

Life Notes *Understanding Our Core Values*

with Pastor Stephen

Core Values are defined as the fundamental beliefs of a person or organization.

Core Values can help people to know what is right from wrong; to recognize whether activities that are vital to success or whether such activities may be distractions.

The articulation and understanding of Core Values help ensure the success of the organization that has embraced them.

They can help us determine if we are on the right path and fulfilling our goals; and they create an unwavering and unchanging grid through which we evaluate every activity, investment, and expense.

For several years Christian Life Church has operated under a set of nine Core Values which are the result of several prayer months of evaluation and vision casting. As we articulated the Values, we set them in the context of four ideas:

1. Core Values are non-negotiable.
2. Core Values should be irreducible.
3. Core Values are easily communicated.
4. Core Values are the expression of our ministry assignment given to us by the Holy Spirit.

Non-negotiable means whenever we plan activities, develop ministry, or spend money, the Nine Core Values are the grid through which we evaluate everything.

Irreducible means the values are bottom line beliefs. We need no further clarification, disclaimers, or exceptions.

Easily communicated means the list is complete, and should be easily recognized, remembered, and repeated as regular part of our public education and missional focus.

Ministry Assignment means we believe our Core Values are the paths upon which we do ministry under the anointing and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

This philosophy implies several things:

1. We cannot be all things to all people. We are learning to be led by The Spirit, not by burdens or pet projects.
2. We will be called upon to give account for the way we use the resources that are made available to us.

In the coming weeks, we will explain each of the Nine Core Values and clarify the meaning and importance of each one. For now, here is the list:

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| January 22 | 1. Biblical Authority |
| January 29 | 2. Intimacy with God |
| February 5 | 3. God's Empowering Presence |
| February 12 | 4. Culturally Relevant Environments |
| February 19 | 5. Authentic Community |
| February 26 | 6. Relational Evangelism |
| March 5 | 7. Partners in Ministry |
| March 12 | 8. Intentional Apprenticing |
| March 19 | 9. Pastors who are servant leaders. |