



## **CORE VALUES - GRACE COVENANT CHURCH**

### **We Value a Commitment to...**

#### A Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ:

*"The Foundation for Real Living"* (Evangelism & Discipleship)

We believe that the foundation for successful living and peace with God is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to live as a man on earth, die on a cross and be raised from the dead so we can live forever with Him (John 3:16). Because of our relationship with Jesus our past is forgiven (Romans 3:23-24), we have a purpose for our present (Ephesians 2:10) and we have a home in heaven in our future (Romans 6:23). Everything we do as a church is with the goal of helping people develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

#### Living the Truth of the Bible:

*"Coping with Life the Right Way"* (Discipleship)

We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word, is true in every way and is our foundation and compass for living (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God wants His truth in the Bible not only to be read, but also to be acted out in our lives (James 1:22). Therefore, we are committed to equipping and discipling believers through encouraging personal study and through the preaching and teaching of God's Word.

#### Service:

*"It's Not About Me"* (Ministry)

"Servant" means to put the needs of others above our own needs. We believe that all Christians are called to be servants and that our highest achievement in life is to be servants of God just like Jesus was (Mark 10:43-45). We believe that every member of the church is called to be a minister to others in love (Galatians 5:13) so we strive to be mature servants who are sensitive to meeting the needs of other people.

#### The Pursuit of Excellence:

*"Giving Our Best to God"* (Worship)

We believe that God deserves our best; in everything we attempt we should give our all so He can be honored (Colossians 3:23). We take pride in the ministry to which God has called us and we constantly look for ways to improve as servants of Jesus (Matthew 25:14-30 and Galatians 6:4).

Authenticity:

*“Real People Living Real Lives”* (Fellowship & Evangelism)

We believe that as Christians we need to be honest, genuine and transparent. We are people who love God and so we strive to be holy, but we believe that nobody is perfect so we don't want to act perfect; Christians are ordinary people who are simply trophies of God's grace. We don't want to act like hypocrites, so we strive to be who God made us to be and no more or no less (2 Corinthians 1:2 and 2 Corinthians 6:3-13). This authenticity allows us to accept and love those God brings into our path so we can serve them like Jesus would.

People:

*“People Matter to God”* (Fellowship, Evangelism & Ministry)

We believe that God made people as relational beings and wants us to connect with other people in relationship. God desires for us to accept people and live in unity with them (Romans 15:7 and Ephesians 4:3). He also made people as unique creations with different tastes and preferences. Because of this we believe that God has called us to value the differences in people while still living in unity; to celebrate unity without uniformity (Philippians 2:2 and I Corinthians 12:4-6). We strive to live out the belief that in the essentials we have unity, in non-essentials we have liberty and in all things we show love. Because of our uniqueness, everybody has something unique to contribute. Therefore we strive to empower people to own and express the gifts God gave them and to become the complete person God meant them to be (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Faith in God:

*“Expect Great Things from God and Attempt Great Things for God”* (Worship)

We believe in God's ability to do for us far more than we could ever ask of Him (Ephesians 3:20). We believe it is God's will for us to ask Him to accomplish His purposes for the church and to believe Him to answer (Hebrews 11:6 and Mark 10:27). We believe that Christians should live enthusiastic, optimistic lives believing God will accomplish great things in His church (Matthew 9:29). Therefore, we desire to glorify God through having faith in Him.

Growth:

*“Win the Lost at Any Cost”* (Evangelism, Fellowship, Discipleship & Ministry)

We believe that God wants His church to grow. It is the job of our church to do whatever it takes to reach people with the life changing love of Jesus Christ, to help them grow to maturity in Him and to equip them to go out and reach other people who don't yet know Him (Matthew 28:19-20 and Matthew 22:37-39). We believe that God wants us to grow numerically, spiritually, personally and relationally in order to accomplish the work He has for us (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Commitment:

*“The Cause is Worth the Cost”* (Discipleship & Worship)

We believe that the heart of the Christian life lies in commitment (Matthew 22:37-39). The first person who deserves the commitment of our whole life is Jesus Christ. Then the most significant commitment we can hold on earth is to build the kingdom of God through loving, reaching and serving others for Him (2 Corinthians 8:5). We challenge people to deeper commitments in both of those areas of life.

Love:

*“People...Handle with Care”* (Worship, Fellowship & Evangelism)

We believe that God modeled love for us (John 3:16-17) and commanded us to live a life of love toward other people and God Himself (Matthew 22:37-39). We believe that a life of love is what identifies a Christian and proves we are followers of Jesus (John 13:34-35). We believe love is the expression of God in our lives and the proof of our trust in Him (Galatians 5:6) and we strive to show God’s love to whoever He brings into our lives.

Teamwork:

*“Working Together for God”* (Fellowship & Ministry)

We believe that Jesus modeled teamwork with His disciples (Mark 6:7), that as a Body we are to work together to accomplish His mission (I Corinthians 12:27) and that together we have the ability to achieve far more than we ever could achieve separately (Ecclesiastes 4:9). We believe that teamwork reflects each person’s uniqueness in the larger framework as part of the Body of Christ (Romans 12:5). We are committed to work as a team to accomplish God’s mission to which He has called us.

Small Group Connections:

*“Experiencing God through Ordinary People”* (Fellowship & Discipleship)

We believe that small groups were the primary model for early church health and growth (Acts 2:42-47). We are committed to small groups as the most effective means of building relationships, stimulating spiritual growth and developing servant-leaders within the Body of Christ (2 Timothy 2:2 and 2 Peter 3:18).

Prayer:

*“God is Closer than You Think”* (Worship & Fellowship)

We believe that prayer was a foundation of the early church (Acts 2:42), is the vehicle that allows us to hear God’s voice (Deuteronomy 30:20), reflects our daily dependence on God (Matthew 7:9-13) and is both heard and answered by God (James 5:16). So everything we attempt at Grace Covenant Church will begin, continue and be accomplished with prayer as the foundation.



Forgiveness:

*"No Perfect People"* (Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Evangelism)  
We believe that nobody is perfect, everyone has sinned and God has offered us the free gift of forgiveness (Romans 3:23-24 and Ephesians 1:4-7). We believe that when a person receives that gift he/she is given a fresh start in life (2 Corinthians 5:17). We also believe that God calls us to be forgiving of others as He forgives us (Matthew 6:14-15, Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13) and so we strive to extend forgiveness just as God extends it to us.