



Core Values

We have eleven core values that guide us in our mission activity. These values identify the primary principles that influence our behavior, determine our distinctiveness, and establish our priorities. *We Value:*

1. GRACE

We believe that the core enabling force in our lives is grace: God's unmerited, undeserved favor. His grace met us first in salvation and continues to keep us safely in His hand despite our repeated failures. This grace must impact our hearts, must be seen in our relationship with those around us, and should be experienced by all who come in contact with our body. —Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 8:31-39; Luke 6:41-42.

2. TRUTH

We believe that the Scriptures are the final authority rather than church tradition or popular opinion. We strive to teach God's Word with integrity and authority so that seekers find Christ and believers mature in Him. We believe that anointed, spirit-led teaching is the catalyst for transformation in the lives of individuals and the church. —II Timothy 3:16-17, James 1:23-25

3. EVANGELISM

We believe Jesus' primary purpose on earth was to seek and save that which was lost. People far from God are the objects of His love and the focus of His Son's sacrifice. In order to embrace our Lord's mission, we must effectively share His gospel with those who don't know Him in our community (personally and corporately) and around the world. —Luke 5:32; Luke 15; 19:10; Matthew 18:14

4. DISCIPLESHIP

We believe that the pursuit of full devotion to God is normal for every Christ follower. We must nurture our people toward spiritual growth and encourage believers to live a spirit-filled existence, to learn and apply God's Word to their life, and to harness their spiritual growth for the purpose of making new disciples. Discipleship is a life-long process that begins with the youngest believers. —Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 12:29-30; Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 3:13-14

5. WORSHIP

We believe that it is in the process of being worshiped that God communicates His presence to people. We desire to glorify God and acknowledge His supreme value and worth both in our personal lives and in the corporate worship of our church. —Luke 10:38-41, John 4:23-24, Revelation 4 & 5

6. PRAYER

We believe intercessory prayer is Jesus' strategy for empowering the church and reaching the world. In our flesh, we are incapable of producing anything of value. We rely on the power of God accessed through both private and corporate prayer in the conception, planning, and execution of all the activities of this church. —John 16:23-24, Matt. 7:7-11, I John 5:14-15

7. COMMUNITY

We believe that in all aspects of life, Christ followers are to love and support each other in God honoring community. This must be evidenced first in our homes requiring us to provide an atmosphere that strengthens marriages, matures families, and affirms the value of single adults. Beyond our homes, we believe loving, godly, authentic relationships should model Christ's love to the city around us and permeate every aspect of church life. We believe life-change occurs most optimally when individuals are involved in meaningful small groups. — Eph. 5:22; 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; I Pet. 3:7; Prov. 27:17; Acts 2:44-47, John 13:34-35

8. SERVICE

We believe Christ followers are to operate as a unified community of servants. Our unity and health requires each believer to discover, develop, and exercise his/her spiritual gifts in tandem with other members of the body. Each gift is valued and should find a place of service in our church. All ministries should be led by gifted, passionate individuals. —I Cor. 12; Romans 12:3-13; I Peter 4:10-11

9. PEOPLE

We believe people are God's greatest treasure. They are created equal in His image and are so valuable to Him that they have become the objects of His eternal love and the focus of His Son's sacrifice. We believe God equally values each individual, whatever their gender, age, personality, body type, race, or socio-economic status. We place a high value on people and are especially interested in fostering a congregation that reflects the communities Grace serves. —Gal. 3:26-29; Revelation 5:9-10

10. RELEVANCE

We believe the church should be culturally relevant, while remaining doctrinally pure. Biblical truth is presented creatively and with application to daily living. We believe our role is to create environments that are conducive to the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people. We work diligently to relate to our culture with sensitivity through our people, ministries, facility, and printed materials, and use of the arts. —I Corinthians 9:19-23, Matthew 25:44-45, Proverbs 14:31a

11. EXCELLENCE

We believe that excellence honors God and inspires people. Since God gave His very best (the Savior), we seek to honor Him by maintaining a high standard of excellence in all our ministries and activities. Excellence is not striving for professionalism or perfectionism. It's doing the best we possibly can with the gifts and responsibilities God has given us. We believe excellence is in keeping with the nature of the Creator and stretches people to bring their best before God. — Col. 3:17, Malachi 1:6-14