

Defined by Our Values: Authentic

The Values that Define Us

We seek to be a community of loving, praying disciples of Jesus who are:

Grounded in Scripture

Relevant

Authentic

Compassionate

Intentional

Open

United

Spirit Led

Authenticity

- Being grounded in God's truth and being relevant must lead us to embrace authenticity
- If God's word is true, then we must believe what it says about us
 - The bad
 - Our sin nature (Ps. 51:5)
 - Our propensity to choose sin (Rom. 7:18-19)
 - And the good
 - We are forgiven (1 Cor. 6:11)
 - We are adopted children of God (Rom. 8:15)
 - Our standing is secure (John 10:27-29)
- This is the heart of the Gospel (1 Tim. 1:15)

Nothing to Hide

- If we know who we really are in Christ, we should have nothing to hide from one another or the world
 - Living behind masks is precisely what Jesus called the Pharisees out for (Matt. 23:25; see also Matt. 6:2, 5, 16; 15:7; 22:18; 23:13, 15, 23, 27, 29; 24:51; Mark 7:6; Luke 12:56; 13:15)
 - Hypocrites: An actor in a play who wore a mask to pretend to be someone else
- When we live in the truth of the Gospel, we have freedom to be who we really are
 - Sharing our brokenness openly, so that the power of God to change us and heal is shown to the world (2 Cor. 12:9-10)

○While not reveling in sin (Rom. 6:1-2)

Real Community

- God has given us means to accomplish this authenticity, so that we might live in real community together
- Confession for the purpose of healing* (Jas. 5:16)
- Confrontation for the purpose of reconciliation (Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1; see also Matt. 5:24; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20)
- This means speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15)
- This is God's answer to gossip and slander (Col 3:5-10)
- This means laying aside judgment for grace (Matt. 7:1-5)
- Sharing in both joy and sorrow (Rom. 12:15)

So What?

- Can we be real with each other?
 - No masks, no judgment
 - Just grace, mercy, and love from Christ

Meditation Verse: Galatians 6:2