

Grace Community Church Vision 2017

I. The central mission of the church is to develop disciples. Our mission is... *helping people find, know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ and multiply.*

II. What does a true disciple look like? — Christian Life Profile

Ten Essential Beliefs (What a disciple needs to know)

- 1. Thinks Christian (A Christian Worldview):** Believes that the Bible is the moral standard; believes that absolute moral truths exist and are conveyed through the Bible; believes that the Bible is totally accurate in all that it teaches; And strives to live their life by its teachings.
- 2. Our Triune and Personal God (Theology Proper, Transcendence, Immanence, and Providence):** The belief that the God of the Bible is the only true God, existing in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, distinguishable but indivisible. (see 2 Cor 13:14); and He is involved in and cares about our daily lives. (Ps 121)
- 3. Jesus Christ (Christology):** The Son of God, the Savior of men, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, crucified for the sins of the world, dead, buried, raised to life and coming again in power and glory. (Lu 1:26-35; Jn 1:1-18; Is 7:14, 9:6; I Cor 15:1-4; Rm 4:25; Jn 14:2-3; I Thes 4:13-18)
- 4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology):** Belief that God, the Holy Spirit, is the third person of the Trinity, and is the one who applies what Jesus accomplished on our behalf on the Cross and the empty tomb. He fills and empowers Christians to live godly lives and helps us minister in His name with the gifts He supplies. (Acts 2:1-4, 8:14-17, 10:44-46; Gal 3:14-15; I Cor 12-14)

5. The Creation and the Fall: Belief that God created everything in the beginning. Mankind was created without sin, but by an act of free will, did sin and bring about the Fall of Mankind and the entrance of sin and the curse into the world. (Gen 1-3).

6. Our Salvation (Soteriology): the belief that a person comes into a right relationship with God and is saved by his grace through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. (Mk 1:15; Eph 2:8-9)

7. Our Identity in Christ (aspect of Sanctification): the belief that a person is significant because of his or her position in Christ. (Jn 1:12-13)

8. The Authority of the Bible (Bibliology): the belief that the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command our beliefs and actions. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

9. The Church (Ecclesiology): the belief that the church is God's primary way to accomplish his purposes on earth today. (Eph 4:15-16)

10. Eternity (Eschatology): the belief that there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge the earth and to establish his eternal kingdom. (Jn 14:1-4) Even believers will be judged by Christ and will receive the appropriate commendations, rewards, and future assignments. (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:10-14)

Ten Central Christian Practices or Disciplines (What a disciple needs to do)

1. **Worship:** worshipping God for who He is and what He has done for us. (Ps 95:1-7)

2. **Prayer:** praying to God to know him, to lay our requests before him, and to find direction for our daily life. (Ps 66:16-20)

3. **Bible Study:** reading the Bible to know God, to hold to the truth, and to find direction for our daily life. (Heb 4:12)

4. **Biblical Community:** fellowshiping with other Christians to fulfill God's purposes in our life, in other's lives, and in the world. (Acts 2:42-47)
5. **Single-Mindedness:** focusing on God and his priorities for our life. (Matt 6:33)
6. **Spiritual Gifts:** using the gifts God has given to us to fulfill God's purposes. (I Cor 12:1-31)
7. **Stewardship:** Giving away our life, our time, and our money to fulfill God's purposes. (Rom 12:1-2; Col 3:17; 2 Cor 8:7)
8. **Evangelism:** giving away our faith to fulfill God's purposes. (Eph 6:19-20)
9. **Spirit Filled Life:** living by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 5:18)
10. **Spiritual Warfare:** living victoriously over the powers of darkness. (Eph 6:10-18)

Ten Christian Virtues (What a disciple needs to be)

1. **Love:** unconditionally loving others. (Jn 4:10-12)
2. **Joy:** having inner contentment and purpose in spite of our circumstances. (Jn 15:11)
3. **Peace:** being free from anxiety because things are right between God and me, and between me and others. (Phil 4:6-7)
4. **Patience and Gentleness:** being patient with others (Prov 14:29), and being thoughtful, considerate, and calm as we deal with others. (Phil 4:5)
5. **Kindness and Goodness:** choosing to consistently do the right things in our relationships with others. (I Thess 5:15)

6. **Faith(fulness):** being faithful to fulfill God's will for our life. (Prov 3:3-4)

7. **Self-Control:** having the power to control ourselves. (I Thess 5:6)

8. **Humility:** choosing to esteem others above ourselves. (Phil 2:3-4)

9. **Hope:** coping with the hardships of life and death because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.
(Heb 6:17-20) .

10. **Compassionate:** choosing to show compassion to those in need. (Ps 82:3-4)

III. The Discipleship Process

Four distinct, integrated levels of involvement for the people of Grace Community Church that will help them to find, know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ and multiply.

1. The Worship Service—for Inspiration **2. The Midsize Group**— for Instruction

3. The Home Group— for Involvement **4. The Individual** — for Introspection

Worship Service: The purpose of the worship service is to worship God and to inspire people to find, know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ and multiply.

In our worship, the Christian Life Profile will be seen as providing scope and sequence, serving as the basis for our curriculum. We will systematically teach all essential beliefs, practices, and virtues into every 52 week calendar. Teaching from The Spiritual Formation Calendar will force us to bring balance to our teaching ministry.

Our goal is that when people walk out of the worship service each Sunday, they will be inspired to suit up for another exciting week of intentional faith pursuit centered in Jesus Christ.

The Midsize Group: The purpose of the Midsize Group is to instruct people to find, know and

follow the Lord Jesus Christ and multiply.

The second level of intentional discipleship is the midsize group. The purpose of the Midsize Group is to instruct people in the Christian Life Profile. The purpose is instruction in the core beliefs, practices, and virtues of the Christian life. These meetings will take place in the form of classes, seminars, breakfasts, and retreats.

Home Group: The purpose of the Home Group is to involve people in the **Functions of Biblical Community**.

The goal is for the members of the Home Group to function in interdependent relationships, assisting each other in growth towards Christ-likeness, as defined by the Christian Life Profile. Each member enters the group committed to his or her growth in Christ, as well as to helping the other group members grow in Christ.

The second goal is for the Home Group members to practice their growing faith by reaching out to others outside the group.

As a fully functioning biblical community, the group together plans and carries out evangelism, extends compassion locally, and supports the work of international missions throughout the world.

Individual: The purpose for each individual is to be introspective about his or her personal growth in knowing and following the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask each individual to evaluate his or her life in relationship to the facets of the Christian Life Profile. We would like to see every member of a Home Group personally interact with the Christian Life Profile by selecting one belief, one practice, and one virtue they will focus on for the given year. Once a desired area of growth is selected, we supply a list of resources (by category) that are intended to help the member move toward personal transformation.

Functions of a Grace Small Group

S Spiritual Formation

As members of a Grace small group, we value the pursuit of understanding the core principles and values that Jesus taught. We will grow in our understandings and practices of these values and principles by intentionally learning about them in our the small group curriculum.

Throughout the year we will put what we have learned into action by the way we individually and corporately live our lives in our circles of influence.

E Evangelism

Each small group member will commit to pray for some people within their sphere of influence who need to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a small group we will pray together for the personal requests of these people. We will hold one another accountable to prayerfully reach out to these individuals and families. We desire that each member see at least one person come to Christ each year.

R Reproduction

Each small group is open to welcoming new members and will have at least one “leader in training” who is preparing to launch a new group as the Lord adds to their number. We will seek to reproduce another group at least once a year.

V Volunteerism

As members of a Grace small group we will commit ourselves to support our local church through involvement in ministries and service opportunities. Each small group leader will provide a list of volunteer opportunities to the members of the group. Also, every member will be encouraged to take the “Shape” survey to help determine the ministry area that they are most interested in and best “shaped” for.

I International Missions

As an expression of our desire to fulfill the Great Commission and help to reach the un-reached

people groups with the gospel, our small groups will adopt at least one GCC overseas family or church mission project for hands-on involvement. This would entail increased awareness of their situation, greater level of prayer, and regular communication with the overseas family. It could also include tangible support, on-field visits, and member care when the family returns to the States. The small group would become an advocate team along with the other small groups that adopt the same family. Together things like field visits and people group prayer focus could be envisioned to increase our support of those families and teams that are sent out from Grace.

C Care

Each small group will be committed to care for one another. This will be manifested in practical help for those in difficult and crisis situations—hospital or home visits, meal preparations, prayer, referral to church and community resources, and the like.

E Extending Compassion

In response to the social needs of our community, each small group will commit to participating as families in at least two compassion projects throughout the year. There will also be opportunities of a spontaneous nature as well (natural disaster, house burning down, etc) where we will need to mobilize more than one small group on short notice.

Spiritual Formation Resources

Ten Essential Beliefs

(What a disciple needs to know)

1. Our Triune and Personal God:

Knowing God by J.I. Packard

The Cross of Christ by John Stott

Baptism and Fullness of the Spirit, by John Stott

2. Our Humanity —*The Sacred Romance* by Brent Curtis and John Eldredge

3. Our Salvation — *The Gospel According to Jesus* by John MacArthur

4. Our Identity in Christ —*Freedom in Christ* (CD series), by Jamie Lash

5. **The Authority of the Bible**—*The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, by Rene Pache
6. **The Church** — *The Gospel of the Kingdom* by George Ladd, *Furnace of Renewal* by George Malone
7. **Stewardship** —*Financial Peace University*, by Dave Ramsey
8. **Compassion** — *Power Healing* by John Wimber
9. **Eternity (Eschatology)**—*The Pre-wrath Rapture of the Church* by Marvin Rosenthal
10. **The Judgment Seat of Christ** — *This Was Your Life* by Jamie Lash

Ten Central Christian Practices or Disciplines
(What a disciple needs to do)

1. **Worship**— *Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer (Personal Worship)
The Hallelujah Factor by Jack Taylor (Corporate)
2. **Prayer**—*Power through Prayer* by E. M. Bounds
3. **Bible Study**—*Bible Study Methods* by Rick Warren
4. **Biblical Community**—*Everybody is Normal Till You Get To Know Them* by John Ortberg
5. **Single-Mindedness**—*Ordering Your Private World* by Gordon McDonald
6. **Spiritual Gifts**—*Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* by Peter Wagner
7. **Stewardship**—*Margin* by Richard Swenson
8. **Evangelism**—*Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman, *Conspiracy of Kindness* by Steve Sjogren
9. **Spirit Filled Life**—*How to be filled with the Spirit* by Bill Bright, *The Release of the Spirit* by Watchman Nee
10. **Spiritual Warfare**—*The Bondage Breaker* by Neil Anderson

Ten Christian Virtues
(What a disciple needs to be)

1. Love 2. Joy 3. Peace 4. Patience 5. Kindness/Goodness 6. Faith(fulness)
7. Gentleness 8. Self-Control 9. Humility 10. Hope

The Holy Spirit: Key to Supernatural Living by Bill Bright
The Fruit of the Spirit by Thomas Trask,
Living Beyond Yourself by Beth Moore
The Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Williard
A Tale of Three Kings, by Gene Edwards