

DISCIPLESHIP

Growing and Living in Truth

We will be passionate pursuers of God who are motivated by His love, guided by His Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 9:23: "Then He said to them all: 'If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.'"

Mark 1:17: "'Come follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'"

References: John 8:31,32; II Peter 1:3-9; II Peter 3:18; Matthew 28:18-20.

RELATIONSHIP

Caring for Each Other

We will address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people and encourage relationships that demonstrate God's love, acceptance and forgiveness.

John 13:34,35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

Romans 12:9,10: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

References: Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35; II Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:12-17; Philippians 2:1-11.

OUTREACH

Declaring God's Love

We will actively proclaim the love, forgiveness and restoration of Christ to all people, whether across the street or across the world.

Acts 1:8 (NCV): "But when the Holy spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be My witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria and in every part of the world."

References: Acts 2:38,39; I Thessalonians 2:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 4:12.

SERVICE

Empowering People for Service

Believing that all Christians have been gifted by the Holy Spirit for service, we will encourage them to use their gifts for the glory of God and to build up the church.

Ephesians 4:11-13: "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

References: Romans 12:4-6; I Corinthians 12:12.



ventura **missionary** church

Statement of Purpose

To Live & Share the Transforming Love of Jesus

Statement of Faith

We believe in...THE BIBLE, inspired, infallible and the authoritative Word of God; THE TRIUNE GOD, one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; JESUS CHRIST, begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, true God and true Man; THE HOLY SPIRIT, God dwelling in the believer and guiding him in Truth, endowing him with gifts as He determines and enabling him to glorify God; MAN, created by God in His image, but born with a sinful nature through the fall of Adam, under His righteous judgment; SALVATION, God's giving of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to become man's Savior; HEAVEN, a place prepared for all persons who are in Christ; and THE CHURCH, commissioned to evangelize the world by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and by living as His servants among men.

Core Values

Listed Inside

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PREAMBLE

There are qualities and characteristics that both transcend and undergird our individual core values. The qualities that must define and guide all that we do are:

- Being **Christ-Centered**. In everything we do, we shall seek to model and honor Jesus Christ.
- Being **Biblically-Based**. The Bible is the final authority for our actions, behaviors and decisions.
- Being **Spirit-Led**. Both as individuals and as a collective body, we shall seek to discern and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit in our personal and corporate lives.

The characteristics that will mark us are:

- **Prayer**. Prayer is our “first resort,” not an afterthought or strategy to be used when all else fails.
- **Integrity**. Whether it be honesty in our actions, authenticity in our relationships, purity in our thoughts, faithfulness in our commitments and responsibilities or truth in our words, we will honor and practice integrity in everything that we do.
- **Quality**. Ours is a God of perfection. Although we can never achieve His standard of perfection, He deserves our very best. We will strive to be relevant and meaningful, worshipping Him through ministries of the highest quality possible.
- **Passion**. All that we do for God is done because He loves us and we desire to acknowledge and return that love. Because of this, our ministries will be filled with both individual and corporate passion.
- **Love**. Just as God loves us, we will reflect His love to those we serve.

WORSHIP

The Passionate Encounter with God

We will come together in a celebrative worship atmosphere that glorifies God and Christ Jesus and in which God’s transforming Spirit can touch and change us, creating a heart of worship in our daily lives.

Psalm 100: “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

II Corinthians 3:17,18: “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

References: Psalm 96:2;103;104:33-35;145; John 4:23-24; Revelation 1:10;4:1-11.

INNOVATION

Looking Forward

We will intentionally seek God’s direction for innovative and creative ideas to implement relevant ministry. As the Holy Spirit leads, we are willing to let go of old ways and embrace new ones.

Galatians 5:25: “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Psalm 25:4,5: “Show me Your ways O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.”

References: Psalm 32:8.

FAMILY

Building Strong Families

We are committed to encouraging, building and fostering biblical families through education and spiritual growth starting with children. We welcome and recognize the uniqueness and diversity of each family. Our goal is to make each person a vital participant in God’s family.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

References: Ephesians 5:24; 6:4.