

6. We value the **PRIESTHOOD** of every believer (1 Pet 2:9)
- Every believer is to serve the Lord. (Jn 12:25-26; Rom 12:11)
  - Every believer has been given spiritual gifts in order to serve him. (Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12-14)
  - Every believer is responsible for being a faithful steward of those gifts. (1 Pet 4:10)
  - Every believer is to be equipped for the work of the ministry. (Eph 4:11-16)
7. We value the **COMMUNITY** of God (Acts 2:44-47)
- God's community is his church. (Acts 2:44-47; Eph 2:19-22)
  - Jesus is the head of his church. (Eph 1:22-23)
  - We are to be in fellowship with each other. (1 Jn 1:7)
  - We are divinely placed in this community. (1 Cor 12:11,18)
  - Every believer has a sense of belonging. (Rom 12:3-8)
  - We are to esteem and obey those who are called to lead us. (1 Thes 5:12-13; Heb 13:7,17,24)
8. We value the **MISSION** of God (Mat 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-20; Eph 4:11-12)
- We recognize that God is the source of mission. (Isa 46:10-11)
  - We acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the message of mission. (1 Cor 15:1-8; Eph 1:9; 3:11)
  - We receive the Holy Spirit who is the power of mission. (Acts 1:8)
  - We believe the church is the embodiment of mission. (Eph 1:3-14; 3:10-11)
  - We accept that the world is the target of mission. (Jn 3:16)



Destiny is a matter of choice—not chance. It is something to be achieved—not something to be waited for.

**Westside Community Church**

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## A Word on Governing Values

**G**overning or core values lie at the very center of who we are. They are “us.” They express, shape, and identify our character and attitudes. They are the “why we do what we do.” Core values are those governing values that determine what we believe to be of the greatest importance and of highest priority in our lives. Values permeate everything we do. They transcend all programs and events.

It is important that we identify our core (governing) values for the following reasons:

- We discover that we do have core values.
- We see how much they affect our behavior.
- We begin to understand what is truly important.
- We identify the moral compass that guides our life.
- We discover an inner peace that comes from the alignment of our actions to our core values.

For the Christian, it is not up to us to establish our values. Our loving Father has already done that for us. It is our responsibility to discover them through careful study of His Word. We do this by looking at the core or governing values of Christ and his apostles. Jesus is the foundation of the church and the apostles were given the responsibility to lay that foundation. I refer to these as the *Apostolic Core Values*. We discover these by examining what mattered most to them. What did they speak about most often? What did they sacrifice and spend themselves for? What was their compass?

After careful study and examination of their core values, the elders have discovered and laid out eight core or governing values for Westside Community Church.

## WCC's Eight Governing Values

1. We value **INTIMACY** with the Lord (Mk 12:30)
  - We hold Jesus as the center of our life and activity. He is not just a priority. (Col 1:15-20)
  - We fulfill all the law or commands by simply loving him.
  - Our salvation is based on an ongoing intimate relationship with Him. (Jn 17:3; Mat 7:21-23)
2. We value the **WORD** of God (Isa 40:8)
  - We believe Jesus is the Word. (Jn 1:1)
  - We believe all Scriptures are inspired by God. (2 Tim 3:16)
  - We believe we must study the Word. (2 Tim 2:15)
  - We believe we must obey and apply the Word. (Jas 1:22)
3. We value **PRAYER** (Acts 2:42)
  - We are to pray continually. (1 Thes 5:17)
  - We are to pray with our spirit in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 20; Rom 8:26-28; 1 Cor 14:14-15)
  - We are to pray for leaders & the lost. (1 Tim 2:1-8)
  - Prayer is to replace anxiety with peace. (Philip 4:6-7)
4. We value **WORSHIPPING** God (Psa 68:9; Ex 8:20)
  - Worship must be in Spirit and in Truth. (Jn 4:23-24)
  - Worship is to be a lifestyle. (Rom 12:1)
  - Worship must be relevant and contemporary. (Lk 5:36-39)
    - Contemporary = *happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the same period of time.*
5. We value the **GRACE** of God (Eph 2:7)
  - We believe in saving grace. (Eph 2:8)
  - We believe in overcoming or empowering grace. (2 Cor 12:9; Titus 2:11-12)
  - We believe in the grace of giving. (2 Cor 8:7-9; 9:9,14)
  - We believe in building (edifying) grace. (Acts 20:32)
  - We believe in identifying (being) grace. (1 Cor 15:10)