



Values

“...But sanctify Christ as **Lord** in your hearts, [righteousness] always being ready to make a **defense** [rational] to everyone who asks you to **give an account** [rational] for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness and reverence** [relational]; and keep a **good conscience** [righteousness] so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile **your good behavior in Christ** [righteousness] will be put to shame.” – **1 Peter 3:15-16 (NASB)**

VISION

Imagine a spontaneous grassroots evangelistic movement advanced by apologetics discipleship, conversational evangelism, and training faithful men and women who will also teach others.

MISSION

Ratio Christi is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical, and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ.

VALUES

1. We Value Christ First and Foremost as the Reason for Everything We Do.

2. We Value Reason as Part of the *Imago Dei*.

The Intentional Discipleship of the Christian mind

A. Through weekly meetings: One on one and small group apologetics discipleship will be key in transforming the university culture.

B. Apprenticeship/Mentoring: Develop individual mentors for specific students.

C. Life-long Pursuit: We value a culture of continual learning in our staff and students.

3. We Value the Academy as an Institution.

Our purpose is to: ***Bring together Faith and Reason...establish the intellectual voice of Christ at the university.*** One on one and small group apologetics discipleship will be key in transforming the university culture.

- **Faculty:** Empowering university faculty to use their academic discipline for Christ on campus
- **Engaging in campus wide events** to showcase the supremacy of Christ

4. We Value the Intertwined Nature of Truth, Love, and Integrity.

There are three critically important and integrated components of engaging the culture as an effective evangelist and apologist. Full discipleship impact will only be possible when reason, righteousness, and relationships are combined. Explaining truth, living it out, and loving others is a powerful combination. We see this explained in 1 Peter 3:15-16 above.

This ministry holds to three important values in Christian discipleship:

- 1) Christians must understand their faith
- 2) They must live in the world, but not of it
- 3) They must have compassion and understanding for their neighbor who needs saving faith in Jesus Christ

In other words:

- A. EDUCATE/EQUIP IN APOLOGETICS & WORLDVIEW**
- B. ENGAGE WITH INTEGRITY**
- C. EVANGELISM**

These three values are coordinated and inseparable. The table below shows several other ways to communicate these principals.

The book, *Relational Apologetics: Defending the Christian Faith with Holiness, Respect, and Truth* by Michael Sherrard, provides a very

good explanation of how these three values work in concert. Another example from the Bible is Paul's charge in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world [righteousness], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind [rational], that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [relational evangelism]."

Explaining truth, living it out, and loving others is a powerful combination that will enable you to impact those around you. We call this combination of three values **Apologetics Discipleship**. While there is more to Christian discipleship, without these aspects individuals and churches are missing key components of Christ's call. They must all work together in concert for fully effective outreach to unbelievers. If one is lacking, the others will not operate as they should. Without careful thinking and an accurate objectively true message, non-believers will have, what they think are, grounds for rejection of God, the Bible, and the Resurrection. Without moral integrity, the charge of being hypocrites gives people an emotional smoke screen to reject the message. Without honest interest in their lives, your neighbors will have no personal desire to hear the message regardless of its truth.

This does not mean to keep these values "in balance" with 33% of each. Jesus is our example. He was "full of grace and truth." There is no need to neglect one to have the other. And neither are any of these three values "responsible" for individuals placing their faith into Christ. No one can be reasoned into heaven. No one can be impressed into heaven. And no one can be loved into heaven. But each of them is a tool the Holy Spirit uses to eliminate excuses, plant seeds, and bring the will to the foot of the Cross. So, the task before us is to Get

educated, Get engaged, and Go evangelize.

Another important value of Ratio Christi is teaching students to be leaders. This must include a method that incorporates the previous listed values and leans on the leadership model of Christ. The underlying method of Ratio Christi is:

| Equipped (Apologetics & Worldview) | Engage with Integrity | Evangelism |
|--|--|--|
| Rational | Righteousness | Relationships |
| True | Ethical | Relational |
| "Always be ready to give an answer" | "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts" | "Gentleness and Respect" |
| Word | Example | Picture/Story |
| Truth | Life | Way |
| Communication | Conscience | Community |
| Words | Moral Character | Love |
| Content of the Gospel | Good Citizen | Friendship Evangelism |
| Minister to the Mind | Minister to the Moral Character | Minister to the Body/ Emotions |
| Charge: Christians are stupid and irrelevant | Charge: Christians say one thing and do another. Hypocrites. | Charge: Christians are angry, self-justified, stuffy, isolationist |
| ¹ Knowledge: Accurately Informed Mind | ¹ Character: Attractive Manner | ¹ Wisdom: Artful Method |
| Son: The Word | Father: Holy One | Spirit: The Comforter |
| Words | Will | Worth |
| Logos | Ethos | Pathos |
| Educate/Equip | Engage | Evangelize |

¹This wording of explaining these three values is from Greg Koukl and Stand to Reason as part of their "Ambassadors Creed."

5) We Value Servant Leadership and Discipleship.

Jesus did not lead by domination, but by serving. He washed his disciples' feet. He gave his life for others. Ratio Christi endeavors to serve the university, the church, and the apologetics movement. We are not here to compete with other ministries, but to enhance them. We see ourselves as a success if we help other ministries on campus thrive.

Furthermore, Ratio Christi is trying to bring apologetics into the realm of discipleship. The recent history of the apologetics movement has been more event focused, probably out of necessity due to the fact that there have been so few apologists. However, as more and more apologists are

being trained there is opportunity and need to add "on the ground" mentoring into apologetics ministry. One on one and small group apologetics discipleship will be key in transforming the university culture.

Connecting the concepts of discipleship and being a servant is the biblical concept of *doulos*. Jesus plays on the concept of servant to image his own mission (Mark 10:45 ; Luke 22:27). The epistolary literature focuses on the figurative usage of slave. These books frequently use the primary term for slave, *doulos* [dou'lo"], as a metaphor of being a servant to God (Rom 1:1 ; Php 1:1 ; 2 Tim 2:24 ; Titus 1:1 ; James 1:1 ; 1 Peter 2:16 ; 2 Peter 1:1), to fellow believers (2 Cor 4:5), and even



to sin (Rom 6:20). This is a most striking metaphor because a Greek person linked personal dignity and freedom together. Freedom was power and something about which to be proud. The use of *doulos* to image relationship to God and fellow believers sent a message of commitment and abandonment of autonomy (1 Cor 7:22; Eph 6:6 ;Col4:12). How about that? Instead of teaching people what God can do for us, Ratio Christi is trying to teach about the issues of self denial and being a *doulos*.

How will we serve?

A. Serve students and the university

B. Serve other campus groups

- Ask their leaders up front: how can we serve you?
- Non-competitive (no competition zone)
- Encourage RC students to be part of other groups
- Serve, support, equip them. Be a resource.
- Provide training. Co-sponsor events.

C. Serve the apologetics community (local and national)

- Utilize apologists from other ministries
- Utilize other apologists and their materials on campus

6) We Value the Local Church.

Because it is God’s instrument of change in this fallen world we must place a high value on the local church. We desire to serve local churches, introduce them to apologetics, and get them involved in the mission.

7) We Value Exponential Impact.

We will strive to teach students to teach others also so that the impact is based on multiplication not on addition. “Discipleship isn’t discipleship *unless* a disciple is teaching their disciple to disciple others.” In this way Ratio Christi Ambassadors (Legatus Christi) can have a huge impact.

8) We Value Religious Liberty.

We are willing to stand up for the freedom to promote the Gospel. We value both our rights and responsibilities as God given, so we need to understand them and take action to protect them.

9) We Value the Unique Gifts and Tasks that God has Given Us as Individuals and as an Organization.

RC is not attempting to be all things to all people in the university environment. We are a *Special Forces Unit*. We want to do apologetics well and recommend other ministries where they excel.

10) We Value the Unique Gifts and Tasks of Others and the Entire Apologetics Movement.

“Second Best” is often best – We recognize that those that are often seen as “second or third tier” speakers, professors, and thinkers may often be better equipped in their area of specialty. We provide venues for top tier scholars while recognizing the value of those that work in the trenches.

We are a Partnership based ministry – this is our modus operandi.

11) We Value Intergenerational Ministry.

The split between the generations is unhealthy for the church. It is important that we connect young adults with mature leaders. We value the wisdom and spiritual maturity that comes with age and believe that youth can gain immensely from older adults just as older adults can gain focus and passion from youth.

12) We Value Grassroots Action.

We will impact the university from the ground up through students and local work. We are a *mobilization and distribution network*.

13) We Value “Franchisability.”

To most effectively use the resources God has given us we believe that sharing of resources makes for much more efficient ministry. We will strive to replicate what works in one situation and make it available for everyone else in Ratio Christi.

- Use concepts and resources in a way that can be easily shared between groups.
- Develop systems for easily transferable methods and sharing between chapters.

14) From All the Above We Value Ambassadors (Legatus Christi) that will Affect Every Campus, the Church, the Family, Government, and All of Culture.

We value working toward a worldwide, sustained, God empowered evangelistic movement. That is our vision.

We need people who are willing to share the message of Christ, understand the need for apologetics, and have “the chops” to face into a culture and legal system that is becoming more hostile.

