



OUR CORE VALUES & MOTIVATIONS

Question addressed: What are the core motivations for ministry? What are the underlying convictions that reflect the biblical purposes for the church and drive its ministry activities?

1. Gospel Centrality
2. Prayer Dependency
3. Loving Family
4. Outward Mentality
5. Heart Necessity

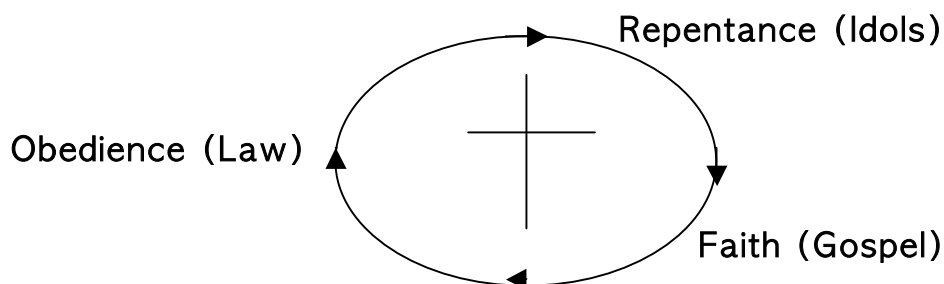
1. Gospel Centrality (Anchored to the Word)

The gospel of grace is at the core of who we are and what we do (see circle diagram above). We do not view the gospel as the “glue that binds us together,” rather it is the catalyst that brings transformation. As Rev. Tim Keller points out:

“The gospel is not moral conformity, which is religion, nor is it self-discovery, which is secularism. The gospel is something else altogether — a grid through which we see the world. There are three results of the gospel: the restructuring of our hearts, the removal of our sin, and the reversal of our values.”

The message and power of the gospel is far more extensive than we can imagine. It is the “good news” that “*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:8) and “*the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*” (Romans 1:18). The gospel of grace makes clear that we are so sinful, lost and helpless, that apart from faith in Christ there is no hope to enter God’s Kingdom. Furthermore, it is not simply a *gateway* through which we enter God’s family, it is the *pathway* to all renewal and change both individually (Colossians 1:6) and socially (Galatians 2:14).

We believe that the gospel should be central in our daily lives, worship, relationships, and ministry. The dynamics of the Gospel include a life of Repentance – (from our sin of idolatry and unbelief), Faith – (in the promises of the Gospel), and Obedience – (unto God’s law).



At the core of this diagram is the cross – which demonstrates our union with Christ and his redemptive work – Christ is the head of the Body of Christ. Being unified with Christ we hope to integrate Gospel renewal in the life of our Church’s purposes: **Mission, Worship, Community, and Discipleship**. The gospel transforms the way we view and value God, one another, the world and self in the context of our church purposes.

2. Prayer Dependency (UPREACH in *WORSHIP*)

In all things we must demonstrate a humble reliance upon God to cultivate growth in his church through power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is not only a gift for communing with God or a responsibility for making request know to God; it is our very life line for power, change and fruit in life and ministry (Luke 11; Romans 8:26ff; 1 Thessalonians 5:16,17; Colossians 4:2; Philippians 1:19; Hebrews 4:16).

3. Loving Family (INREACH in *COMMUNITY*)

We are called to distinguish ourselves as a community of Christ's followers in how we "*love one another*" (John 13:34,35). The body of Christ is a family, adopted through the gospel of grace and connected by God's spirit, who practices towards one another peacemaking, service, care, and accountability (1 Peter 4:10; Galatians 5:13; Matthew 18:15-20)

4. Outward Mentality (OUTREACH in *MISSION*)

We do not exist to simply or even primarily to serve and love ourselves. Our joyful calling is to care about the spiritual and social needs of our community and beyond. Christ's love compels us to a ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:14ff) through evangelism, mercy, giving and multiplying our church (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

5. Heart Necessity or "Heart Priority" (DOWNREACH in *DISCIPLESHIP*)

Our aim and focus in ministry to people is not on behavioral modification, rather heart *transformation*. We want to reach the root matter of the heart (Matt. 12:34; Mark 7:21) as we seek to help people (both young and old) to grow in grace as faithful Christ followers.