

Life Notes *Understanding Our Core Values*

with Pastor Stephen

Core Value #5 – Authentic Community:

- We believe accountability, care, and a sense of belonging are critical to balance and progress in our spiritual journey. These three things are best achieved within the context of a small group of relationally-connected Believers.

What does this Core Value Mean?

- A wise person once observed, “As far as I can tell, there is no such thing in Scripture as ‘a Saint.’ The word is ‘Saints’ -always used in the plural.” We believe the Christian life is best expressed, and is most effective, in the context of community.
- There are nearly 100 “one another” passages of Scripture that remind us how important it is for us to express our Christianity together.
- Jesus said the world would recognize us as His disciples by the way we love one another (John 13:34, 35; Romans 12:10, 13:8; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 10:24; 1 Peter 1:22, 3:8, 5:14; 1 John 3:11; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5).
- We believe that Christians who withdraw from other Christians not only make themselves vulnerable to error and sin, but also ignore the clear teaching of Scripture (Hebrews 10:25).

Why is this Core Value important?

- The danger of ignoring this Core Value:
 - When we ignore this principle, we open ourselves to attack and deception that would not otherwise be effective tools against us. In World War II, our ships traveled together in convoys to provide protection and benefit. Lone vessels were easily destroyed by enemy ships.

- We are in clear violation of Scriptural patterns if we ignore the fellowship of the saints.
- The pattern in the book of Acts was clearly community life, even from the very earliest days of the church (Acts 2:42-47).

• The principle we embrace:

- Our life is strengthened for Christ as we serve and worship with others (1 Corinthians 14).
- The principle is that we function as individual members of a body (1 Corinthians 12).

How can I make this Core Value part of my life?

- Come early and stay late! Participate fully in the services and make friends. Take time to pray for one another.
- Add Wednesday night service to your schedule. Make it a family affair!
- Find a Christian Education class or Life Group to be a part of.

The result of believing this Core Value:

- You will be mutually strengthened and edified.
- Your family will become stronger in matters of faith and discipleship.
- You will find more opportunities to serve the Kingdom.