# **Eight Core Values**

#### 1. The Gospel

The person and work of Jesus Christ must be central to all we do, for it is the power of God unto salvation, not only securing our justification, but also our sanctification, glorification, and every spiritual blessing we come to know. The gospel is received by faith alone and manifested by a distinct change in holiness of life (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:3-4; Ephesians 1:3).

#### 2. Biblical Authority

The Bible is not only infallible and without error, but is also sufficient to direct us in all matters of faith and practice. We must believe all that it commands us to believe and do all that it commands us to do, being careful to neither take away nor add to what is written (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:20; Isaiah 8:20).

## 3. Biblical Theology

The Bible is not a mere collection of pithy sayings or random insights, but presents a stunning and robust revelation of the sovereign, Triune God and His ways. It is vital for the growth, comfort, and safety of the body of Christ that these truths be believed and confessed by the membership of the church (1 Tim 3:15-16; 1 Tim 6:3; 2 Tim 1:13; Eph 4:14-15).

## 4. Redemptive-Expositional Preaching

The preaching of the word of God lies at the heart of all true Christian worship. Redemptive-Expositional Preaching is one in which the point of the message is the point of the passage, with a broader understanding that every text in Scripture is either preparing us for the person and work of Christ, explaining his person and work, or telling us how to live in light of what he has done (John 5:39; 2 Timothy 4:1-2-5; Luke 24:25-27, 44-45).

#### 5. The Church

The church is the focal point of God's glory on this earth and is to be led and fed by biblically qualified elders, served by biblically qualified deacons, and composed of believing members who live together in relationships defined by mutual love, service, and accountability (Matt 16:18; Eph 2:19-22; Eph 3:8-12; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Eph 4:11-16, 25, 32; Matt 18:15-18; James 5:19-20).

#### 6. Mission

It is the great responsibility and privilege of the church to reach all people with the free offer of the gospel, both internationally and locally, through public proclamation and personal relationships, with an eye toward the providence of God (Matt 28:18-20; Col 4:5-6).

## 7. Growth

It is our desire to see Christians grow in biblical maturity by making use of individual spiritual disciplines, establishing healthy family patterns, participating in small group relationships, and attending the corporate meetings of the church (Psalm 1; Deut 6:4-9; Eph 5:22-6:4; Heb 10:24-25).

### 8. Prayer

At the heart of everything we do must be a humble dependence upon God for all of our needs through prayer. All prayer must be offered according to God's will and in great confidence that he desires to bless and provide for his people if only they will seek him (Matt 6:5-13; John 14:13-14; 1 Thess 5:17; Eph 3:20).