

CAPACITY

HOMECELL LEADER DEVELOPMENT COURSE **SESSION FOUR**

EXCELLENCE IN HOMECELL

What is Excellence?

Excellence is a biblical principle that every person can walk in. In essence it is **how** you do everything and anything, not just some things.

Two people can do the same task, one can do it with half effort, the other can do it with excellence. The results will differ dramatically.

Daniel 1:20 New King James Version

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

In all matters Daniel was found to be 10 times better than the others in his field.

A question to ask yourself, would your boss say this about you? Would your husband or wife say this about you? Is your Homecell 10 times better than other Homecell's?

Daniel operated in excellence, he did things properly and intently. He made sure that for him and his men that whatever job was at hand, it was done efficiently, sharp, right with no excuses or long stories.

People that walk in excellence spend their time and energy looking for **solutions** and **improvements** instead of spending time communicating their **excuses** hoping others will join them in agreement that certain things aren't possible or are unrealistic.

Excellence is doing the **small unseen** things with the same intensity and careful attention as we do for the **big seen** things. If we change the standard based on the size of the task and who will check up then we don't carry excellence in our heart.

Excellence is reflecting who God has created us to be.

Genesis 1:26-27 New Living Translation

Then God said, "Let us make human beings[a] in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,[b] and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings[c] in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

The whole of creation is the most excellent example of excellence that you could ever see. This God that made the universe with such precision and detail has made you to be like Him.

Why Excellence?

Why does it matter if things are done in excellence at your Homecell or not? Quite simply because it affects every aspect of the evening.

Let's look at an example. If you go to a restaurant and everything is underwhelming, the chairs are dirty, some of the lights aren't working, the waiter greets you with almost no enthusiasm. You can guarantee that your expectation of great food and a great experience will be almost zero.

Alternatively if you walk in and everything is sparkly clean, the waiter greets with enthusiasm as if they were expecting you, everything is in order, there seems to be a good system of covering the tables, people are happy and there's a buzz in the atmosphere. Your expectation will be much higher for good food and a great evening.

What does this mean? This means that excellence is one of the absolute key ingredients to how people will experience your Homecell and whether they plan to come back.

Out of the two restaurants you should know which one you would want to go back to. There is a hidden message in your excellence, in how you do things.

In Homecell this hidden message is communicating to the people attending whether you are doing this for God or because you have to, how you prepare is telling the people whether you expect God to show up tonight or not.

Hebrews 9:1-8 New Living Translation

That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. There were two rooms in that Tabernacle.[a] In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room[b] called the Most Holy Place. In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain these things in detail now. When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room[c] as they performed their religious duties. But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle[d] and the system it represented were still in use.

In the old covenant there was a very specific way to enter into God's presence, it had to be done right and in order for the high priest to enter into the holy of holies.

The method has changed but the principle remains that we need to be intentional and mindful about how we prepare a place for God to move.

We need to prepare in excellence. Excellence is internal, we do things right and in order whether or not anyone is looking or checking up on us because we carry it in our hearts, we have an excellent spirit. This means we don't do things right to be excellent, we do things right because we are excellent.

How does excellence translate into my Homecell?

Preparing the venue in excellence

If we want excellence in our venues so when people come they feel like we have prepared for them to come, then we need to make sure of some key practical things including:

- Hoovering the floors.
- Cleaning the counter tops.
- Making sure the set up looks neat, cables taped or hidden for media.
- Chairs straight and pillows arranged.
- Smells nice, use plug in air freshener (make sure you smell nice too).
- Plates and cups are already out and ready for use.

Preparing the food in excellence

Eating together is a key biblical principle of sharing meals together from house to house. Key tips for preparing the food:

- Make an effort.
- Make a rota.
- Make it as healthy as possible.
- Make sure there's enough for everyone.
- If you are stuck with ideas google it.

Preparing the atmosphere in excellence

The atmosphere is affected by many factors spiritually and physically, they both work together to make a place for God to move and hearts to be touched.

- Pre-prayer before the Homecell meeting is essential.
- Lighting plays a big part in the atmosphere, so work out what is the best lighting for praise & worship in the venue you have.
- Sound plays a vital role also so make sure the sound is as good as it can be and at a reasonable volume with all things considered.

- Make sure you have the most practical media set up for your venue, don't just settle with what you have, look to improve it where possible.
- How you flow with the video is also key, the video is to aid the flow of the evening not limit it. So make sure you have looked through beforehand and you are ready for what God wants to do.

Preparing hearts in excellence

Your expectation of what you want God to do is often the catalyst for that very thing to happen, the Bible says we don't get because we don't ask. Your heart needs to be prepared for God to do something awesome every time you meet.

- Pray for your Homecell members and visitors on a regular basis so your heart is expectant for God to move in their lives.
- Always focus on the possibilities and what can happen, not what hasn't happened yet.
- Be open for God to use you.
- Make God the center focus always.
- Focus on who is in the room, not the ones that said they were going to be there and didn't show up.

Preparing your team in excellence

Your 2IC's & 3IC's make up your team in Homecell. It's important that you work together as a team to see your Homecell grow and multiply.

- Communicate in advance.
- Pray, plan and strategise together.
- Have fun together building relationships.
- Always be on the same page on Homecell night, God is going to do it.
- Don't take your team for granted.
- Communicate the vision and multiplication date and work together to achieve it.

In closing some final thoughts on excellence

- It is the small things that matter as much as the big things.

Song of Solomon 2:15 New King James Version

*Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines,
For our vines have tender grapes.*

- It's the small fox that ruins the whole vineyard, it's the small things that are affecting your growth and progression.

Luke 16:10 New Living Translation

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

- **Do everything unto God and with all you have.**

Colossians 3:23-24 New King James Version

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for[a] you serve the Lord Christ.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Amplified Bible

Whatever Your Hand Finds to Do

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol (the nether world, the place of the dead) where you are going.

Excellence is in the detail.

Psalms 37:23 New Living Translation

The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

- Excellence isn't how you do some things, it's how you do everything.

HOMEWORK/SELF-STUDY

In your current Homecell venue, choose three things that you can practically change to improve the excellence of your venue, this can be painting a wall, changing the media, rearranging the layout of the room, a deep clean.

These are just some examples but during this week, look at what you can do practically and see for yourself if it changes the atmosphere or expectation in the room.

Then feed back to your Zone Pastor on the three things you changed and what effect this had on the evening!

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