

Finding My Culture Words

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Think of three or four words (or short phrases) that truly describe who you are. Pray and meditate on these words which come from your deepest inner being; they authentically reflect your personality and reveal your soul. These words are not intended to impress anyone or be an aspirational wish list of what you would like to be. Just be authentic and honest.

*When a leader can clearly articulate and consistently message her/his 'Culture Words' it allows the congregation to rally around and buy-in to common purpose and direction. Your culture words are the **first step** in what frames and forms a church's current ministry identity, core values, and unifying way of how it goes about doing what it does. They are what threads and embeds the desired culture throughout the congregation and community. **Step 2** is to highlight your Biblical Story; **Step 3** is to confirm your words through friends and leadership!*

Here are a few self-reflection questions that may help find your culture words:

- What did (does) God see in me to call me into ministry?
- What lights my fire?
- What keeps me going?
- What propels me forward?
- What about me inspires others?
- What biblical story helps me make sense of my life story?
- When thinking about my approach to ministry: "I like to have _____; I need to have _____; People often describe my personality as _____.
- When thinking about my life, the core values that emerge are:

A first list of my culture words (may be revised as we go along):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.