



Lewis
Memorial
BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Values

Things we value

We value ... the glory of God above all else.

We desire all people to have a passionate, relentless pursuit of God characterized by one defining motivation: that He might be glorified in all things in their lives. For this reason, we strive for excellence in the care of our grounds, our facilities and in every aspect of our worship gatherings.

We value ... worship as our priority in our services.

We do not wish to be defined by one particular form, practice or style in worship. We seek to create an environment of worship that is “in spirit and in truth” and ushers people into God’s presence.

We value ... Christ’s preeminence in His church.

We want nothing to obscure the wonder and worship of Jesus Christ in His church. If something does not exalt His name and further His Kingdom, we will not embrace it. He is the center of all we say and do when we gather together as the body of Christ.

We value ... the Scripture as our authority for life.

God’s Word is our guide, authority, and conscience in everything and the means by which Christ directs us. We stand where the Word of God stands and remain flexible where it is flexible.

We value ... the two divinely ordained ordinances of the church: baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Both of these ordinances are commanded in scripture to be carried out in the context of the local church. Baptism by immersion is the first step of obedience for new believers publicly identifying themselves as Christ-followers and declaring their allegiance to the One who died and rose again. The Lord’s Supper is a dramatic presentation that is observed regularly when the church is gathered together as a reminder of the price Jesus paid that our sins might be forgiven.

We value ... making disciples locally and globally.

Our mission is to help people become disciples of Christ by leading them to faith in Him, teaching them how to follow Him, and sending them after others they can bring to Him. Jesus came to “seek and save” the lost and we participate in this ministry with Him through local outreach in our own community, as well as around the world through international missionaries and mission projects.

We value ... corporate worship and biblical preaching as essential to discipleship.

Fundamental to the well-being of any believer is faithful participation in the local church where the Word of God is proclaimed publicly and people are equipped for ministry. Spiritual growth cannot happen if people intentionally isolate themselves from the gathering of believers. It is a priority with us when we gather as the church, that we teach/preach the Bible in a fashion that shows its full meaning and application to life.

We value ... a team approach to ministry.

God intended us to work together in concert with other believers for the advancement of His cause and the furtherance of the Gospel. We need each other's love, encouragement, and assistance in the great work He has called and commissioned us to do.

We value ... a spiritual life of dependence on God.

Nothing of eternal value is ever accomplished apart from prayer and we will only see what God can do as we seek His face. The discipline of prayer is essential if we are to experience His power and love at work in and through our lives. We need Him and connect with Him every time we pray.

We value ... relationships that are developed in Life Group communities.

Belonging to our community of faith involves a commitment to being intentionally involved with others in accountable and encouraging relationships. Life Group participants share and encourage each other toward spiritual maturity. It is in these friendly gatherings where you experience both the benefits of a larger church and yet enjoy the kind of relationships that only develop in small, safe settings.

We value ... grace as the context in which God's truth is taught.

We each acknowledge our own complete dependence on the goodness and grace of God in everything. Because we have each benefitted personally from the kind intention of His unmerited favor, we eagerly extend that same grace and kindness to others. We are all broken people and in need of His healing grace extended through the body of Christ.

We value ... good stewardship of our resources as His obedient servants.

Being good managers of the spiritual gifts, talents, abilities, and material resources God has entrusted to us is an acknowledgment that we are living under the Lordship of Christ and recognize that everything we have and are is a gift from Him. Each of us should be obedient in giving back to God from these abundant resources as an acknowledgment of His ownership of them all.

We value ... innovation and flexibility that doesn't compromise our message or Master.

We constantly strive to keep tradition in perspective and ask whether it is optimally serving the biblical purpose for which it was originally designed. When it is not, we aggressively work to find better and more effective ways that are consistent with His Word and His will. Openness to change and flexibility are essential for personal, relational, and spiritual growth.

We value ... all members of the body of Christ serving according to their giftedness.

All believers have a place where they “fit” in the body of Christ and receive the greatest joy while serving. Members of our fellowship submit themselves to the pastors and leaders of our church so they may discover their giftedness and find training to utilize their gifts for God's glory.

We value ... biblical diversity among our church membership.

Our desire is that the Holy Spirit will bless us with a rich diversity of ages, life-stages, racial, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We desire to be the kind of church that reflects the unity of Christ's body amidst our diversity. We are always working to communicate warmth and welcome to all who worship with us.

We value ... unity in the essentials and understanding in the non-essentials.

We embrace diversity, but require unity in the essentials of the faith. In the non-essentials we give understanding where there are reasonable differences of viewpoint. It's been aptly said, “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

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