



Prairie Lane Press

January 2010

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Core Values

At the start of this new year and new decade, I have planned a 5-week sermon series on our church’s core values. This seemed like a good time to go back to the fundamentals and to reflect on the things most important to our purpose and mission here at Prairie Lane. **Core values help a church to stay on track and they help guide decisions and discussions** about where we should be putting our energy and resources. They also challenge us to improve so that we keep growing in the areas that we identified as being the most important.

Our core values were put together a couple years back after we surveyed the congregation and asked the church what are the things that give Prairie Lane Church its identity. Then, as a result of some discussions in council and as I prepared for this sermon series, we recently approved a couple more core values because we felt that they were things also central to our identity at Prairie Lane.

I don’t know how often we think about this, but between ministry shares and second offerings, **our church gives close to \$40,000 away every year to other ministries—that is about 20% of our annual budget!** And, of course, that does not even include gifts that individuals make to different ministries on their own. That is something that makes Prairie Lane unique. Paying our ministry shares in full every year is something that this church has always valued and has always done.

As a church, we realize God’s work is much bigger than our congregation. So, we’ve added “**Kingdom Mentality**” to our core values, which reflects our church’s generous spirit, our unity with other believers, and desire to see other churches and ministries do well.

We’ve also added “**Healthy Spirituality**” as a way to summarize the other 6 values. Spiritual health will result in unity, prayer, generosity, a desire to reach out and care for one another, and even in good, Biblical theology that is not just understood but lived out. As a church, we can say that most of all, we are striving to be a spiritually healthy people.

That brings our final list up to 7. Our church values are listed below, along with our church motto and mission statement.

Motto – *Together in Christ’s Presence*

Mission statement – *To Know Christ, To Grow in Faith, To Make Christ Known, To Demonstrate His Love*

PLC Core Values

Biblical Authority

Our beliefs and our actions as a church must be directed by God’s Word in the Bible. In all our ministries, we will strive to grow in our knowledge and commitment to the Bible. Our preaching must be grounded in Scripture, so that it is God’s Word and not a person’s opinion.

(II Timothy 3:14-17).

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