

Collaborative Vision: Family Discovery® *TLC Ministries United* is an unincorporated association of consultants facilitating resources and outcomes that meet community stakeholder needs, especially in the education, business and church contexts to the glory of Most High God.

TLC Acronym: Transforming our Learning Communities through Transformative Leadership in our Cultures.

What we believe - Our Common Creed

1. One True God – The Most High, by the testimony of Scripture, is one Divine Being in three eternal, co-essential, yet distinct Doings—Father of all creation, Son of the Highest, and Helper Spirit of Truth and Life. Most High God may be known in the three Doings and the three Doings may be known as the one true God, good, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and immutable in His covenant love for humanity. He is Creator of heaven and earth, Sustainer of the universe, and Author of human salvation. Though transcendent, Lord God freely and in divine love, grace and goodness involves Himself with humanity directly and personally in Lord Saves and Supports, that humanity, by the Spirit, might share His eternal life as His children. (Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19; John 14:9; 1 John 4:8; Romans 5:8; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:2; Galatians 3:26)
2. Humanity – The Highest created humanity male and female in the image and likeness of Him. Most High God blessed them, telling them to multiply and fill the earth. In love, the Lord God gave humans stewardship over all the earth and its creatures. Typified by Adam who sinned, humanity lives in a manner—sin—against its Creator, thus spreading suffering and death in the world. Despite human sinfulness, humanity continues in and is defined by having been created according to Lord God’s image. Thus, all humans, collectively and individually, deserve love, honor, and respect in and through God’s Christ. The eternally perfect image of Lord God is the Word, who is the last Adam. The Lord creates through the Word the one new humanity over which sin and death have no power. In the Way, humanity bears perfectly the image of the Highest, and in union with the Way, humanity is included in the relationship the Son has with the Father. (Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 5:12-21; Colossians 1:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 47-49; 1 John 3:2; Colossians 3:3-4)
3. Faith in God - Faith in YHWH is a gift of Jehovah, rooted in Lord Yeshua and enlightened by the witness of the Helper Spirit of Truth and Life in the Scriptures. Through faith, Lord God prepares and enables our minds to participate in the Son’s communion with the Father by the Holy Ghost. Lord Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 12:3; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 5:1-2; 1:17; 3:21-28; 11:6; Ephesians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 2:5; Hebrews 12:2)
4. The Church - The church, the Body of Saves and Supports, consists of all who trust in the Word. The church is commissioned to make disciples of Lord God’s Christ by reaching out in truth and love to all people, nurturing and baptizing those who believe, and teaching believers to obey all

that the Word commanded. In fulfilling this mission, the church is directed by the Scriptures, led by the indwelling Holy Ghost, and looks continually to the Son, its living Head. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9; Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22)

5. Sin - Sin is the state of separation or alienation from the Father of all humanity and consists of anything that is contrary to the Creator's will, including acts of wrongdoing, neglect to do good and unbelief in the God of grace and love as made known in the Word. The Bible associates sin with Satan, whose work the Son came to destroy. Sin results in damaged relationships, suffering and death. Because all humans are sinners, all humans need the good news that Most High God loves them unconditionally and has forgiven their sins and reconciled them to Himself through Lord Saves and Supports. (1 John 3:4; James 4:17; Romans 14:23; Romans 5:12, 17-19; 7:24-25; Mark 7:21-23; 1 John 3:8; Ephesians 2:2; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 6:23; 3:23-24; Ephesians 2:12-13)
6. Repentance - Repentance toward Lord God is a change of mind and attitude in response to the grace of the Most High prompted by the Holy Spirit and grounded in the Word of God. It includes awareness of personal sinfulness and trust in and allegiance to the Way through whom all humanity has been reconciled to the Highest and accompanies a new life sanctified by the Spirit through faith in the Word. (Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Romans 2:4; 10:17; Colossians 1:19-20; Romans 12:2)
7. Child of God Conduct – Child of God conduct is characterized by trust in and loving allegiance to the Word, who loved us and gave Himself for us. Trust in Christ Jesus is expressed by belief in the Gospel and by participation in His works of love. Through the Holy Ghost, Lord Yeshua transforms the hearts of believers, producing in them love, joy, peace, faithfulness, meekness, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, righteousness, and truth. (1 John 3:16-19, 23-24; 4:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 5:6, 22-23; Ephesians 5:9)

What this looks like in practice.....

The fellowship or gathering of believers focused on the 3 dimensions of love (Agape, Phileo & Eros) and manifestations of those dimensions (Storge & Philia) from a Biblical worldview providing connections for ministry beyond the local church, resources for local businesses and entrepreneurs and support for local institutions of learning.

Ways to contribute.....

Urban Outreach Initiative Fund or UOIF (Transformative leadership support such as fellowships, endowments and scholarships)

Prevention & Intervention Program Teams (Community outreach serving alongside traditional education, business and church organizations with intentionality in the urban context)

Mission: Educational mentoring and ministry within an education system context through valued-added spiritually-based entrepreneurial leadership that increases employment and educational opportunities.

“For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages.’” - I Timothy 5:18

Do you find yourself a victim of Religionists looking for discounts or free services simply because you purport yourself as a Biblical worldview business? Is there a biblical basis for this? Do you value the products and services of other believers enough to pay what they are worth?

If you are a Biblical entrepreneur doing business with other believers, you have most likely been a victim of the old “Can you hook me up” question. Religionists have a tendency to prey on other Biblical entrepreneurs looking for a deal, and yet they are willing to pay full price to non-believers, because of a backward worldview that says believers should do business with each other at the lowest rate possible.

I have actually heard Biblical entrepreneurs complain about ministries that were unwilling to do business with them simply because they did not want to provide their products or services for free, even though these entrepreneurs were actually offering better rates and quality than their non-believer competitors. This is wrong and inconsistent with sound biblical teachings.

What about those instances when Religionist entrepreneurs provide lesser or poorer quality services and expect to keep the business just because they are believers? This too is wrong. **Biblical entrepreneurs should hold themselves to a higher standard.** Religion should not be used as a tool for manipulation. Just as it is wrong to expect Religionist entrepreneurs to offer their services for free or at a lower price, it is also unacceptable for them to expect to gain business because they are Religionist businesses, especially when their quality and service is poor. Though there are times when we should go the extra mile to support each other in business as other communities do, this should never be at the expense of quality and excellence.

I’m proud to say that a number of Biblical entrepreneurs I work with not only go the extra mile to do business with other believers, but they also will gladly pay full price. They understand that doing business with believers keeps dollars circulating within our micro-economy and also indirectly supports various churches and ministries through tithes and offering. In addition, doing business with non-believers takes dollars outside our micro-economy, and it is often used to support causes that are inconsistent with our values.

In I Timothy 5:18, the Apostle Paul, as he attempts to instruct us in the value of providing for our church leaders and those who minister to us spiritually, borrows a statement from the Word to make his point: **“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”** This statement is a marketplace principle that both Jesus and Paul used to emphasize the fact that those who devote themselves to prayer and teaching of the Gospel are laborers, and they too deserve to be compensated for their labor. The only difference between those laborers who are devoted to ministering to us spiritually and those who provide us with natural products and services is that the former is compensated through tithes and free love offerings which spring out of generosity and gratitude. The other is compensated through a fee that is attached to the product or service. Just as Kingdom entrepreneurs must understand the value of generosity in Lord God’s economy, we all, especially those who depend on the generosity of others for their provision,

must understand and teach the value of fair wages in doing business with believers so they can be equity in our micro-economy.

Why is it important to pay a fair price in doing business with other believers?

1. It enables us to **honor others** for their products and services – I Timothy 5:18, Romans 12:10
2. It enables us to **pay for our own provision** – 2 Thessalonians 3:10
3. It allows Biblical entrepreneurs to **provide for themselves and their families** – I Timothy 5:8
4. It allows us to **support each other** – Philippians 2:1-4
5. It enables us to **build profitable businesses** – Matthew 25:28-30
6. It enables Kingdom entrepreneurs to **be generous through their giving** – Ephesians 4:28
7. It enables us to be **good stewards over the resources the Lord has entrusted to us** – Matthew 19:21, I Corinthians 4:2

Of course, there are times when Biblical entrepreneurs are compelled, out of a sense of personal generosity and conviction, to give their services for free or at a reduced rate to ministries or certain individuals. This should be encouraged, but not demanded. **One should not compromise his or her business model or behave out of a sense of guilt or obligation.** You also must be careful not to give that which the Lord has given you to sell, unless it is under the appropriate circumstances, and of course you also should not sell that which the Lord has given you to give.

My prayer for you today is that the Lord will compel you to support Biblical entrepreneurs by paying them what they are worth and that He will give you the wisdom to know when to sell and when to give without compromising your business model or the principles of generosity.