

:: summary

People have many choices when it comes to becoming part of a church family. For people new to our fellowship, we are creating an opportunity to help them quickly determine if GraceWay is the place to call their spiritual home. We are calling it Open Door. The goal of the Open Door experience is to offer a friendly, meaningful way for newcomers to learn about and deeply engage with our GraceWay family as part of their faith journey and relationship with Jesus.

:: discussion

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

What declarations about every follower of Jesus Christ (including you) are made in this text?

How does these truths promote spiritual alignment in the church and why is alignment important for us?

Read John 17:20-23

Because unity within the body of Christ is a very big deal to Jesus and therefore to us, Pastor Mike and the Elders want the entire GraceWay family to experience Open Door and to intentionally make the same commitment as new people who will be joining us.

Why is unity within a church fellowship important?

How is unity promoted?

What harms it?

The church family you choose to belong to will impact you in many ways including your character and daily living; your family; your relationships; your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being; and your purpose in life.

In light of this reality and the questions above, why is it important to be prayerful, thoughtful, and intentional about the church choice you make?

Read Our Mission: *Filled with the love of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to declare God's grace in Jesus Christ to all people and equip everyone to live the Jesus way of life.*

Read Our Vision: *To be a Jesus-centered community of transformed people devoted to sharing the Good News of Jesus, loving and blessing people, and influencing our world in every place where God has uniquely planted us.*

What is one thing that stands out to you in either of the two statements above? Why is it important?

GraceWay identifies 12 values that shape everything we do as a church. The first four are:

Jesus-Centered - Jesus is the center of our vision, ministry and life together.

Biblical Authority - The Bible is our ultimate authority for faith and life. We align who we are and what we do with God's true and living Word.

All In - Jesus gave his all for us – we owe our all to him.

Open Arms - We welcome all people with love and grace because God has welcomed us.

Before joining a church, you want to know what it values. Why are these four values so important?

Are these values you treasure as well? Why or why not?

For the next three weeks, prayerfully consider this question:

You have lots of choices in churches. Why choose this one?

