

Sure Foundations, BVBC Core Values 2/4/18

8 Core Values (Bookmark)

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

Discipleship Driven

We are fully committed to making disciples of all ages according to the great commission: introducing people to Jesus and helping them follow Him. Every ministry at BVBC must be committed to the discipleship pathway of Know, Grow, Go.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus' parting challenge to the church as he ascended into heaven make DISCIPLES, not of Pastor Nate...but disciples of Jesus. From the moment we trust Jesus as our savior we begin a lifelong journey of discipleship, becoming more like our savior. Discipleship is a deliberate, lifelong process of Christ formation.

KNOW, GROW, GO. Each of these terms encapsulates an aspect of discipleship according to the great commission.

KNOW Christ- *Make Disciples, Baptizing*

The beginning of lifelong discipleship is sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a church we must be a lighthouse, shining the light of Jesus clearly and compassionately. But this is not just the corporate call of the church, each of us are called to make disciples by sharing our faith and calling people into a relationship with Jesus. Baptism marked the beginning of a relationship with Christ and the entry point in lifelong discipleship. It was the public commissioning to say, "I'm in!"

GROW in Christ- *Teaching them to obey*

Lifelong discipleship means commitment to being trained to follow Christ. It's not just learning more about God and filling our head with Bible knowledge. It's learning that leads to obedience. Our goal is that our church would be a **greenhouse** in the

Brandywine Valley. Nurturing and caring environment that would help grow one another's roots deep your faith, learning who God is and what it means to follow him, recognizing what hinders us from following him and increasingly leaving those things behind and growing in our love for God and people. Discipleship is inherently a team sport and it requires meaningful relationships.

GO with Christ- *Go and make disciples of all nations, I am with you always*

Lifelong discipleship is also a call to disciple-making. Our goal is that our church would be a **powerhouse** in the Brandywine Valley. The church should constantly have a powerful sending impulse rippling like sound waves into the community and world. We are not a country club! More like a training center. This involves equipping and training disciple-makers to GO and share the love and message of Jesus in our community and out to the world. And the promise is that when we Go- Jesus' presence and power go with us. A great summary of what we are saying-

C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity

The church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.

We are not here to build a monument to ourselves. We don't measure success by the physical size of our building or the amount of the offerings or the number of people on our staff, how entertaining or big an event is...all that is fine and good. But, we ultimately measure success by the quantity and quality of disciples of Jesus.

Illustration- I don't know much about cars, but what I do know is that you can tell a lot about purpose of a vehicle by looking under the hood, what kind of engine is it? And so when you pop the hood of our church and take a look around, the engine for everything we do here must be discipleship. Pop the hood on our small groups and classes- Discipleship happening. Pop the hood on kids ministry, students, marriage, womens ministry- Discipleship happening. Not content to just have good content, if we aren't being challenged and trained for transformation.

"The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them."

— Kyle Idleman Not a Fan

And so are you a fan on the sidelines, or in the game?

Gospel Partnerships for our City & World

The gospel of Jesus is humanity's only hope both now and forever. God has placed us in our city to be a lighthouse for Christ that begins locally and extends globally. To be effective we must partner with other like-minded churches, agencies and ministries. We will seek to earn the right to proclaim the gospel through love, service and partnership.

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Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

Our whole approach to ministry at BVBC is built around this one fundamental truth. We believe that when a person exhibits a genuine salvation response to the message of Jesus Christ, Almighty God begins to transform their life – from the inside out. In the Bible, Jesus compared this process to that of yeast leavening dough, which happens irresistibly, overpoweringly and dramatically from the inside out. That's my story. I tried religion and self-help...This is why we don't offer people "religion." "Religion" is a bunch of rules and regulations aimed at helping people work their way into God's good graces. The Bible never offers people "religion" because religion doesn't transform people's lives. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ does that as he renovates our hearts to genuinely love God and people. We hold out Jesus as the hope of the world.

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Acts 1:8

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth.

Feb. is missions month where we will certainly talk about the ends of the earth, but we are also putting an emphasis on local missions. We believe that it is unacceptable for a church to exist in a community for years and made little or no impact on that community. We believe that it is a travesty for churches to spend many thousands of dollars a year to support overseas missionary work and, at the same time, to expend virtually no energy to love, serve and spiritually impact the people across the street or across town. Would our community miss us if we disappeared? While we have certainly made a local impact, I think we have a long way to go!

We know we must have an impact in our local community, we believe the most effective way to make an impact is through meaningful, two-way partnership. We might be able to go faster alone, but we can go further together. Partnership with other churches- [One4Wilmington](#), [March 4th Prayer Walk in Wilmington](#). But we also must partner with the local agencies and ministries that are on the ground, in the community. They understand the unique challenges, they have the relationships and have earned the trust of the community, committed to making an impact. In west-center city- Porter Center, YWCA, Throughout Wilmington- Sojourners Place, Urban Promise, A Door of Hope, The Ministry of Caring, Sunday Breakfast Mission. We also partner with the police.

Lt. Daniel Selekmán and the Diaper Drop

We will seek to earn the right to proclaim the gospel through love, service and partnership.

This is what Jesus modeled for us. Jesus didn't just shout down commands from heaven about how to live. He came as one of us, as a peer. He came as a servant, to share in our suffering, to love us thoroughly, earning to right to speak truth. Communion is a beautiful picture of this.