

Oasis Core Value #4 – Incarnational

by [Derek R. Iannelli-Smith](#), August 2008

At our [website](#) under the “About Us” tab, I outline these core values. I list a brief outline of ‘incarnational’ as follows;

“...Incarnational - not just basing a ministry model on the Jesus who lived, but on the Jesus who lives. “Christians living out the gospel in their cultural context like Jesus who tabernacled among us.” - Darrin Patrick (Mar 3:1-6; Rev 2:1-3:22).”

A powerful quote by Ed Marcelle states incarnational ministry this way;

There needs to be a connection between the way we live and the people we live among. Our lives need to connect with theirs. We need to be truth tellers and truth seekers, while following the cultural queues of our day, as long as we are not adopting its sin in so doing. This is the power of incarnation. This is what Jesus did. He lived out the truth and taught the truth to real people where they were, in a way that they understood. What is necessary then is incarnation; instant access points that are reflected in the Body of Christ.

As I mentioned in the last article, one of the saints attending Oasis, did some SERIOUS study outlining the five core value. Her outline continues with;

Incarnational

Bodily, manifest, personified. The taking on of human form & nature by Jesus as the Son of God.

To be the type or body of

Bodily, **Luke 3:21-22 ESV** Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, (22) and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Manifest, **John 14:21-22 ESV** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." (22) Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Colossians 4:2-5 ESV Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (3) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison-- (4) that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. (5) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Manifestation, **1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Manifested, **John 2:11 ESV** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

1 Timothy 3:16 ESV Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 John 1:2 ESV the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

1 John 3:8 ESV Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 4:9 ESV In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

So, meditating upon the scriptures above and a major influence for this article was a recent sermon/seminar I listened to by Eric Mason, called [Dwelling Incarnationally](#) (this brother has GOT IT!!!). Here is my definition of what Incarnational is and why it is a core value.

Incarnational ministry is the intentional rearranging of our lives to realize that each and every person is a gift, made in the image of God, and a sovereignly ordained divine appointment. In the eighteen months of intentional living (mission), Jesus rearranged His life for others which culminated in the death, burial and resurrection, finally and fully satisfied atonement of our sin. Incarnational living is dwelling among those whom in our city God has placed in our lives, messy, sinful, depraved, and rough. You know, the ones that 'wear' everyone else out, the ones who are EGR (extra grace required), the ones who cannot afford to go on the 'church retreat' or buy the next small group study book, or go out to eat every time the 'church' wants to get together and reminisce about how great the sermon was last week. Incarnational living is rearranging your life so that you can spend time with the people that matter to Jesus.

Incarnational as a core value of Oasis is manifested through us serving our city, preaching to our city, intentional hospitality, not being welcome in our home town (many times the 'church' is very resistant to messy people and views them as a charity case versus instruments in the redeemer's hands) worshipping in all of life, and seeking the welfare of the city in which we live. We are successful in our effort when we become the heartbeat of Jesus in our city without a bullhorn.

An article I read recently said it this way, "*Jesus went everywhere proclaiming and demonstrating the reality, love, and power of the Kingdom (healing the brokenhearted, setting captives free, proclaiming God's acceptance, etc.) The church (the people of God) goes and does the same. This means that church, first of all, needs to transition from being a "come and see" place to a "go and be with the lost" movement.*"

If I am incarnational, I am the incarnate form of Jesus (a new creation in Christ, the old has gone and the new has come), a manifestation of His character, a humble, walking, talking, engaging (not criticizing, prejudice or judging) example in my life of the person and actions of Jesus.

These are a few of the things that outline someone who understands what it means to be incarnational and the reason it is a core value.

E-mail devotional:

Saints,

I just wanted to let you know that I am thankful and praying for you. Below you will find this week's Inspirational E-mail. I pray you will enjoy it and forward this thought on to your friends as well as offer them an invitation to a 'church' this weekend. Thank you for taking a moment to read our weekly newsletter.

This week we continue with our 5-part devotional outlining the core values of Oasis. These 'devotionals' accompany articles that I will be posting on my [personal blog](#) if you desire to go deeper on the topic. This week's topic is INCARNATIONAL (click here for [OUTWARD](#), [AUTHENTIC](#), [SERVING](#)).

Incarnational is another one of those 'buzz' words bouncing around the church today, but also part of the fuzzy definitions that sounds real cool but really cannot be articulated or actualized. There is enough fuzzy thinking in the church today, so I hope not to propagate that thinking with explaining briefly what 'incarnational' as a core value represents. Application is the key today when it comes to defining the church. If I am going to give my life to something, it has to mean something and that something is going to contain elements that we are passionate about.

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Questions to ponder this week:

- a. How would you define INCARNATIONAL?
- b. Many people confess that either a friend or family member shared the gospel with them and caused their hearts to be pricked, not the bullhorn guy, the gospel tract, or thanksgiving or Christmas dinner offered to the section 8 housing, one time per year. What makes this incarnational (that a friend or family member shared the gospel that God used to draw you to Himself?)
- c. What does incarnation look like in your relationships? Your work? Your family? I am not talking about goatees, tattoos, indie music, or weird conversations about speculations... What would it take to see Jesus at work in your current relationships?

1. Admin stuff:

- a. Summary of the vision of Oasis which we discussed last week can be found [on-line](#) (notes on the board) regarding Future Church, Missional Matrix, 3-types of Attenders, etc.
- b. Aug 30th cookout!!! For those that regularly attend Oasis, please remember to bring any chairs you may have for guests.
- c. Men's Tribe meets this week on Tuesday. Remember, the audio, "[Be A Man](#)" by Paul Washer is required listening for the discussion. Write/call for details if you would like to attend. The tribe has decided this format for our time (it has been growing and changing each week...which is a good thing... 1) get something to drink 2) laugh, 3) opening prayer, 4) Whoever got asked a [warm and fuzzy question](#) last week, gets immunity this week, but is able to ask a W&FQ this week, but must... 5) pray for the brother who was asked the W&FQ specifically, 6) what is said in the group, stays in the group.
- d. We have a person who will watch the kids for [Fireproof](#)!
- e. [The Way of the Master One-Day Evangelism Crash Course](#)! Derek & Connie are going, who want to come, we can carpool together?
- f. [Fireproof](#) is coming...
- g. We will be starting a new series next week: [You Can Double Your Class In Two Years or Less, by Josh Hunt](#)

2. Prayer Requests (PR) and Community Needs (CN): I wonder if God wants you to be incarnational regarding a prayer request or community need mentioned below.

- a. Updated prayer requests can be found at: <http://oasisgc.wordpress.com/prayer-board-facts/>
- b. Prayer: I will be delivering some meals to some of my neighbors during the cookout this weekend, please pray that it is received well...
- c. Prayer: Andrea's travel in coming into town this weekend, for her job, and her co-workers.
- d. CN: A family needs some home ceiling support work; it will take cash, time, and tools.
- e. CN: A single father needs a car so that he can take care of his kids, and get a job.
- f. CN: A family requires some work on their A/C unity along with some parts.

g. CN: Need a male volunteer to assist me to extend the Lord's Table to a shut-in.

stunned by the gospel,

Derek R. Iannelli-Smith

[Oasis Website](#) – [Oasis Facebook Group](#)

"Oasis...where relationships are a mess worth making..."