

Session III

Core Values, Part 2

CORE VALUE #1 (continued):

Renewing Grace

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

—WHAT DOES GRACE RENEW?—

Church is not just a place where we conform our thinking to right beliefs, not just a place where we learn to profess the right things—it is a place where we get the gospel deeply or better put—the gospel gets us. We don't just learn what justification by faith means—but we are reconciled to our Father by the work of Jesus for us and it transforms us. Once barren hearts begin to produce lovely fruit—love, joy, peace.

- **THE GOSPEL RENEWS OUR _____.**

Mark 12:30 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your MIND."
Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

- **THE GOSPEL RENEWS OUR _____.**

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Under the persuasion of the gospel, marriages will not stay the same. As we are remade to be more like Jesus, husbands and wives will learn to love and cherish one another. The primary gospel responsibility of the home and church is to accurately pass the gospel to the next generation.

- **THE GOSPEL RENEWS OUR _____.**

Romans 6:14 "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Religion says, "I obey God, therefore I am loved." The gospel says, "I am loved by God, therefore I obey him." The indicative precedes the imperative and the order can never be reversed.

- **THE GOSPEL RENEWS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF _____.**

Leadership will not simply be defined as those who are the best Bible scholars, or managers in our midst. Small group leaders, church officers and staff must be experiencing gospel transformation in their own hearts, minds, marriages and families to be truly leading. Leaders are the chief repenters.

CORE VALUE #2:

Redemptive Community

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In a world of disconnection, SRC seeks to be a place of unusual devotion to one another. The end of God's saving work in Christ is not the rescuing of individuals who remain relatively unconnected. The purpose of His saving work is the formation of a people, a new family over which He presides as Father. Community is the goal of the gospel.

A. REDEMPTIVE COMMUNITY MEANS _____.

Acts 2:46-47 "Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

God's people don't just worship together—they live, dance, play and eat together. A happy family does life together.

B. REDEMPTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVES _____.

Acts 2:44-45 "And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need."

We are those who "know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich." The gospel will make us particularly giving of our money and our time.

CORE VALUE #3:

Relentless Mission

Matthew 4:23 "Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people."

In a world of self-absorption, SRC seeks to bless our world with deeds of compassion, mercy, and grace. What is Jesus' mission? To usher in the kingdom of God. This is the total transformation of all things until creation is whole and well again. Rev. 21:5 says the One who sits on the throne declares, "I am making all things new." The kingdom was inaugurated by Jesus in His first coming, but won't come in all its fullness until His return. In the meantime, it is our mission to bring kingdom blessedness to our broken world. We do not merely have a missionary program—we are a mission.

A. MISSIONAL WITH OUR _____ AND OUR _____.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

We will be a church not just for ourselves, but for our friends who do not believe (a church where we value having friends who do not believe!). A church, which will present the beauty of Jesus in the vernacular. We will eschew "we-them" language—disdainful jokes that mock people of different political persuasions or religious beliefs. We will avoid dismissively talking as if non-believing people are not present. We will be welcoming and respectful of those who do not share our beliefs and remember what it is like not to believe. We will preach and persuade reflecting a deep acquaintance with the literature, music, media, and culture of our day to show that only in Jesus can true life, hope and meaning be found.

B. MISSIONAL WITH OUR _____.

Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

The new community demonstrates the transforming power of the gospel with deeds of compassion, kindness, mercy and grace. Care is shown to prisoners, poor, disabled, sick, unborn, orphaned, addicted and the unemployed. Whenever there is brokenness, we are called to pack the wound with kingdom compassion.

C. MISSIONAL WITH OUR _____.

Genesis 1:27-28 *“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”*

“It is not only prayer that gives God glory, but work. Smiting on an anvil, sawing a beam, whitewashing a wall, driving horses, sweeping, scouring, everything gives God glory if being in His grace you do it as your calling. To go to communion gives God great glory, but a man with a dung fork in his hand, a woman with a slop pail, give Him glory, too.” *Martin Luther*

The primary way we are called to bring the blessing of the kingdom to our community is through our vocation. So whether we are pilots or dancers, real estate agents or engineers, computer programmers or moms, our calling is to press the righteousness of God into our sphere of influence.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Read pages 19-25 in *Don't Swear In Church*.
2. Read Part 2 of the New City Catechism
3. Read the brochure, *Is Your Child Being Sheltered From the Real World?* Consider taking a tour of the school.
4. Come enjoy your Father in worship this weekend.

