



Core Work
Derrick Shields and Jason Shawa
“Pursuing & Extending”
2/5/23

Key Verses: Mark 12:28-34 and Romans 12:1-16

Key Thought: Two of our core values— which support our communal identity, like abdominal muscles support our whole body— are 1) to pursue God with our whole selves, and then to turn around and 2) extend God’s grace to one another.

Points to Consider:

- (View an articulation of our vision at ccclive.org/mission-and-vision.)
- We are on a mission to “awaken the broken to a life of wholeness found in Jesus” because we believe so strongly in the values of pursuing God and extending grace.
- Quoting Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus implied that we are to pursue God with our WHOLE selves— namely, our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pursuit of God looks like...
 - i. Worshiping God exclusively (cf. Matthew 6:24), and contenting ourselves in Him above all else (cf. Matthew 10:37-39).
 - ii. Deciding to obey His commands (cf. John 14:21).
 - iii. Persevering when challenged (cf. James 1:12).
- “Grace” refers to God’s initiatives in blessing us— earned by Christ and NOT ourselves.
- How we can extend God’s grace and love to one another:
 - i. Romans 12:1: Let’s present our bodies as one living and holy sacrifice.
 - ii. Romans 12:2: Let’s embrace God’s grace to transform via mind-renewal.
 - iii. Romans 12:9: Let’s love one another with *genuineness*, not pretense.
 - iv. Romans 12:15-16: Let’s be highly *sensitive* and *considerate* toward one another, not aloof and unaware.

Discussion Questions:

- How is your soul (i.e., mind, body, spirit)? [Mission Measure #1]
- How is your pursuit of God right now? (*Rate 1-10, with an explanation.)
- What hinders your pursuit of God?
- Are you cultivating healthy relationships and community (e.g., authentic, generous, grace-filled)? [Mission Measure #2] (*Rate 1-10, with an explanation.)
- Are you receiving God’s grace in areas of your life where it is needed?
- Are you extending God’s grace to others? (*Rate 1-10, with an explanation.)
- How, specifically, do these two core values provide motivation for our mission?