

## **Core Value: Gospel Community**

**Mission:** Fully devoted followers of Christ committed to the explosive growth of God's kingdom through relational, missional, and accountable gospel communities.

**Gospel-**The Gospel is the Good news, the missionary message, the hope of salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Living with the Gospel as the priority is living a life resting in the grace of God as revealed through a relationship with God and through the promises of His Word. To be Gospel centered is to make much of Christ above all.

**Community-** A group of people who are honest with each other, whose relationships go deeper than their mask of composure and who have developed some significant commitments to rejoice together, mourn together, to delight in each other and make other's conditions their own."- Skinner

*1 Thess. 2:8 "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."*

Therefore, to live in Gospel Community is to live Word-centered, with the mission of the Gospel as the focus and through intentional commitments to relational community.

The threefold strategy of living in Gospel Community is:

1. *Building and deepening relationships with believer and unbeliever*
2. *Sharing the Gospel and Word of Truth with believer and unbeliever*
3. *Introducing community to believer and unbeliever*

Love and truth are not mutually exclusive. We must live transparently with one another, love wholeheartedly each other, and speak truthfully into one another's lives.

Ways this looks in the church context:

1. See church as identity rather than an event to be attended.
2. The Gospel displayed/communicated and relationship development become primary within the normal "every day" life of the believer.

3. We do less programs and more time is spent sharing our lives with believers and unbelievers. Ministry, prayer, evangelism and Bible study is developed more in community than individually.
4. Discussion, sharing, and praying in the group accompanies the Bible teaching.
5. Learning to grow through our messy lives instead of pretending there is no mess.
6. Being on mission together, sharing the burden of reaching others within our spheres of influence.
7. Adopting a 24-7 pastoral care ministry instead of program driven ministries. This pastoral care is performed by the believers under direction from leaders rather than hired hands.
8. Flexibility in gathering when and where believers can connect with one another and/or connect with those not in the fellowship.
9. Instead of building larger congregations the church is multiplying more congregations
10. Instead of promoting attractional events the church promotes attractional communities.

*Romans 15:1-7-We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

## **Observations:**

1. **The Goal:** The purpose is authentic worship- People must conclude from our reconciliation, love, and welcoming of each other, that Christ is glorious. ***"Glorifying the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

How do we do this in the body?

2. V. 1- ***“To bear”*** with someone implies conflict and struggle. It sometimes means “to endure” or to “put up with.” We are satisfied in Christ. I don’t have to have it my way. The burden of sin fell on Christ.
3. V. 2- ***“Please”*** your neighbor means to have the mind of Christ and put the needs of others above your own (*Phil. 2:1-11*).
4. V. 5- ***“Harmony”*** means to seek reconciliation. It does not mean same preferences, but rather same spiritual values.

***Therefore, welcome others in love and in reconciliation!***

***Hebrews 10:24-25- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.***

## **Potential opportunities:**

### **Congregational Opportunities (Congregation)**

- 3x month- *In homes/smaller venues (Sunday/Saturday)*
- 1x month- *Community Gathering (Banquet Hall?)*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday- *Missional Worship Event (Strategic locations)*

### **Gospel Community Opportunities (Committed)**

- *Gospel Communities (4-6 couples or families) in homes on any evening during the week*
- *Student Ministry activities at Tomlins or other venues (Wednesdays)*
- *Women’s Bible study*
- *Men’s Prayer Group*

### **Discipleship Opportunities (Core)**

- *Men’s/Women’s Foundations studies*
- *KIDZ Connect- Introduction to foundational truths for kids and training for parents to lead their own children*
- *Gospel communities- Jesus’ Leadership Growth model*

### **Missional Opportunities (Commissioned)**

- *Gospel Intentionality (Work, neighborhood, rhythms of life) Groups share mission of reaching those within members’ spheres of influence*
- *Kid gatherings in area homes/ gyms- Schools/Churches*
- *Mercy Mall- 9:30-2 (Also Mondays 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.; Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)*
- *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Missional Worship Event*
- *Inviting unchurched to Gospel communities and congregational gatherings*
- *Local, National, and International opportunities presented by members of church*