



VALUES & BEHAVIORS



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS
CHURCH SOUTHWEST



Healthy Church Values and Behaviors

1. Centrality of Christ, the Living Word and Authority of Written Word (*John 5:39-40, 2 Timothy 3:16*)

- We **order our lives** and ministries around the belief that the Bible is our **final authority** in all matters of faith and practice.
- Our **preaching and teaching** in all settings reflects, relevantly and creatively, the centrality of Christ to all of life.
- We equip people to grow in their ability to **study and apply** biblical truth in ways that lead to biblically **integrated** lives.
- We **live out the reality of Jesus' presence** right here, right now, teaching us to live out and usher in the Kingdom of God right here, right now.

Observation and Discussion Questions

List practical and biblical ways this is vital for a healthy church.

How would your church look and behave differently if this value were completely true in your setting?

What are you currently doing that demonstrates this value within your church and/or people?

Where are you weaker than you should be in this area?

What have you tried to help strengthen this value in your church that did not work?

What are some things you can measure to help you determine if you are growing healthier in this area?

2. Life Transforming Walk with Jesus by the Holy Spirit (*John 3:3,30; Philippians 2:1-11, Philippians 1:6*)

- We **teach** our people how to be **attentive** to Christ in all circumstances. (listening disposition, insight)
- We **live out** the radical nature of the message and mission of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.
- We equip people to grow in the use of the **spiritual disciplines** of prayer and fasting, silence and solitude, study and meditation, and service, sacrifice and stewardship.
- We order our lives and ministries around the belief that **transformation occurs only within community** – a place of encouragement, confession and accountability.

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3. Intentional Disciple-Making (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

- We **care** about people who do not yet know Christ and therefore **serve and love** them as a priority.
- We have identifiable **pathways** for evangelism, assimilation, discipleship, and leadership development to take place in our ministries and offer public **opportunities for new levels of commitment**.
- We equip people to grow in their ability to **share their faith** confidently as God-birther opportunities arise.
- Disciple-making is evangelism and discipleship. Disciple-making is a process of proclamation and demonstration of the gospel that leads to people to understand and embrace the kingdom of God, and to grow leadership and multiplication.

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4. Transforming Communities Through Active Compassion, Mercy and Justice Ministries (*Micah 6:8*)

- We are burdened for hurting people in our community and beyond.
- We have identifiable pathways for compassion, mercy and justice ministries to take place.
- We equip people to grow in their ability to see and address the hurts and the causes of those hurts in our communities

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5. Globally and Regionally Minded and Engaged (*Acts 1:8*)

- We believe local churches must have vision for reproduction beyond merely their own growth.
- We raise the sights of (or **cast vision** to) our members beyond our congregation and community by developing a Biblical worldview and often pray for and reference global matters and new church development.
- We have **identifiable pathways** to support the cause of Christ globally through missions and locally/regionally through church planting.
- We equip people to grow in their ability **to participate** in missions and church planting personally, spiritually and financially.

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6. Embraces Community and Connectedness on All Levels (*Acts 2:42-47*)

- We are **better together** than we are by ourselves and therefore are **connected intentionally** on individual, leadership and church levels in community.
- We understand that our love for one another is a powerful testimony to the deity of Jesus.
- We love each other as we are, not as we should be. (environment for confession, acceptance, and accountability)
- We share life together beyond the worship service.
- We **equip people** to lead and multiply **small groups** for community, growth, and service.

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7. Heartfelt Worship (Psalm 138:1a; John 4:23)

- Everything we do **flows out of worship** (e.g. business meetings, decision making, and service etc.)
- Our corporate worship is more about participation and engagement with God rather than merely quality performance.
- Our corporate worship reflects **careful preparation and relevancy in eliciting responses to God** such as adoration, praise, humility, silence, service and commitment. (we value simple excellence)
- People leave worship having **encountered God's heart** and are changed, challenged and motivated to extend worship and the message **beyond the walls** of the church building.

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8. Simple, Sacrificial, and Generous Living and Giving (*Romans 12:1-8*)

- We believe in simplicity.
- We help people discover, **develop and deploy** their spiritual **gifts**.
- We regularly, graciously, and unapologetically teach on the importance of financial **stewardship** in spiritual maturity
- We have many examples of **lifestyle choices** being made on the basis of stewardship and the priority God plays in the lives of our members.

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9. Fosters Godly, Growing, and Learning Culture for Leaders (*Hebrews 13:7*)

- **All of our leaders serve with character, competence, and conviction.**

- **Interaction between leaders and congregation is one of unity, humility, trust and interdependence. This is the disposition between leaders in sister churches, as well. That is, people trust leaders and leaders trust those they serve.**
- **We identify and train godly leaders for all dimensions of our ministry.**
- **Pastoral leaders focus on equipping people and healthy churches. Congregations release those who serve them to lead out of their giftedness.**
- **We live out a learning culture that enables people to grow in their giftedness and ministry roles.**

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10. Functional and Fruitful Systems and Structures (*Exodus 18:13-26, Acts 6:1-7*)

- We articulate a compelling, Christ-honoring **vision** for our church.
- We **embrace evaluation** as normal and natural, and work through conflict constructively.
- Our relational structures include **corporate discernment**, releasing **strong leadership**, and **active participation** by all. Our structures and systems are intended to mobilize people and ministry, not merely control and manage them.
- We live according to the principle that church health and effectiveness rises and falls on the quality of interpersonal relationships, understanding that these relationships rise and fall on the quality of **communication**.
- We conduct human resource, volunteer, legal and financial **systems** with **excellence and integrity**.
- Our organizational structures recognize that we are a relational people. We employ appropriate group discernment, conflict resolution, and organization around spiritual giftedness that will catapult us toward biblical unity.

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Final Thoughts

- Which values do you feel are strongest?
- Which values do you see as needing the most help?
- After thinking through this list, would you classify your church as: 1) in crisis; 2) in need; 3) plateaued; 4) healthy but need some support; or 5) healthy and reproducing?
- What are two action steps you think would help you get healthier?