

# River Valley Notes

## OASIS

### Part #6: The Oasis Is Us

February 25, 2007

It may still feel normal to sit on the sidelines of my church because...

1. I may not know that I am \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I may not feel \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I am an American and therefore value my \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I am an American and therefore tend to think like a \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Dissecting the Culture of Heartbreak:

- \_\_\_\_\_-preservation: Since nobody else is looking out for me, I had better take care of number one... even with a clinched fist.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gratification: Anything that gets to me quicker is better.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and profit margin: Since profit matters most, efficiency is supreme. We must cut away the fat even it is you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ & Progress: We will all experience well-being through self-assertive progress.
- Differentiation: I am \_\_\_\_\_ than you because I am smarter, richer, better, prettier, right... even if means that you are alone.
- Ruthless Competition: \_\_\_\_\_ at any cost, even if I have to step on you.
- Selective Justice: I expect mercy, but you should get what you deserve.
- Industrialized Sex: Sex is a \_\_\_\_\_ I pull for self-gratification; a commodity to be collected.

#### The organizing themes:

1. \_\_\_\_\_: It's all about me, just me.
2. Consumerism: Value is determined by \_\_\_\_\_ benefit.

#### Becoming The New Community

*Col. 3:5-16 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (NIV)*

### Part #6: The Oasis Is Us

...continued

- \_\_\_\_\_ in place of "looking out for number one."
- Kindness in place of efficiency.
- \_\_\_\_\_ in place of achievement & progress.
- Patience in place of instant gratification.
- \_\_\_\_\_ in place of differentiation.
- Gentleness in place of ruthless competition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ in place of industrialized sex & greed.
- Forgiveness in place of selective justice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ in place of frenzy.

#### The organizing themes

1. Connected Interdependence: Well-being is experienced only as a result of mutual cooperation.
2. Generosity: Dignity is restored only through giving without expecting anything in return.

#### The New Community In Action

*Eph. 4:1-7 ...to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. (NIV)*

*Eph. 4:11-16 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ ... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (NIV)*

*When I serve strategically I am choosing to take my place among the body of Christ and empower our cooperative mission to heal pain and be the oasis for our community.*

**Strategic Service:** Applying my heart and my hands to the point of greatest demand.

1. Giftedness: Because my impact is the greatest in the area of my personal \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Community Need: Because every task is \_\_\_\_\_ to our shared mission.
3. Sustainability: Because the servant matters most.

*We believe that the community of believers is a kingdom of priests... every one of us. The church is at its redemptive best when each one of us does our part and it lacks something without it. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves. It's not about me. Since well-being cannot be bought or achieved, but only experienced as a gift, we choose to embrace our interdependence. The heartbreak in our world can only be relieved through bold generosity.*