

10

true things about  
**God's new  
community**

VALUES WE LIVE BY





## From believing to belonging

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

**EPHESIANS 2:19-21**

**G**od's amazing work is not simply to make a 'new creation' of every follower of Jesus; he is also bringing them together to become a new people and a new community. Therefore when a person confesses faith in Jesus, they go from '*believing*' to '*belonging*.'

The Christian enters into this new life in Christ as a vital part of God's family and a member of the Gospel community, which is the Church. By the grace of God, a new culture is birthed that faithfully bears witness to Jesus with a new spirit and new priorities.



We believe these  
**10 true things** to be  
God's vital plan for  
His Church  
in the world

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These principles are adapted from David Prior's book, **Bedrock: A Vision for the Local Church** (Hodder and Stoughton, 1985). The author who developed these values from Hebrews 12 & 13 called them God's 'unshakeable characteristics' for His eternal Kingdom.

## **1. ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP**

Jesus said that God seeks those who worship in spirit and in truth – as individuals and when we come together as a congregation. Acceptable worship is fired by faith and gratitude, expressed in joy and reverence.

## **2. LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER**

A restored relationship with God expresses itself in love and grace to one another in His family. Sacrificial love for one another is evidence that Jesus' disciples are living out the Gospel in community with one another.

## **3. LOVE FOR STRANGERS**

As we have received God's mercy we demonstrate love and compassion, and welcome those who are strangers to God and the Gospel by our hospitality.

## **4. LOVE FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE**

The underprivileged, vulnerable, marginalized, and needy, are of great concern to God. Jesus himself made time for social rejects of the day. We too are called to do the same.



*In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus challenged us to put the Greatest Commandment to love others into action, including those who are not like us.*

## **5. A SHARING LIFESTYLE**

Contentment and joyful sharing are the twin marks of a disciple of Jesus. As God's new community, we celebrate God's generosity by sharing and giving.

## 6. MISSIONAL MINDSET

Being missional is to remember that we are a 'sent' people - to be the living Gospel in the world though not of the world. Every day is an opportunity to shine as light in a dark world; we share the Gospel where we are placed as well as in fields abroad.

*After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples saying, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*



## 7. CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Marriage is held in honour and family life is valued. Parents take primary responsibility for discipling and disciplining their own children.

## 8. SHARED LEADERSHIP

Pastoral responsibility is always teamwork. It starts, continues and finishes with humble service that honours Jesus our Servant King.

## 9. SOUND TEACHING

The authority of God's Word is the Church's true foundation. The teaching of the whole counsel of Scripture is necessary for growth in maturity and godliness.

## 10. SHAME & SUFFERING

When we faithfully represent God's new society, we must expect to meet abuse and persecution. But the rich grace of God in Christ remains our hope and source of strength.




The Christian journey is a lifelong adventure with the Lord at the head and at its centre. Join us as we travel together and discover God's purpose for our lives.

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