

I. Process of Core Values

- A. Three Degrees of Doctrine - Before we launch into discourse concerning core values it is important to set some understanding in place concerning doctrine, practice, and Christian faith. Without these understandings in place, we can stumble in confusion, disunity, and elitism. There are three degrees of importance placed upon truth or doctrine for every individual and every church family.
1. Essential Doctrine - Those truths that are of primary importance and are necessary for fellowship and continuity of Christian faith. These truths are so important that if you don't hold them to be true in your belief and practice, you're actually not a Christian. Therefore, all individuals and church families must agree on these doctrines. (Examples - The deity of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Jesus. Salvation by faith alone through grace alone.)
 2. Core Convictions - These truths are held in high importance and are focused upon in messaging and methodology. We are confident that the bible is clear on these truths, and if we compromise on them, we compromise on who we are called to be. We are not open to changing our core convictions but respect and honor those who hold different core convictions. Our core convictions sometimes change as we grow and mature in our faith. (Examples - Embracing and pursuing spiritual gifts, church methodology and tradition, various escatological views, baptism views)
 - a. Core Values - Core values are generally synonymous with core convictions. Therefore, if you can't agree on core convictions it will be very difficult to maintain a sustained deep relationship and ministry vision with those who hold differing core convictions than you. This is what makes church families unique within the greater church of Christ.
 3. Personal Opinions - Doctrine we believe is biblical, but are not clear enough or highlighted enough to move into the realm of core conviction. We believe these are correct and informed by scripture but simply don't hold the weight of deep conviction. (Personal Examples - Position on Nephilim, defining modest dress, prayer before mealtimes, consumption of alcohol)

- B. We have been in a transition season as a church for the past couple of years culminating with the intentional changes we are making in our leadership structure and methodology, and an intentional focus upon the five-fold ministry. At the onset of this transitional season, the Lord stirred the hearts of our leadership team to reassess our core values.
1. The question He laid upon our hearts was, “If you were to ask someone who had been coming to Restoration for a month or two what would they say your core values are, what would be their answer?”
 2. This led us to ask the tricky question of have we drifted away from the core values God has given us to walk out, or has He shifted them through His leadership over the past ten years. We believe that it is the latter, and that it is time to recognize who we have become as a church family and where the Lord currently has us concerning our core values.

II. Core Values of Restoration Leadership

- A. As stated previously these core values are in conjunction with our core convictions as a leadership team. These values are what makes us unique as a church family. These values do not make us more Christian or better than other believers or church families; they simply are the core convictions that the Lord has distinctively called us to primarily uphold and walk out in this season.
1. **Prayer and Worship** - Intimacy with Jesus is paramount for us and prayer and worship are the primary vehicles of positioning ourselves to encounter Jesus and reasonably respond to the worth of His majesty. Prayer and worship is the place where the experiential knowledge of Jesus is beheld and the heart is progressively transformed into His likeness. (John 15:4; 1 Thess. 5:16-18)
 - a. We encourage ongoing prayer times, have extended worship times, encourage intercession during the service, and we make room for prayer and worship in our Life groups.
 2. **Intentional Community** - Almost all Christian discipleship and all facets of Jesus’s intentions for His church hold community as an essential aspect of growth and efficacy. One of the primary objectives of the Holy Spirit is to create unity and intimate relational community, whereas Satan’s

primary objective is to create disunity and isolation. (Acts 2:42-27; Rom. 12:3-13)

- a. We hold a very strong stance on the need to be involved in a Life group. We intentionally connect with other fellowships in the area often for ministry and corporate prayer and worship and work diligently to maintain the unity of the Spirit in our city and region.
3. **Hope of the Gospel** - From Genesis to Revelation, God has placed the unshakable promise of the restoration of all things through the promised Christ before humanity. The truth that one day soon Jesus will return and institute the Kingdom of God upon the earth forever and rid the world of sin, death, and Satan is the anchor of the soul. Without this hope firmly established in our hearts and minds, we cannot live out the scriptural Christian life in this age. (Titus 2:11-15)
- a. We intentionally pursue an eschatological focus in our teaching. We encourage establishing aspects of the coming Kingdom through ministry such as healing and deliverance, missions and outreach such as the food pantry. We strongly believe that we have a calling as an area of refuge in these last days.
4. **Biblical Foundation** - The Bible is the sole infallible and authoritative source for Christian faith and practice. This holy book provides everything we need for life and Godliness in this age and we are committed to uphold it and incorporate it into our lives and ministries. (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- a. We want every voice from the front to be speaking from a strong biblical understanding—sermons, prophetic words, prayers of intercession, worship leading. Also, our church structure and messaging should be based on the Bible, not on culture.

III. Mission of Restoration Fellowship

- A. A mission statement encapsulates the reason for an organization's existence. It is meant to describe or communicate the organization's purpose and overall intention. With that in mind, we have finalized the mission statement for Restoration Fellowship in 2021.

*Loving Jesus wholeheartedly, equipping His people, preparing the way for His kingdom.
(Luke 1:17, Luke 4:18-19, Matthew 22:37-39)*

IV. Vision of Restoration Fellowship

- A. A vision statement is meant to look forward and cast a goal of the ideal state that an organization wishes to create or achieve. It is there to inspire and exhort us all to move forward in maturity and love in our faith and relationships in the days to come. With that in mind, we have finalized the vision statement of Restoration Fellowship in 2021.

*From a place of loving God and loving others, we honor one another in the fear of the Lord.
(Mark 12:30-31, Ephesians 5:20-21)*