

Core Values

I.

Others-centered:

We put the well-being of others before our own well-being.

Philippians 2:3

Jesus gave us an example of serving when He said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve", and to give His life..." As we seek to follow the example of Christ, we serve others. By serving others, we put the value – well-being - of others above our own. This means that in serving God, we serve others, by putting the interests of others before our own interests. This is the example that Jesus gave to us, in humbly loving and serving each other: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Putting the interests of others before our own interests also brings unity in the church.

II.

Love:

We show our love to God by how we sacrifice for and love others.

John 13:34-35

Jesus said, "A new ("unknown" or "unpracticed") command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 Also, 1 John 4:20 says: "The one who claims to love God yet hates a brother is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." Further, 1 John 3:16 adds that loving and serving go together: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." So we seek to love and serve as Christ did by sacrificing for others.

Therefore, we are the first to serve, and the last to be served; giving up what we personally want for what others need.

III.

Excellence:

We don't do someone else's best; we do our best without complaining.

Colossians 3:23; Philippians 2:14

In thinking of excellence, we do not compare the standard of work we do to how or what others do. Jackie Chan said: "I never wanted to be the next Bruce Lee, but the first Jackie Chan." Our own work, we do with excellence; to the best of the abilities and talents that we have, while we continually learn and grow. We are always changing and learning as we follow Christ. Since the attitude we do our work with is of utmost importance, grumbling is a great downfall. We choose to do the work God has us to do with a joyful and thankful attitude.

IV.

Stewardship:

Our time and resources are entrusted to us by God for us to use wisely.
2 Corinthians 4:2

Whether we refer to our time, money, talents, abilities or people, these all belong to God. They are not given or loaned to us, but God has left us as managers of these. Since we are not owners of people and these things, but managers of these, we will give an account of how we handled these. We take care of them and invest wisely and faithfully in them and with them. These people and things are for the good of the Kingdom of the Master, Jesus.

V.

Growth:

Healthy things grow. So we commit to growing spiritually, mentally and physically.
2 Peter 3:18

There is a commitment on our part to continue to grow spiritually, mentally and emotionally. We know that as individuals and as a church we will die if we discontinue to grow. Jesus has told us that we, the church, plant and water, and He will give us an increase - growth. There are also times when it will look like we are not growing at all, much like winter. In these times we will continue in faithfulness and perseverance knowing that "in due time" we will see growth if we do not give up. For this reason we continue in Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, and submission so that we and others can grow. Complacency and blaming others are growth killers.

VI.

Outreach:

The church is a hospital for the hurting, not a museum for the saints.
1 Thessalonians 3:12

Again, we give up what we want for what others need (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Jesus announced His purpose in Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said to us: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you."

So, there are 2 parts to outreach: 1. seek and save the lost; 2. Train
In our growth process, our goal is not only attendance, but also involvement, Hebrews 10:24-25.

VII.

Change:

Acts 13:2-3; 15:1-2,19

Although our message does not change – Christ is the foundation - we try new techniques and new ideas to reach new people. We know that change involves a positive criticism of the past realizing that whatever got us here (where we are today) won't take us there (where we will be tomorrow). So, as the disciples in Acts, we try new things to reach new people. God has the creativity to reach the people of today.

VIII.

Teamwork:

1 Corinthians 1:10, 3:7-9

Real teamwork starts by having a united purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10 reads: "I appeal to you believers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." Our purpose is to work together to bring people closer to God and to build bridges in the community. And no one is an island, as 1 Corinthians 3:7-9 says: "neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." And we work together as equals in the same way we want others to treat us (Matthew 7:12) so we can fulfill the mission of the church.