



“Because it’s not all about us; it’s all about Him!”

Our Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Statement of Faith

The Mission

As beings created in God's image, we believe that our main purpose in life is to exalt God our Creator. Simply put, life is not all about us, it is all about Him! At Devotion Church this understanding is the motivation behind all we do.

The Vision

Devotion Church exists to continually learn, teach and live in accordance with:

- **Who** the God of the Bible really is
- **What** He has provided and requires of us in relationship with Him and others
- **Where** He intends to lead us on earth and take us as our final destination
- **When** He has determined what He will do— past, present and future
- **How** our need for purpose and identity is fulfilled in Him and in carrying out His mission on earth

Core Values

These values are based on two texts of scripture which encompass the heart of Jesus' ministry on earth; ministry which He also commissioned His believers with as well.

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'"
(Mark 12:29-31 NIV)

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
(Philippians 2:3-4 NIV)

■ Core Value #1

1. Devotion to God

Jesus states that it all starts here. Without proper love for God, a person will not build their life on His provided, solid foundation, and spiritual vertigo may be the result. A relationship with God should be marked by deep affection, loyalty and greatest love for Him in response to His unconditional love for us! This will dictate everything else in our lives. This devotion is at the very heart of the gospel and is the reference point for all of life and practice! It determines the direction of our moral compass and all decisions and actions which follow.

■ Core Value #2

2. Devotion to Others

Everyone— everywhere—period; all people with whom the Lord our God would bring us into connection!

“...from every race, tribe and tongue” (Rev. 7:9 -GNT)

28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:28-29 NIV)

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11- NIV)

■ Core Value #3

3. Devotion to Jesus’ key missional priorities on earth. (This we call the Kingdom Agenda):

#1-Scripture:

In His temptation in the wilderness by the Devil, Jesus made an incredible statement. He said:

*... “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
(Matthew 4:4-NIV)*

Jesus is declaring that our sustenance—food and drink required as a source of strength and nourishment* for life and living— comes not only from the physical food and drink we ingest but straight from God’s word. As such, scripture is the absolute and inerrant source of authority on all matters of Christian faith and practice.

(Matt. 4:4, 2 Tim. 3:16, John 17:17...)

Note: Further details are found in the Scripture section of the Statement of Faith

#2-Prayer:

An essential act of faith is prayer. Among its principle purposes are communion with, adoration for, and fellowship with God. It also is the expression of our total dependency upon Him. The writer of Hebrews states:

*6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
(Hebrews 11:6- NIV)*

In fact prayer, in Jesus’ view, was so critical to private relationship with God as well as in the corporate assembly of God’s people, He described prayer as *the primary purpose* God chose for His temple:

“It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer...”

(Matt. 21:13 NKJV)

Scripture is very clear that Jesus often went out alone to pray in solitude and personal communion with the Father. We believe that the practice of prayer, privately and corporately, is critical to our individual spiritual lives, our church, and to the advancement of God’s Kingdom.

(Mark 11:17, Matt. 6:9-13, Eph. 6:18...)

#3-Salvation:

As fallen humanity, separated from God by our first parents who sinned, we need someone to rescue us—someone to save us, from our sins, ourselves and God’s eternal judgement. God has provided just such a person in the sending of His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus provided a way of rescue, a way of salvation for us. He, our Savior, gave Himself on a cross that we through Him might be saved. The choice is ours to receive salvation by faith which includes true repentance and confession of our sins. However, we may choose to reject Christ’s provision. Our eternal destiny depends upon our choice. There is no other way!

“12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 -NIV)

The Christian life is comprised not only of initial salvation but also of a continual walk in Christ through the enabling of God in us. The apostle Paul describes this dynamic to believers by declaring:

*12...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
(Philippians 2:12b-13—NIV)*

Note: Further details are found in the Salvation section of the Statement of Faith

#4-Discipleship:

Discipleship of believers has at its core the idea of growth—growth into becoming more and more like Jesus. The apostle Paul expressed it like this:

*29 For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers.
(Romans 8:29—TLB)*

This “becoming” involves various clear spiritual steps. These include proper instruction, guidance, and direction for growing in understanding of our identification in Christ. Consistency is the desired result of these steps. In order to provide this clarity and consistency** we focus on Christ-centered teaching from the Bible; on prayer partnerships; on encouraging Christ-centered life guidance and direction through the support of Godly relationships with coaches and mentors. Clarity and consistency appear to be the chief aims Jesus worked towards in teaching and leading His disciples. He also challenged them and us to do the same.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19—NIV)

#5-Kingdom View

Understanding God's prescribed order for His people as well as His plan and purpose for us and the world around us, requires a kingdom mindset. His kingdom is the spiritual and supernatural realm over which He reigns. As God's children, through the application and realization of Jesus Christ's work on the cross in us, we have become a part of this vast kingdom. This understanding helps us realize the incredible possibilities which exist all around us! We are part of something far larger than ourselves and our earthly interests. This is why Jesus said,

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33—NKJV)

God's Kingdom, His reign, His purpose, His divine order must have our utmost attention. Having a kingdom view is simply understanding that we are servants in a vast kingdom ruled over by our Heavenly King which transcends all of the works of humanity—religious, relational, social, political, economic and otherwise— and which requires our complete and total surrender and commitment.

#6-Eternal View

Closely linked with the Kingdom View is the Eternal View. Living with an eternal view means living life while continually keeping eternity in mind. As children of God we are headed to an eternal reward in Heaven and this is a source of immense comfort and joy. However, that comfort and joy may be coupled with deep concern and apprehension for others when we realize that those who are not God's children, who are not born again of His Spirit through the blood of Jesus Christ, have a completely different eternal destiny. This destiny is eternity in Hell—eternal punishment forever! These perspectives inspire

diligence and zeal in us for maintaining a proper relationship with our Heavenly Father. They also inspire a determined focus in seeking to bring those who do not have a relationship with Him to a place of opportunity where they can have one.

Statement of Faith: **What We Believe**

Although the Bible is the final authority for beliefs held at Devotion Church, the platform from which we view the Bible theologically is founded in “*Classical Christian Theology*”. By this we mean,

*“[That which is] most commonly stated in the central Christian tradition concerning God...seeking to set forth key constructive arguments of two millennia of ecumenical Christian thinking—**that God is, who God is, and what that means** for us today. [We] seek an internally consistent statement of classical Christian thinking about God so as to provide a reliable foundation for the practice of sacred ministry and for the living of Christian life.”****

The following emphases of our statement of faith is not exhaustive in that it is not intended to address every scriptural, theological and doctrinal point. However, we believe that what is addressed is foundational to faith and practice based upon classical Christian teaching and tradition.

God (in Three Persons):

We believe in the trinitarian view of God, in that we believe through the revelation of scripture, God has one nature comprised of three separate, distinct, and co-equal persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ:

We believe in the biblical truth succinctly expressed in John's Gospel chapter 3 and verse 16:

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NIV).

This Son is Jesus Christ Himself—"the one and only" Son of God. He gave Himself as the perfect sinless sacrifice for our sin that we may live in this life and in the life to come with Him and enjoy Him forever! The reason we can do this is that He first died in our place, paying the penalty for our sin, and providing the way for restored relationship with God. And three days following His death He was resurrected (raised from the dead) and now lives forever as Lord of all! This eternal life He offers us as well. It is received by faith (which includes true repentance and confession of our sins) in who He is and what He has done and is doing for us!

God the Holy Spirit:

Scripture is clear on the nature, office and work of the Holy Spirit. As God, He is coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came on God's people as a Spirit of revelation in order to reveal more about the mysteries of God or to empower them for the work of God.

In the New Testament Church the Holy Spirit indwells believers in order to empower us with a holy mind, spiritual disposition, and to indwell us fully so that He can be the power behind our life and witness.

Salvation:

We believe in the biblical view of salvation. Humanity through Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell from God into sin with no way back to God but through a savior. Jesus Christ was and is that

Savior who came to bring us back to the relationship and position we lost with God. Jesus paid the price of God's judgement on us for our disobedience by bearing our sins, our shame, and our punishment on the cross upon which He laid down His life. This we call our salvation!

Scripture:

We believe that the Bible (all 66 books) is the divinely inspired and inerrant written word of God. It is the record of God's history with humanity. It records our origin and identity, our purpose, and the history of God's people. It is the written instruction and guide for all who follow Christ, and it contains the absolute truth on any and all subjects and challenges pertaining to human existence and life. It stands alone as the written standard for all of life and practice! This it does without error. It has one interpretation but many applications!

Humanity:

Created in God's image humanity has a twofold purpose: 1) To bring glory to God in this life on earth and 2) to enjoy God in eternity in His heaven forever.**** Scripture is very clear that humanity is the ultimate gem, the greatest treasure of God in His entire creation. God's plan from the beginning of humanity's creation was to have an intimate eternal relationship with us. The essential disruption to God's plan for humanity was the Fall, that disobedient rebellious act of our first parents which resulted in the presence of sin in every human heart. However, God designed a restoration plan for our broken relationship completely provided for in His Son Jesus Christ. This plan we call the Plan of Salvation.

Marriage:

We believe in the biblical definition of the *sacrament* of marriage. It is a *holy* matrimony between one man and one woman.

...For from the very first He [God] made man and woman to be joined together permanently in marriage; therefore a man is to

leave his father and mother, 8 and he and his wife are united so that they are no longer two, but one. 9 And no man may separate what God has joined together.” (Mark 10:7b-9 NLT)

This union of one man and one woman in scripture has in its foundation the Genesis account of the Creation of only two genders:

In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. (Gen. 5:1b-2 NASB)

Sin:

Sin entered the world by the willful act of disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden by our first parents Adam and Eve. As a result every person born thereafter possesses a fallen nature (inclination to evil) passed down to us. Because of this condition, every person has the inclination to commit sin and does so. Sin has two types. It is manifested both by an inclination toward and commission of evil thoughts, attitudes, and acts against God’s will. Not only do these actions not reach the standard of living God requires, but in fact are in direct opposition to His standard.

Satan:

Also known as the Devil, Lucifer, the Prince of Darkness, the Prince of the Power of the Air, the Dragon and various other descriptions in scripture, is the arch enemy of God, God’s kingdom, and God’s people. He is the prince of demons (fallen angels) and was judged by Jesus Christ at the cross! The verdict was declared fully through the sacrifice of Jesus, and now Satan is “a defeated foe”! He awaits the carrying out of his final sentence of eternal torment by God. While still on probation his sole purpose is to deceive and to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10) as many souls as possible in an attempt to hurt God whom he cannot overthrow. Two key tools he uses in these attempts are the flesh

(another word for the fallen nature indwelling all humanity) and the world (the systems of culture and society which oppose our Lord and over which Satan holds powerful influence).

*1 And you He [God]made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the **course of this world**, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves **in the lusts of our flesh**, **fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*
(Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV)

Ordinances:

The two ordinances of faith we practice as a body of believers are water baptism by immersion and holy communion. Both were participated in and commanded by our Lord in His ministry here on earth. All who are born again may participate in these ordinances at Devotion Church.

**definition Online Dictionary*

***from Dr. Tom Wood article "A Plan for Discipleship" (<https://cmmnet.org/blog/2020/01/15/a-plan-for-discipleship?>)*

**** "The Living God, Systematic Theology: Volume One" 1987 -Preface p. x
 Dr. Thomas C. Oden*

*****Westminster Shorter Catechism*
