

Our Mission and Core Values

Mars Hill Community Church exists to invest our lives in sharing Jesus Christ and growing His followers.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Q: From these verses, what is the responsibility of the church? What are the characteristics of a mature follower of Christ? How do we attain this maturity?

“Few Christians seem to possess a ‘big picture’ of spirituality and even fewer believers (less than one out of five) describe spiritual success in terms broader than a single aspect of personal maturity. Most born-again adults have a very narrow view of what they are striving to become as Christians, what spiritual maturity might look like in their lives, and what it would take for them to maximize their potential as followers of Christ.”

— George Barna, *Growing True Disciples*

Q: When such a large majority of Christians lack a “big picture” of spirituality, what is the result in the church?

Q: How does the Barna quote relate to your own experience as a Christian?

Q: How would you define a spiritually mature Christian?

“Our research also points out that most born-again adults are limited in their ability to grow spiritually because they have failed to set any goals for their spiritual development, failed to develop standards against which to measure their growth, or failed to establish procedures for being held accountable for their growth. Only four out of every ten church members responded that they had set personal spiritual growth goals for themselves.”

— George Barna, *Growing True Disciples*

Discipline is a key ingredient for any type of growth, especially spiritual growth. Discipline is difficult to cultivate and even harder to maintain. However, there is one thing that makes the act of becoming disciplined easier. We are disciplined about the things that we are passionate about! As Christians, we should be passionate about reaching our full potential in Christ.

Q: When would you say you have been the most disciplined in your life?

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8 and consider Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding effort and discipline in the Spiritual life.

7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Anything we do in our lives where we desire to grow, requires us to apply intentional effort. Growing as a musician, athlete or academic requires thoughtful discipline. How will we grow spiritually? Under the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will need to apply diligence and effort. There are many areas of the Christian life that are keys to this pursuit of Christlike maturity. As a church, we have identified six areas that we believe are core to becoming more like Christ and living a healthy and balanced Christian life.

“Maturing disciples of Jesus will increasingly look like Jesus. We are given a completely new spiritual identity the moment we come to faith in Christ. And while this new identity is given at salvation, we are charged with partnering with Him as He works in us to transform us into Christlikeness. As God matures us as disciples, we will increasingly view our lives and the world around us through this new identity. There are six defining characteristics or core values in which our maturing identity in Christ will grow and be evidenced in our lives.”

-Kirk Pratt, Executive Pastor



Biblically Centered: Seeking to be Defined and Directed by Scripture



Prayerfully Dependent: Cultivating a deepening relationship with God through regular prayer



Relationally Connected: Build authentic relationships marked by encouragement and accountability



Ministry Minded: Actively develop and deploy spiritual gifts to serve others



Missionally Engaged: Seeking opportunities to share the gospel locally and Globally



Courageously Generous: Living as a steward over all the resources God has assigned to you

While we are far from perfect in expressing these values, we aspire to continually grow in them both individually and corporately. As a member of Mars Hill, we would ask that these core values become your aspiration as well. It is our hope that everything we do here at Mars Hill Community Church will emanate from our commitment to living out our core values and serve the purpose of aligning us with the mission Jesus has given us, to make disciples who in turn go and make disciples.

As you watch the videos and work through this guide, it is our hope that you would honestly assess your spiritual health and passion in each of these areas and then set some goals as you seek to grow under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.