

DEFINING VALUES

I. The Glory of God as Our Highest Aim

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Psalm 96:3

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Our primary reason for existing as a church is to draw attention to God in all his greatness. This is our ultimate passion. We long to see God's supremacy recognized and demonstrated in our lives and in the lives of all people. To that end, **CrossWay Community Church will be intentionally and explicitly God-centered in all we do** — in our worship, in our teaching, in our ministry, and in our personal lives — and we will seek to do these things in such a way as to bring honor to God.

II. The Functional Centrality of the Gospel

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

I Corinthians 15:3-5

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

We dearly love the gospel, the good news that Christ died for our sins making it possible for us to be at peace with God and assured of eternity with him. This undeserved grace continually astounds us and impresses upon us the magnitude of God's love for us. **We believe that the people of CrossWay must have a clear understanding and a deep personal appreciation of the Gospel in order for them to live in the goodness of this amazing grace day to day.** We believe that our personal appreciation for the gospel will manifest itself in lives marked by pronounced joyfulness, evident humility, uncommon generosity and an abiding personal assurance of God's love.

III. Whole-Hearted Love for God

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Mark 12:30

As a result of our personal experience of God’s love through the Gospel, we eagerly seek to obey the first and greatest commandment — to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. This love is the natural and joyful response to experiencing God’s gracious forgiveness, for the one who is “forgiven much, loves much.” This love for God will be expressed in all we do but it will find a particularly heightened expression in worship, both personal and corporate.

IV. Grace-Motivated, Progressive Sanctification

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 1:6***

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. **II Peter 3:18***

God’s purpose is to both save and sanctify those he has called to himself. While Christians have been declared righteous (i.e., justified) before God on the basis of their faith in Christ’s death for their sins, it is God’s purpose to also make them more righteous (i.e., sanctified) as Christ is righteous. **Our thankfulness for God’s saving grace motivates us to eagerly and intentionally cooperate in the life-long process of being made more like Jesus Christ.** In this process of sanctification, God uses many means of grace, which are experienced especially within the body of Christ, the local church.

V. The Importance and Profitability of Sound Doctrine

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

I Timothy 4:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

II Timothy 3:16-17

At CrossWay, we treasure the Bible as God's inspired Word and gladly submit to its authority. We not only believe that the Bible is the completely true and trustworthy Word of God, we also believe God gave it to us for the express purpose of shaping our thinking and our behavior. In addition, we are convinced it is completely sufficient to guide us in all areas related to our personal faith and the life of the church. **At CrossWay we consider serious and intentional application of Scriptural teaching (i.e., doctrine) to be of the utmost importance.** Through corporate teaching, relationships in small groups, specialized classes and personal study, we will look to the Bible for God's wisdom on all matters and, finding it, trust that wisdom by putting it to use.

VI. The Active Presence & Ministry of the Holy Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22, 23 & 25

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

I Peter 4:10

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

I Corinthians 12:7, 11

At CrossWay we earnestly desire and actively pursue the dynamic ministry of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The Spirit counsels us, comforts us (John 14:6) and convicts us of sin. (John 16:8) He guides us into all truth, (Romans 8:14) illumines our minds to understand it and impresses it deeply on our hearts. (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:7-13).

He opens our eyes to the significance of the cross. He helps us to pray. (Romans 8:26) He gives us power to overcome temptation and he causes the fruit of righteousness to be born in our lives. He graciously and generously gives gifts to people for the good of the church. (1 Cor. 12:1-11)

He empowers us for service and witness. (Acts 1:8) He gives evidence of God's presence among us. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) At CrossWay, we long for the fullness of the Spirit's presence and ministry in the life of our church.

VII. Growing Relationships within the Local Church

From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:16

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ...Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:10, 13

We are deeply committed to the local church as the principal place where God is working out his purpose in the world and in peoples' lives. We believe that active participation in a local church is not just useful but essential for the spiritual growth of individual Christians. We have been joined together by the Spirit into one body and understand our participation in the church primarily as purposeful involvement in each others' lives. **At CrossWay we are committed to serving and caring for one another.** We realize that this is not always easy, but in obedience to God we are determined to work at developing honest and deepening relationships as we follow Christ together. The highest quality of Biblical fellowship can be enjoyed in the context of these committed relationships.

VIII. Commitment to Faithfully Pass the Gospel on to Others

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

I Peter 3:15-16

Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:5-6

Fathers...bring them [your children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

At CrossWay we see ourselves, along with all Christians, as commissioned by God to engage with our local community and with the larger world in such a way that the gospel is faithfully demonstrated and clearly proclaimed. We also see it as a specific charge from God to pass on to our children a clear and complete doctrine and a compelling witness to the transforming grace of God, and by so doing, firmly establish the next generation in its faith in Jesus Christ. **CrossWay is committed to the advance of the gospel in our homes, in our communities and in the world.**