be his very own, joining us to himself even before he laid the foundation of the universe!

Because of his great love, he ordained us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. For it was always in his perfect plan to adopt us as his delightful children, through our union with Jesus, the Anointed One, so that his tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify his grace—for the same love he has for his Beloved One, Jesus, he has for us. And this unfolding plan brings him great pleasure!

Ephesians 1:3-11 TPT

Since we are now joined to Christ, we have been given the treasures of redemption by his blood—the total cancellation of our sins—all because of the cascading riches of his grace. This superabundant grace is already powerfully working in us, releasing within us all forms of wisdom and practical understanding. And through the revelation of the Anointed One, he unveiled his secret desires to us—the hidden mystery of his long-range plan, which he was delighted to implement from the very beginning of time. And because of God's unfailing purpose, this detailed plan will reign supreme through every period of time until the fulfillment of all the ages finally reaches its climax—when God makes all things new in all of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ.

Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart.

Galatians 4:17

my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

Joni Eareckson Tada

Believers are never told to become one; we already are one and are expected to act like it.

Identity.

the false self

1. Security and significance achieved by what you have, what we can do, and what others think of us
2. Happiness sought in autonomy from God and in attachments
3. Identity is our idealized self (who we want others to think we are)
4. Achieved by means of pretense and practice.
5. Maintained by effort and control
6. Embraces illusion as a means of attempting to become a god

the true self

1. Security and significance achieved by being deeply loved by God
2. Fulfillment found in surrender to God and living our vocation
3. Identity is who are - and are becoming - in Christ
4. Received as a gift with gratitude and surrender
5. maintained by grace
6. Embraces reality as the place of meeting and being transformed by God.

The Gift of Being Yourself
David G. Benner

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Ephesians 4:21-24

assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Søren Kierkegaard

Now, with God's help, I shall become myself.

1.

In discovering whose I am I discover who I am.

2.

In becoming like Jesus I become myself.

3.

In partnering with Holy Spirit I am able to become me.

Identity.