



NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP ST. LOUIS

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# *Our Core Values*

## NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP CORE VALUES

As we consider the Vision we believe God has called New City to seek as a church, and as we further define the outworking of that Vision with Mission-Specific Commitments, we also want to describe our core values.

*These are basic principles for our life together as a community of believers that we consider foundational principles of how we will operate as a church.*

Theologically, our core values are described in the “Westminster Confession of Faith.” Structurally, our core values are described in our “Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America” - of which we are a part. But beyond these, we have some specific core Biblical Values that we believe the Word of God calls us to willingly and enthusiastically embrace that will strengthen and equip us to participate in the advance of the Kingdom of God in this very broken and sinful world.

We have already touched on our commitment to intentionally embrace the Good News of the Kingdom of God in Christ as God’s rule and reign to bring his justice and righteousness to expression in this world through us as His people. We have also addressed our belief that God, in Christ, is reconciling people from among all the nations not only to Himself, but also to one another to live as a reconciled New Humanity with Christ as our Head.

In this document we want to stress our commitment to five other core values we regularly highlight and guide us as a church. These values are:

**Sonship**  
**Team Ministry**  
**The Promises of God**  
**Humility and Humble Circumstances**  
**Trials**

### **CORE VALUE #1** **SONSHIP**

We believe every Christian needs to fully understand, on a practical level, what it means that we are adopted into the family of God, and as John 1:12 tells us, “... to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

That word “right” is the same word for “authority” and “privilege” and is meant to tell us - in the strongest terms possible - that when we put our faith in Christ, we have “standing” before God as His adopted children. All the rights and privileges of being His child are ours. So much so that Jesus is called our “brother” (Hebrews 2:10-12) and we are called “joint-heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16-17)

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

Hebrews 2:10-12

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:16-17

One of the great struggles many Christians experience is lapsing into a mindset that they are orphans, trying to live the Christian life all on their own. Often, this feeling is connected to areas where we struggle with sin - either in ourselves or others. ***The antidote to all this is to be constantly reassured that our relationship with God is rooted in the grace of God, based solely on what Christ has done for us in His Cross and Resurrection.*** This core value unpacks for us the many faceted truth that the Gospel is God's power for salvation.

It is not just the beginning point for entering into a relationship with God, ***but it is the way to address every problem and the means for growth at every step, and is the basis of our acceptance and reconciliation to one another in the kingdom and family of God.***

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17

## **CORE VALUE #2 TEAM MINISTRY**

We believe God has called all of us to be parts of the "one Body of Christ."

And God the Father put all things under Jesus' feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. Colossians 3:15

In our calling and function as Christ's Body in this world, we are reflecting the image of the Triune God. We are one body with many parts. We believe God has committed Himself to fulfill the advancement of His Kingdom through the Body of Christ working together as teams, with a gracious and Sovereignly distributed diversity of gifts. The fundamental issues of Team Ministry are rooted in believing the Gospel and building ministry out of prayer.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 1 Corinthians 12:14-19

***All of this frees us from the burden and fear of extreme individualism and gives us the grace and perspective to value every member of the body with a deep appreciation for the gifts God has given them.***

## **CORE VALUE #3**

### **THE COVENANTAL PROMISES OF GOD**

The Word of God and the work of His salvation and kingdom in this world are revealed in the context of a “Covenant” relationship - in which he promises to be our God, and then calls us to be His faithful people. All the countless promises in Scripture are related to the Promises of God, given to us through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David, which are all brought to their full expression in the New Covenant in Christ.

The Apostle Peter tells us that God “has granted to us his very precious and great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1:4)

And the Apostle Paul tells us, “all the promises of God find their Yes in Christ. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

*We believe one of the primary ways God strengthens our faith and equips us or all we are called to do, is for us to know and understand and prayerfully believe His promises.*

The covenantal context of the promises and their focus around the Gospel of the Kingdom enables sinful, sometimes disbelieving people to appropriate the promises by a faith that is focused on the trustworthiness of God, not on the strength or purity of the believer’s faith.

## **CORE VALUE #4**

### **HUMILITY AND HUMBLE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

*We believe God is committed to advancing the work of His Kingdom and Church by deliberately leading us into places of humility and human weakness.* The humility of Jesus was not only in the attitude of His heart, but also in the humbleness of the circumstances He embraced as He inaugurated the Kingdom of God.

***The greatest expression of that humility was demonstrated when He submitted Himself to death on the Cross. In turn, He calls us to take up our Cross and follow Him.*** The historical patterns of the Bible show how God wants us to embrace our weakness and learn humility in order that the glory of His salvation may shine more powerfully.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 16:24-25

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:3-8

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10



## CORE VALUE #5

### EMBRACING TRIALS AS THE WAY TO MATURITY AND FRUITFULNESS

*We believe God's revealed prescription for maturing our faith is precisely by embracing the trials we must all suffer and endure in this broken world. This the way Jesus Himself matured as a human being and we are called to embrace the same path.*

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. Hebrews 5:8-9

...for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:3-4

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5

Because life is filled with so many unexpected trials, and even additional suffering for those who follow Christ, this teaching frees us from anxiety and fear when trials come upon us either individually or corporately as a church, that somehow we are no longer under the favor of God. ***Instead, we are free to embrace the challenges and see how God wants to use the difficulties to strengthen our faith, personally and collectively, to advance His kingdom.***

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

## NOTES

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