

The Essentials – Part 1 - Devotion to Jesus

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Good morning, welcome to The Essentials. This is who we are.

Building an engine or an organization takes purpose. All the parts need to be strategically positioned and working together towards a common goal.

So, what are the non-negotiable passions and convictions that make the Petra community who we are? What essential ingredients strengthen our resolve towards our common mission? By clarifying our essential values, we can focus on forming habits that shape our diverse lives, families, church community, and the world around us towards our common vision.

We are going to take the next 8 weeks and describe the core values of our church.

The interesting thing about this conversation is the way it overlaps with the values of your personal life.

These are the church's core values written out.

What are yours? There will be some overlap. Most people haven't ever gone through the process of writing out their values.

We have so many comforts, and distractions. It seems like we almost need to be thrown into some kind of crazy situation to realize what we actually value.

(So, let's take a little test and play a multiple-choice game)

"Alone" gear list 10 items.

When is the last time you held up a glass of water at the dinner table and thanked God earnestly for it then expounded to those with you how precious and essential this water is?

This past week right after Brian Flewelling's message I got on a plane to fulfill something from my bucket list. I was very generously invited to go to Colorado and accomplish a dream of mine. I've always wanted to pet an elk.

We found this one laying on the ground I got to pet him and take some pictures with him.

In order to do this, we spent 5 days in the wilderness, 8 to 10 miles from the nearest anything.

Begin with the end in mind. For my life to have meaning and purpose, I must know what the goal is. It will never happen on accident. In fact, not only will it not happen on accident, but it probably won't happen unless there is a laser beam focus on what is essential.

This is the target; this is the pathway to the target.

That is why it is so important as a church that we know what our values are, and for you individually.

1 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

You can watch yourself by yourself.

Calendar and your budget for accountability.

There are four spheres of influence that our values must have alignment in.

Personal

Family

Community

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.

1.) Jesus is our way of salvation.

Acts 4:12

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

2.) Jesus is our way back into right relationship with the Father.

John 14:23

23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

3.) Jesus is our model for how we are to live our lives, and what we are to value.

Christ Our Model

from Golden Counsels by D. L. Moody



When a house is to be built, before the masons and the carpenters commence work, the architect is called in to make a drawing of the building. As the workmen conform to his plans, they realize the ideal that was in his mind.

The trouble with most people is that their lives are not formed according to any plan. They are not striving to resemble any model. They have no definite aim and purpose.

This is the cause of sorrow and suffering and disappointment. We owe it to ourselves to set an ideal before ourselves, and then press toward the attainment of it with all our being. The ideal should be the highest possible, and we cannot aim higher than Christ.

He is a perfect model in every way. The Bible tells us how perfectly he conformed to his Father's will, leaving us an example in service, in love, in prayer, in self-sacrifice, in dependence upon God. And all this because He was divine.

And yet if he had been only divine, and not human, too, He could never have served as our model. It is because He took upon himself our form and likeness, passing through human experiences, realizing human needs, and undergoing human temptations and trials, that He is possible as our model.

Follow
Grow
Love
Serve
Lead

Follow

Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Not a parent, or other person.

Grow

Luke 2:52 Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, favor with God and with man

Love

John 15:12-14

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command.

Self-sacrificing love

Serve

John 13:12-17

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Philippines 2

Lead

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."

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven

Closing song

Salvation

Song