

CrossRoads Baptist Church
February 17, 2008 10:00 a.m.
Core Values #6

“The 22 Principle”

What is the purpose of the church? What do you understand from a Biblical perspective that a disciple of Christ should look like? If a person in ten years was to say that they had been a member of CRBC for all that time, what would you want them to be exhibiting in their life?

Wendell Berry once described his experience of paddling a canoe in the Kentucky River in a way that has significance for our church: “And so we stayed busy, keeping the canoe between the line of half-submerged shore trees in the line of drift that marked the channel. We weren't trying to hurry—the currents were carrying us as fast as it wanted to go—but it took considerable labor just to keep straight. It was like riding a spirited horse not fully bridle wise: we kept our direction by intention; there could be no dependence on habit or inertia; when our minds wandered the river took over and turned us according to inclinations of its own.”

Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; ...”

Our vision comes from Biblical revelation. It is not just a program.

Andy Stanley said in *Seven Practices of Effective Ministry*

“There is a natural tendency to drift toward complexity.” 101

“There is a very fuzzy line between building your personal significance around a program and attaching your heart to a mission. Programs need to change; a mission can last a lifetime. When leaders give their heart to a mission, they hold whatever they create with open hands.” 104

Our “Core Values” as a church. We have arranged them in the acrostic of CROSS:

C—Christ is central

Its all about Jesus. He is our only choice for salvation and life. Everything in this body of believers revolves around Him. It is His church and He is supreme here. Because He is the Head, then we express our dependence on Him through humble, believing prayer. Thus, He is worthy of our worship. John 3: 13-17; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:9-11; 5:8-14

R—Reflect His glory

As the moon reflects the light of the Sun, so we seek for our lives to reflect His glory. We want to reflect His glory through personal godly living, through unconditionally loving one another, and extending grace toward one another. We want to treat one another like Jesus treats us. To accomplish that, then spiritual growth is expected. We are continually in process; therefore mistakes are inevitable and change will be a permanent part of our lives and organization. We will put great emphasis on small groups gathering for Bible study, prayer, service and relationship building. We will also seek to strengthen families and marriages believing the home is the laboratory for Christian living. We seek to reflect God's glory in our worship, walk and our work.

(John 1:14; Ephesians 3:20-21; II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 6:14

O—Only following Jesus

Jesus has called us to “Follow Him.” The most important aspect of our church is the “hidden” personal walk with Jesus everyday through His Word, prayer and service. We are committed to developing fully devoted followers of Jesus, not a denomination or another person. Matthew 4:18-19; 10:1; Luke 14:25-33;

S—Seeking first His kingdom

Jesus was about the Kingdom of God. We want to be about advancing His rule on this earth through our lives expressed in His Lordship, us being salt and light in our culture and caring more for the kingdom to grow than our individual church. We want to pray “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” Matthew 4:17, 23; 5:13-16; 6:10, 33

S—Submitting to His teachings

A true disciple will submit to His commands and Jesus said the greatest commandment was to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” “The second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” These two are our passion and priority. We believe these two commandments are to be lived out through two venues: our individual lives and a corporate body, the local church. Matthew 28:19-20; 22:35-40

Our new logo is a road sign. What does that logo say about us?

1. We used a road sign because we are on a journey. We don't press this illustration totally. Road signs are indicators of where you are and where you are going. Its to assure that you are in the right direction.
2. The idea of the Kingdom is above all else and that He is our Lord and King ruling over CrossRoads.
3. The church is not the road, but a sign pointing you in the right direction. The sign will not get you there, but will help you find the way.
4. The daily walk with Jesus and the personal relationship is the road—the way.

The most important passage of Scripture for us is:

Matthew 22: 37-40

Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these

two commandments.” (37-40, NLT)

Two principles

1. Love God
2. Love others

Two venues:

1. Individually
2. Corporately – the Body, the Church

Loving God—

1. Loving God individually.
 1. The whole concept of loving God is based on a personal relationship with Him. He is our Father and we are children of God. The love the Father has for you that we should be called the sons of God. John 15:15,

Just as with earthly fathers, spend time with them. Hang out. Catch up on what is going on with life.

Love God individually by daily walking with God in prayer and the Word of God. This is the most important thing for being a member of this church. Follow Jesus daily.

We do that by talking with Him which is called prayer. You don't have to bow your head and close your eyes, just talk wherever you are and say whatever you wish. Its all based on a relationship.

Prayer...talking to God, hearing God at all times. Daily and know he is available all the time. Not a fourth down and punt but a first down huddle.

We love God by listening to Him through prayer and His Word. If you get a text message on your cell phone, you'd read it. If you get email, you'd read it. God sent us His Word.

Everyone of us could spend at least 10-15 minutes a day with Him. But then let me encourage you to take at least one hour a week with uninterrupted time to be with Him.

2. Loving God corporately.

Then corporately we go to worship.

I believe we should view our corporate worship like family dinner.

We are coming at the invitation of the Father to spend time together as the family. We are not coming just for instruction, but an expression of love toward God. We come so we can connect with the Father and with one another. We come to gain wisdom, life, guidance, strength, fellowship.

Loving Others—

1. Loving others Individually

Everyone should personally seek to walk in love toward others. We spent several weeks about a year ago talking about this saying we should love our spouse, children, parents, the family of God, our enemies, the people across the line (racial), across the world, and across the street.

Seeking to reach your neighbors and friends and associates for Christ.

2. Loving others Corporately

Corporately through small group Bible study fellowships which we are going to call:

**LIFE Groups Life in Family Environment
Living in Family Environment**

1. Fellowship (getting to know one another, caring for one another)

Getting to know one another by visiting in the home, gatherings, you can't pray for someone you don't know and you really can't love someone you don't know

Remember this is all about love – agape love. Unconditional love.

2. Prayer

Praying for one another, needs, children, marriages
Prayer chain, prayer teams, prayer walking, praying for our church, pastor, staff, deacons

3. Discipleship (accountability, mentoring, growing in the likeness of Christ)

Accountability for attendance; walking with God; acting like Jesus
Mentoring of new Christians
Growing through Bible study and other lessons

4. Ministry

Ministering to one another and encouraging one another (death, sickness, family issues, hard times, benevolence)
Visiting absentees

5. Missions

Reaching out to Prospects

Then reaching out to our Jerusalem – Elgin. Each class would have a street or part of the community for which they are responsible. Everyone be involved by either praying for the group that goes, providing child care, putting together packets, going out on a team, meeting needs through service of mowing, repairing,

providing food, sharing the gospel, discipleship of new believers,
benevolence help

We'd have a set time for ministry each Sunday afternoon but those
who come will be coming from their class with assignments made that
morning in class.

Then reaching out to the world:

Every class would pray for a specific country, unreached people's
group, missionary. Learn all you can about that country, people,
mission work. Give. Go. If you can't go, then give for others to
go. Pray that God will permit every person in that class to go
before they die.

(Adults will be the pattern here)

To do this, we increase the time in LIFE to an hour-and-fifteen
minutes each Sunday

Each class would begin with fifteen minutes of fellowship.

Then the missions/outreach leader would welcome everyone, share
plans for their classes' outreach that day and get the guests'
information. This person would also share any news of missions
with the class. Sheet could begin to be passed around started by
the prayer leader for prayer requests.—5-7 minutes

The teacher would then lead the session for 45 minutes

The prayer leader would close the class time with requests, praying
for the needs presented, praying for the outreach that day, etc.

All begin March 2

8:45 LIFE Groups

10:15 Worship