

Values

Things About God We Especially Value

1. His Sovereignty

God's Sovereignty "lies at the foundation of Christian theology...the center of gravity in the solar system of Christian truth...the cord upon which all other doctrines are strung like so many pearls, holding them in place giving them unity." Although our choices and actions really matter, understanding that our Sovereign Father is actively ruling and reigning now lays the axe to a man-centered 'gospel', producing believers and churches that are humble yet confident, worshipful yet hard working, purposeful but not driven, peaceful but not apathetic and who sleep well at night! The reason why we worry is that we think we should be in control even though we are not. Worry melts away when we realize that only God knows the future and our view of the future is just a guess. We must remember that He is in control and that He is working out 'all things together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose'".

Our response: "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by PRAYER and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

2. His Grace

Grace declares that God's love for us is unconditional, unchanging, and complete. As believers, we are accepted just as we are because Jesus gives His own righteousness to us. There's nothing we can do to cause God to love us more and there's nothing we can do to cause God to love us less. We value grace as the only true gospel. When the Galatians slipped away from it, Paul described them as "bewitched". Grace not only saves us, but "grace teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives". God meant for us to be a motivated, inspired people who serve Him and others out of delight and joy, not out of fear or bondage!

Our response: Receive God's grace and give God's grace

3. His Word and Spirit

Choosing between a spirit-only church and a word-only church is a horrible choice because both are vital. Jesus told His disciples that both are key for continuing on after He leaves them. The early church was established through the Word and the Spirit. Paul encouraged fullness of both Word and Spirit. Therefore, it's our desire to set aside at least 30 minutes in our Sunday services for preaching from the Bible, and to allow the Holy Spirit to break in to guide us, convict us and speak to us during our time of worship. We eagerly desire spiritual gifts and have regular opportunities to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you strive for the Word only, you dry up; if you strive for the Spirit only, you blow up. If you strive for both the Word and Spirit, you grow up.

Our Response: Develop a healthy habit of reading God's Word daily and learning (with the help of others) to apply it in your life. Also, if you are not yet filled with the Spirit (or you just want more), please ask an elder to pray for you.

Things About The Church We Especially Value

4. Community

Fellowship, camaraderie, togetherness and communion have always been at the center of the very being of God through the shared life of Father, Son and Spirit. Although meaningful relationships are rare in our fast-paced world, genuine friendships can and should be the norm. In our desire to develop honest and close relationships we are committed to serve and care for each other in a way that will demonstrate the love of Jesus to others.

Our Response: Join a Community Group

5. Mission

Jesus chose the twelve "so that they may be with Him" and so that "he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons". In other words, he called them A) to be in relationship with Him (and one another) and B) to be on mission. Jesus has called you for the same purposes: relationship and mission. Just before He ascended into heaven, He made the purpose of the church very clear. "Go...and make disciples of all nations..." He has made us to be witnesses and ambassadors.

Our Response: Be in regular prayerful contact with 2 or 3 un-churched friends. Don't isolate yourself, but be eager to show hospitality.

Actions We Especially Value



6. Prayer

The New Testament church was devoted to prayer. God not only desires His people to pray, but He also hears and answers prayer. Prayer clearly demonstrates our belief that things are accomplished “not by might or power, but by the Spirit of God”. Therefore, the ministries and activities of Jubilee Church are characterized by a reliance on prayer in their conception, planning, and execution.

Our Response: Make our Weeks of Prayer a top priority (happens three times a year). Attempt to join your location’s regular prayer meeting.

7. Worship

Worship is our primary and highest calling. Worship is a response that will grow or shrink in direct proportion to our view of God. God’s character and loving commitment to us fuels a passionate response of worship. As the Creator, God has invested His glory and image in us. Consequently, in all that we do, whether private or public, at home, work or school, we worship as we seek to accurately reflect the character of God in our lives. Because worship is not only heard and seen by God but others around us, it has the ability to reveal and declare God’s character and salvation. This is our joy and privilege, to worship God and reveal His glory and saving love.

Our Response: “...to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)

8. Serving

Jesus Himself “came not to be served, but rather to serve”. We don’t serve to simply get a job done, but to imitate Christ. When the apostle Paul first became a Christian, the first words out of his mouth were, “Lord, what will you have me to do?” and not “Lord, how will you bless me?” We want to be a church full of contributors and not consumers understanding that “we are joined and knit together by what every joint supplies...as each part does its share”.

Our Response: Join a serving team

9. Hospitality

The New Testament community was intensely communal and cohesive, yet radically inclusive and outward looking. Hospitality is a gift, but it is also something that should characterize the church of Jesus Christ. Hospitality is words, actions, and attitudes of love and acceptance towards others. The result is that people feel loved, accepted and at home. We believe it is a biblical imperative that we make people who are not yet a part of us feel at home with us.

Our Response: Show hospitality whenever you can, but here are a couple of specific ideas: Show up early and stay late to Sunday services to greet people who are new. Consider inviting them out to lunch with you or for coffee during the week.

10. Generosity

There are several reasons why we want to be a generous people: 1) God is generous and is a giver not a taker. “He who did not spare his own Son but **gave** him up for us all, how will he not also with him **graciously give** us all things?” “For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his only Son...”. To want to be like God is to want to be generous. 2) It’s a privilege. When we see God for who He really is, we’ll begin to echo the words of King David, “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand”. God is not trying to get something from us (He owns everything already), but He’s trying to give something to us...namely the opportunity to get caught up in His spirit of generosity. 3) It protects our heart. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”. In other words, there is a direct correlation between what we do with our money and the true nature of our heart. Holding on to our money leads to a heart that is selfish and inwardly focused. Letting go of our money and being generous places value on God and others. 4) It frees us from slavery and idolatry. Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”. Jesus said that when we are not generous, we end up serving money instead of God. The answer is to “not be anxious about your life”, but to trust God for the things we need in life. God promises that if we “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...all these things (food, shelter, transportation, etc) will be added to (us)”. 5) It funds the mission and helps people. There is a correlation between the generosity of Christians and the advance of the gospel. We sow money and reap souls!

Our Response: Members are encouraged to make giving a priority, a percentage and to do so sacrificially and cheerfully. Note: Jubilee gives 10%+ of her income to help plant and strengthen other churches

Styles Of Leadership We Especially Value

11. Team Leadership

Christ has given leaders with various gifts to serve His church as a team. Not all the leadership needed by the church is found in one man; therefore, Jubilee Church has implemented a team of leaders in order to complete what is lacking. Team Leadership also allows the church to give away its leadership to serve other churches and church plants since the church’s leadership is not dependent on one person.



12. Servant Leadership

God wants his people to have good shepherding (leadership). In Ezekiel 34, God is angry with the shepherds in Israel because they did not care for his people and allowed them to wander. He accuses them along with the “fat sheep” of self-centered living. In Matthew 9:35-38, Jesus has compassion on people because he sees them like “sheep without a shepherd”. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and is looking for under-shepherds who would represent His leadership style. Jesus was willing to lay down His life for the sheep. Leaders in a church should do likewise.

