

Sure Foundations: BVBC Core Values, Part 1, 1/7/18

Martin Luther - *I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God.*

MLK Jr.- *I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.*

Corrie Ten Boom- *You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have.*

Winston Churchill- *Never, Never, Never give up.*

Bugs Bunny- *Don't take life too seriously. You'll never get out alive.*

What makes these quotes memorable and impacting is not just that they are catchy, but that they embody the essence, the convictions of the ones who said them.

Martin Luther- his conviction to stand for truth

MLK Jr.- his conviction that man is created equal before God

Churchill- his conviction to fight to the end

Corrie Ten Boom- her conviction of utter dependence on Christ

Bugs Bunny- And if an animated rabbit can have convictions, it would be to have as much fun as possible, while tormenting mustached hunters.

The leadership term used to describe these convictions are Core Values. Your company or organization may have core values. Maybe you have a list of personal core values. Whether ever written down or not, every person and every organization has core values- underlying convictions. And organizations, whether churches or businesses or non-profits, spend lots of time and energy thinking through and stating their core values because they are essential- they provide a foundation for direction and making decisions. They provide the reasons behind why you do what you do.

Well as a church, we believe this is essential for us too. **Core Values are the underlying convictions of BVBC that create an unwavering guide for decisions, direction and the fulfillment of our mission. Our mission-To introduce people to Jesus Christ and help them follow him.**

As a ministry leadership team we have spent several months asking the question what do we value as BVBC, what are our deepest convictions about ministry and mission? What historically have we valued? What do we presently value? What is God calling us to? We'd have discussion among our whole staff and among the Deacon board as well and we are aligned around our Core Values.

And so what we want to do is take a few weeks in the beginning of the year to answer the question, “What do we value?” in a series we are calling Sure Foundations. Because these values provide the foundation of BVBC’s identity and why we exist. See these are not just for us as leaders, these values should shape us as a church. If you are newer to the church and You want to know who we are? This is a great series for you to discover that. We have 8 values and each week we are going to take two of our values and talk about them.

8 Core Values

Bible-Centered, Generously Orthodox

Meaningful Membership & Community

Unity in Diversity

The Pursuit of Excellence, Relevance & Innovation

Thriving Families

Authenticity and Restoration

Discipleship Driven

Gospel Partnerships for our City & World

Bible-Centered, Generously Orthodox- God’s Word is our guide, authority and conscience in everything. We stand firm where it stands firm and remain flexible where it remains flexible. We value a diversity of opinions and thought on secondary theological matters.

God’s Word is our guide, authority and conscience in everything.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

This has been an essential value of BVBC since its first meeting back in 1969 in the Friends School. God’s Word must continue to be the GPS of our church because it alone contains God’s timeless truth that leads to salvation, knowing God, knowing our true identity, how to live victoriously, our purpose and calling. Now this may be assumed by many of you here but unfortunately the Word of God has moved from the center of many churches and denominations who have allowed secular culture to shape their view of the Word instead of the Word shape the view of the culture. Scripture must be the lenses through which we read the world. This is why we practice expositional preaching and teaching. We want you know the Bible and allow it to shape your life.

We stand firm where it stands firm and remain flexible where it remains flexible. We value a diversity of opinions and thought on secondary theological matters.

The term we use is we need to be generously orthodox. Our doctrinal statement as a church is intentionally brief and includes the basic shared faith of Christians

throughout the centuries. While I may have convictions and our leadership may have convictions and opinions on many other theological matters, we do not require you to hold those convictions in order to be a member. We have leaders and teachers that hold to some different views on secondary matters. We believe this allows diversity to thrive. Now you may have been in churches that have split over some of these secondary theological matters and that might make you nervous. What holds all this together and what has been essential in the past and what must be essential in the future is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 8

Knowledge puffs up, love builds up.

The second core value:

Meaningful Membership & Community

God designed us to live in community not isolation and our desire is for everyone to be connected in a caring, biblical community. We are committed to biblical stewardship of our time, talents and treasures both individually and corporately. We will strive for "100% spiritual employment because the church matures as each member does its part.

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Our greatest cultural heroes are often rugged individuals who don't need anyone. So we think it's godly to be spiritual Rambos. Me and Jesus! This is not biblical. When you were called by Jesus you were called to a community, his body, his family and there is a spiritual responsibility for each other.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

A great enemy of your spiritual growth is Isolation (where no one knows what's really going on in your soul). Isolation/Façade eats away at our spiritual life. Instead when you are meaningfully connected in relationships for spiritual progress with one another, letting them in on the real you, it has a greenhouse effect on your life. We all need people who love us enough not to leave us the way we are.

The way the Bible talks about this is through the term “one another.” But really it’s just a list of ways to be a friend. Did you know that there are 59 “one another” commands in for the New Testament Church in the Bible? 59 ways to be a friend.

- Pray
- Be at peace
- Be devoted to one another
- Honor one another above yourselves
- Stop passing judgment on one another
- Accept one another
- Instruct
- Have equal concern
- Confess your sins
- Serve
- Carry each other’s burdens
- Bear with
- Forgive
- Submit to
- Encourage, admonish, exhort
- Love one another.

Now tell me, if you have the opinion that you don’t need to be meaningfully engaged in a local church of believers, that it’s ok to live in isolation spiritually and just love Jesus, how will you living out Biblical Christianity? It is impossible. And so let me just say- especially to the men- I want to call you to friendship. So many men go through life without friends and it’s tragic. Positive Ex: Roland and Simon Shute...

We are committed to biblical stewardship of our time, talents and treasures both individually and corporately.

Now I won’t say much on this since we spent 5 weeks talking about stewardship in the Fall but this is a commitment we take seriously.

We will strive for “100% spiritual employment” because the church matures as each member does its part.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

16 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.

The church is not a building, the church is not a denomination, the church is a people. We are the church. So we don't go to church, rather the church comes to this building when we gather! And each of us has a part to play. No one should be on the sideline. These statements- being connected in a caring community, giving of time, talents and treasures and serving one another under the leadership of BVBC makes up what we call "Meaningful Membership." And we are using the term meaningful intentionally to distinguish it from other types of membership. Illustration of membership at the Y vs. membership at BVBC.

So how can you get involved?

These are a few structured ways to facilitate this...but it's not about these programs. You can have all the programs as still be isolated, and not meaningfully engaged in community. You have to decide to open yourself and dive in.

Join a small group- web, connection café

Attend Adult Ed Class

Pursue Membership- Jan 21st

Find place to serve

The Lord's Supper is all about community and friendship. We don't take communion by ourselves, it's shared. This was purchased for us by Christ.