

The Essentials Series – Part 8: "Partnership: Living Out Our Values Together."

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Good morning! Today we are wrapping up our series called "The Essentials." I hope this has been a valuable series for you.

Today I would like to talk about the final step of taking this journey through our values. The final step is application. This is true for church life and for our personal lives. We all have limited time, energy, and resources. Examining our values causes us to prioritize which things in our lives are most important.

Empowered to bring Jesus' love, healing, and hope to the world

DEVOTION TO JESUS

We are passionate about every person encountering Jesus and experiencing personal salvation and relationship in him. Our goal is for everyone to follow him, grow in him, love like him, serve like him, and lead like him.

COMMITMENT TO SCRIPTURE, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER

We prioritize the authority of God's Word in our lives and cultivating habits of worship and prayer, both personally and in communal gatherings. These are essential to our connecting to God's presence and Lordship.

EMPOWERMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We want to abide in the Holy Spirit and participate in his ongoing ministry, gifts, and power to grow as Jesus' disciples and complete the mission he entrusted to us.

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

We express loving relationships as a church family by connecting, caring, serving, growing, and leading in healthy groups and teams.

HEALING AND FREEDOM

We are devoted to developing a culture of compassion and healing. Freedom comes through God's gracious love and redemptive truths, and through loving and committed relationships. These are essential ingredients to the restoration of our lives, families, and communities.

SHARING JESUS AND SERVING OTHERS

We are committed to sharing Jesus' love, healing, and hope through personal relationships and intentional outreach locally and globally. We build God's kingdom through practical and spiritual gifts to meet needs and serve others.

1. Growing Spiritually

- I commit myself to growing my personal relationship with Jesus through regular habits of worship, prayer, and reading his word.

Bringing order to your private world. As we have done this series, we have tried to encourage you to map out your own list of personal values. Hopefully growing in your faith and walking with God is at the top of that list. I hope you have a consistent time that you reserve for God in your day.

The men that are the closest to me in this church are the men that I know are constantly pressing into their personal relationship with Jesus. They want to know God, to be holy and pure before him. They want to honor him in every area of their lives.

2. Growing in Community

- Regularly attending Sunday services

Hebrews 10:25

do not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,

- Cultivating honest relationships in teams and in groups striving towards love and forgiveness towards each other
- Striving towards truth and accountability with a heart of compassion

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

- Speaking in ways that build others up

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

3. Contributing to Petra's Mission

- By praying for its growth and health

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people

- **By sharing the gospel with those whom God has placed in your life**
- **By welcoming and caring for those who come to Petra**
- **By discovering and using my gifts and talents**
- **By tithing 10% of my income and giving offerings when prompted by the Holy Spirit.**

4. Supporting the Church Leadership and Authority

- **By supporting the vision, values, and purpose of my church and its leadership**
- **By following the Biblically based direction and counsel of the leaders**

You give permissions for our leadership and counselors to speak into your life.

- **Making every effort to protect the unity of the church**

Philippians 2:1-4

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Closing song - Rend Collective - Build Your Kingdom Here