

LifeSource

Church

Vision

&

Values

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All scriptures quoted are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.

Vision and Values

Preamble

From humble beginnings in 1976 LifeSource Church has grown, through the grace and enabling of the Holy Spirit, to become a prominent Pentecostal church in Griffith. This has enabled us to share the Word of God, baptise believers and teach people to live a rewarding life. We have invested our spiritual, intellectual and financial resources as many have accepted their calling to expand the work of God's kingdom. We continue to have an impact on diverse ethnic groups and on generations of children, youth, and adults young and old. We continue to invest our resources at home and abroad, partnering with fellow workers who are Christ's witnesses locally and overseas.

Our ongoing commitment is to ensure the continued work of the gospel, which promotes love and respect for God and others, an understanding of who we are in Christ, the knowledge of truth as it is presented in the Bible, and the practice of right living. We acknowledge those that have gone before us, leaving us a rich heritage and a strong foundation; now it is our duty to endure in these things, so that the truth and relevance of God's word can impact our current generation and be passed on to the next generation.

Introduction

From a sporting perspective, vision can be likened to a set of goal posts; it gives us a point of focus and a target to aim for. Values are like the game rules; they determine what we will and what we won't do, in order to achieve our goal. God has called us His children¹, the royal priesthood², a chosen nation, and as such we are expected to be on the field of life participating rather than sitting in the grandstand.

It is God who places people in the body, His church, so we believe that those who connect into LifeSource Church do so by God's design. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that if God has placed us here, then it is with the opportunity to contribute to the vision and values He has established in this local church.

Ephesians 4:16 NLT Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

¹ John 1:12

² 1 Peter 2:9

Romans 12:4-5 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Corinthians 12:12-18 Message You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ...I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together... As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where He wanted it.

This document is the culmination of the past, the present and the future. The nature of it compels us to continue in the abundant life Jesus Christ has given us, with purpose, persistence and determination. Our past is forgiven and our future is assured which leaves us only with the present to contend with. I ask you to make a choice to join us in the greatest cause the world has ever known; the cause of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Rodney Bortolin
(Senior Minister of LifeSource Church)

Vision and Values

Vision

Habakkuk 2:2-3 NASB Then the LORD answered me and said, “Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.

LifeSource Church has been called of God to make a difference by revealing the love, grace and compassion of Jesus Christ, and meeting the spiritual and practical needs of our neighbours, on a local and global scale. He has called us to unite together as one body, with Christ as the Head, to become a life giving, influential presence in our community. He has called us to live a life of service and sacrifice so that the cause of Jesus Christ will be fulfilled.

We purposefully and strategically educate, encourage, inspire, and motivate people to develop and live out a personal faith devoted to Jesus Christ. We continually seek excellence in providing relevant pathways and services that teach knowledge and understanding for life. We facilitate a meaningful and abundant life through wisdom and revelation from God's word. We encourage active participation in church life and the practice of sacrificial living. We teach the importance of generosity, which honours God, and partners in the work of the church. We aim to be a vibrant community, a melting pot of ethnic and social diversity, which provides help to those with needs and offers assistance in better ways of living. We see our facilities as a beehive of activity which will become a resource centre of the community.

The foundation of all we do is our faith in the saving grace of Christ, the finished work of the cross and the victory of His resurrection. Our desire is to be of relevance to our community and our commitment is to the ongoing work of the cause.³

The vision of LifeSource Church is to be as one; inspiring faith, imparting hope, and expressing love.

³ See Christ, Community, Cause document for an expanded explanation of this point.

Values

The values of LifeSource Church have grown from a commitment to our relationship with God and our relationship with one another. The values espoused within are already part of our culture (although some still need attention). When we, as a church, looked at them and wrote them down, it became clear that all that we cherished fell into one of four areas which have now been recognised as four undeniable and unshakable values.

- Mission
- Community
- Grace
- Service

The Biblical Picture

Words of Jesus

LifeSource Church has adopted these four values because they also reflect what we know of Jesus through the gospels. We are His body and we can only do what we know Jesus would do. Here are the four values in the words of Jesus:

Mission - *To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. John 18:37 KJV*

Community - *Love others as well as you love yourself.* Matthew 22:39 Message

Grace - *Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you... Then neither do I condemn you, go now and leave your life of sin.* John 8:10-11

Service - *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.* Matthew 20:26-28

The values expressed and the words of Jesus above are action orientated. These values cross the boundaries of knowledge, culture and abilities. They filter our thoughts and point to what is to be done in any given situation. They allow for the creative uniqueness of the individual to shine within the context of a team effort. They enable each person to make an informed decision as to their commitment to the function of LifeSource Church.

Vision and Values

Visual Icons

In Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:7, both Ezekiel and John are given a vision of a unique creature. John's vision is of four different creatures but the description is the same as in Ezekiel.

Revelation 4:7 NIV *The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.*

The four values, matched together with the picture of the four creatures, gives us a visual image (icon) of the culture to which LifeSource Church is committed, and will fight to maintain and build. The value/visual icons in no particular order are:

Mission - *the first living creature was like a lion*

Community - *the third had a face like a man*

Grace - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*

Service - *the second was like an ox*

The pictorial representation gives us the ability to recall each value and be able to quickly analyse our thoughts and determine our actions. The colour of each icon has significance also; purple represents royalty, green represents new growth, blue represents the sky and brown represents the earth.

Great Commission

The four values and the four creatures can also be linked to the four fold commission of Jesus Christ that LifeSource Church has always upheld.

Matthew 28:19-20 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

We do not have to wonder about the will of God. His plan for the church is clearly stated in these last words of Jesus before His ascension. He is looking for those who will partner with Him to advance the Kingdom of God.

Mission - *therefore go*

Community - *baptising them*

Grace - *make disciples*

Service - *teaching them*

It is a co-mission between God and His church and it comes with a promise; *surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Mission

We believe in the need to reveal the truth of God through our words and actions.

The lion is often called the 'king of the jungle'. This picture of regal power and courage indicates our position as new people, born of the Spirit and called to share this good news with others. Courage is needed to go, as Jesus puts it, "*as sheep amongst the wolves*", yet we understand that we are a royal priesthood which work together; as lions work together with their pride. The mission also requires us to be clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we can *go* and be effective witnesses for the kingdom of God.⁴



Commitment

Our commitment to this value is shown by:

- presenting the full gospel through the truth of God's word, and the power of the Holy Spirit
- being a credible witness of Jesus Christ through our actions, and giving God the glory through our testimonies
- maintaining integrity in the marketplace⁵
- establishing ministries that connect us to the broader local and global community, in order to meet needs and provide avenues to share the good news of Christ

⁴ Matthew 10:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8

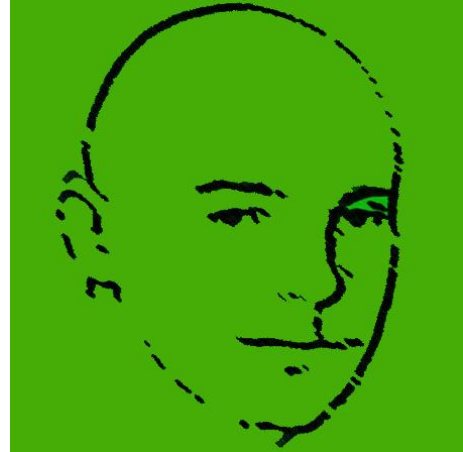
⁵ The marketplace is a term which describes our presence in the wider community; be it workplace, social gatherings or family settings. See Acts 17:17

Vision and Values

Community

We believe every individual has the right to belong.

God has shown us the value of human relationships; the bible clearly indicates the importance of belonging. The man shows us a picture of the importance of a relationship with one another. The gospels reveal the nature of Christ as He embraced people from all walks of life. Jesus' command to baptise believers represents an initiation into the family of God. *Baptism* unites us with Christ's death, burial and resurrection, and is a public witness of our inclusion in the body of Christ.⁶



Commitment

Our commitment to this value is shown by:

- making it a priority to meet together regularly at services and other activities to encourage and care for each other
- displaying love through the acceptance of all people irrespective of background, culture or social standing; acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual
- extending grace to one another through forgiveness, not holding on to offence or resentment, and resisting all forms of gossip
- championing any person who is willing to have a go and accepting legitimate failure as a tool for learning
- embracing people from outside the church body as neighbours and just as we once were; in need of the saving grace of God
- working interdependently with our CRC Churches International family and other like-minded churches and ministries

⁶ Genesis 2:18; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 5:8

Grace

We believe in a transformed life through the grace of God.

A realisation of God's grace in our life will lead to a desire to worship and become more intimate with our Saviour. The flying eagle is a beautiful picture of the majesty and freedom, which flows from that relationship of intimacy and worship. The seemingly effortless way that an eagle soars on the thermals gives us a picture of how God intends our life to be. God's empowering presence enables us to live a victorious life. We do not deny there will be times of hardship and trouble. However in



those times we rest in the knowledge of who we are in Christ, giving us the ability to soar above our circumstances and see them in their true perspective. This does not come naturally but requires *discipline* and the power of the Holy Spirit.⁷

Commitment

Our commitment to this value is shown by:

- developing an intimate relationship with God through discipleship
- adhering to sound and relevant teaching from the Word of God
- taking responsibility for our own personal journey and disciplining ourselves in all areas of life
- walking in the power and authority we've been given as new creations through an exchanged life with Jesus Christ
- a desire to express prayer and worship as part of our everyday life

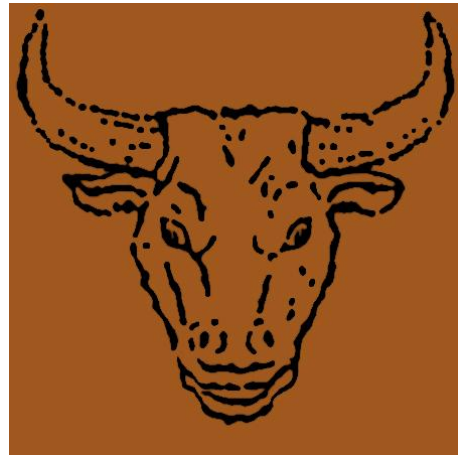
⁷ Isaiah 40:28-31; John 16:33; Romans 8:18-39

Vision and Values

Service

We believe each one of us has a purpose in life.

The ox; strong, reliable and ready to work reminds us that as a people called of God it is in our nature to serve. Jesus showed us by example that we are to humbly serve humanity and think nothing of it. Jesus greatest example of service was to come as one of us and lay His life down in order that we could be reunited with our Father in heaven. The purpose of the ministry gifts is to equip others, through *teaching* and leading by example, to perform works of service which builds the church. Serving others is at times a sacrificial yet rewarding experience and an opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of God in our life.⁸



Commitment

Our commitment to this value is shown by:

- being generous with our time, treasure and talent
- being reliable, acting responsibly and holding ourselves accountable to one another
- developing a passion to serve to the best of our ability
- offering ourselves where we see a need arise
- providing resources to train, equip and release people in areas of service

⁸ John 13:3-15; Luke 17:7-10; Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 20:35

Conclusion

United in God's plan and purpose, we are the fullness of Christ in all His glory. Together as many, yet walking as one, we are a witness to the grace and goodness of God. We have been called to make a difference to this community we live in. The successful outworking of the vision relies on the unique creative abilities of each person, obedience to God and commitment to each other.

The vision and values espoused in this document allows a person to align and engage in a greater cause; it empowers the individual to express their gifts in the fullest possible way, *within* the context of a fully functioning, life giving body. The harvest is ready, the kingdom is advancing and time is drawing to a close. The question is will you be a part of the greatest cause in history? Will you respectfully take your place alongside others here at LifeSource Church as we venture forward as one in faith, hope and love?

*Your Kingdom come; your will be done (Lord),
on earth as it is in heaven...*



LifeSource Church

making a difference

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