Sunday 25th October 2026
Frontline Fruitfulness
5 Moulding culture

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2)

Welcome

- Do you put salt on your dinner? Do you use salt in your cooking?

Today, we're looking at moulding culture. This is about appreciating how we might contribute to cultural change on our frontlines, so that they become places where people better flourish.
One definition of culture is 'the way we do things round here'.

- Together, can you think of things that are part of the culture of your ES group (or church)? (eg. the way you interact, the food you eat, the way you speak, how you pray…).
- What might a new person to your group or church have to 'learn' in order to 'fit in' with the culture?

Word

Be Transformed (Read Colossians 3: 1-4)

As Christians we are united with Christ, we have a relationship with Him. This results in us becoming more like Him – we are transformed!

1. Verse 1 tells us that we have been "raised with Christ". This follows on ('since then') from the previous chapters and is the result of Jesus' death and resurrection. How does this make you feel?
2. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. What sorts of things are 'things above', and what sorts of things are 'earthly things'?

3. What practical things can you do to "set your hearts on things above" rather than earthly things during a busy workday or stressful moment?
4. Is it realistic to always have our hearts and minds set on 'things above'? What helps you do that—or distracts you from it?
5. There used to be an old saying that said "She is too heavenly minded to be of any earthly good." Can anyone be 'too heavenly minded'?
6. How does knowing your true life is "hidden with Christ in God" change how you look for approval, success, or security on your frontline?

Don't Conform (Read Colossians 3: 5-10)

Because we are transformed we must not conform to the world around us. We need to be different and stand out.

7. Do you like to stand out or do you prefer to fit in?
8. In what ways are you different to the other people on your frontline?
9. Paul links greed to idolatry (verse 5). (idolatry put simply is anything that takes the place of God in our lives). On your frontline, what subtle idols (status, comfort, control, approval) compete with God?
10. The list includes anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language (verse 8). Which of these are you most prone to when you have a bad day?
11. Why do you think Paul singles out lying in verse 9?

Be a Transformer (Read Colossians 3: 11)

It's no good just being different, we need to make a difference. We need to try to change (or mould) the culture on our frontline.

12. What is Paul referring to when he says "here" there is no Greek or Jew etc. Where is "here"?
13. What is it about focusing on Christ that breaks down barriers and unites different people?
14. Christ is all, and is in all. What do you think this phrase mean?

Our frontlines

In this section (questions 15-20)) focus on one individual in your group at a time (if they're happy to share about their frontline). Help each other to see practical ways you can mould the culture of your frontline.

Think about the culture of your frontline…

15. What are some of the positive and negative aspects of the way things
16. are done on your frontline? Share these with the group.
17. As salt & light we can often first model the changes that we want to see and so bring others along with us. Do you agree? Are there already things you try to do that encourage a more positive culture?
18. What things can you do to encourage the positive aspects of your frontline culture?
19. Is there one particular negative thing about the culture of your frontline that you would love to see change?
20. Help each other to look for alternatives that might address the negative thing you identified or strengthen the positive things. How might God use you there to start to bring about change?

The Salvation Army UK Values

The Salvation Army UK have stated values that we identify with here at Staple Hill. They are stated as follows:

Our values, expressed as behavioural values and statements of intent, are:
***Boldness** — we will courageously and confidently seek to fulfil our five mission priorities: share the good news, seek justice and reconciliation, nurture disciples of Jesus, serve others without discrimination, care for creation;*
***Compassion** — we will serve with the unconditional love and grace of God as the pattern for our behaviour, with a bias to the poor and marginalised;*
***Passion** — we will bring our best selves, our God-given energies and our convictions to our work, service and learning, whether as officers, members, employees or volunteers;*

Respect *— we will welcome each person with the dignity of those created in the image of God, valuing their diversity, seeking to serve each other's flourishing and transformation within God's love;*
Integrity *— we will be honest and transparent in all our dealings with each other and those we serve, being open about our motives and agendas;*
Mutual accountability *— we will willingly and freely give full account for our actions to those we interact with and expect the same in return, recognising the link between individual responsibility and mutual accountability.*

21. What do you think of these values? Are there any missing?
22. How can we as a church and as individuals base our words and actions on these values? What effect might this have on our frontlines (think about some specific examples – maybe one for each value)?

Praying forwards

- Together, thank God for the positive elements of your frontline culture.
- Pray for each other that God will give you the wisdom, faith and courage to start influencing the culture of your frontline for his glory.
- Take a moment to reflect on this quote from Reinhold Niebuhr - then pray it aloud together.

'God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.'

Takeaway Action

- Ask a couple of people on your frontline what they think is good and not so good about the culture of your frontline – their responses might spur you to action and may even open up opportunities for a conversation about the Christian faith!