

Signs of Movement Towards Blessing, Righteousness, and Justice in the Core

Celebrating the wide variety of godly expressions of Our Core Values in different contexts, this document identifies signs that each of Our Core Values is being lived in ways that show God's kingdom as a place of blessing, righteousness, and justice.

1. Passion to know, love and become like Jesus Christ.

Committing All: Continually demonstrating Jesus' commitment to bring blessing, righteousness and justice even in the face of high cost to individuals or the community.

2. The truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures for the whole of life.

Living All of Scripture: Continually emphasizing that discipleship requires living in accordance with Scripture's pervasive themes, including blessing, righteousness, and justice.

3. The transforming power of the Gospel.

Reconciling All Relationships: Continually pursuing God's plan for systemic reconciliation between individuals, communities, and creation.

4. The leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Repenting of All Injustice: Continually participating in the groaning of the Spirit as expressed through the voices of marginalized people who lead us into repentance, characterized by word and deed, for the ways we have contributed to ways of injustice.

5. Expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.

Hoping in All Situations: Continually asking, in adamant expectation, for God to reveal His kingdom and make a new thing in the midst of the reality of evil, suffering, and oppression.

6. The dignity and value of every person.

Valuing All People: Continually pursuing God's plan for all genders, economic classes, social classes, languages, and ethnicities.

7. Love and grace expressed among us in community.

Hearing All Voices: Consistently and intentionally listening to the voices of marginalized people, rebuilding trust, proving worthy of trust, and growing together in maturity and mutual ministry.

8. Families and relational networks in discipling the nations.

Blessing All Families: Continually developing communities that exemplify Jesus' description of the kingdom of God as a family that celebrates people that are normally rejected.

9. Interdependent relationships in the Body of Christ in advancing the Gospel.

Including All Believers: Continually building mutually beneficial partnerships that cross borders and barriers in ways that cannot be explained apart from the presence of the Kingdom of God.

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Questions About Movement Towards the Core of Blessing, Righteousness and Justice

Celebrating the wide variety of godly expressions of Our Core Values in different contexts, we encourage ministry leaders to consider these questions and the Scriptures listed, in their biblical contexts, to examine ways Our Core Values are being expressed with regard to God's love of blessing, righteousness, and justice.

1. The passion to know, love and become like Jesus Christ.

How are you building awareness of the ways Jesus demonstrated his commitment to righteousness and justice? How are people in your ministry sacrificing for truth, justice, and the gospel? How are they being and bringing blessing to their communities?

Scriptures: Isaiah 61, Zachariah 19:1-10, Matthew 10, Matthew 21:12-16, , Mark 5:1-17, Luke 4:14-22, Luke 6:17-39, Luke 9:23-27, Luke 14:25-34, John 8:2-11, Acts 5, Acts 19:21-41

2. The truth and sufficiency of Scripture for the whole of life.

Who is influencing your understanding of the Bible? How are you helping people in your ministry to see the whole story of the Bible, including its major themes like righteousness and justice? How does the Bible define Blessing?

Scriptures: Exodus 23:1-9, Leviticus 19, Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 15:1-18, Psalm 89:14, Isaiah 35, Isaiah 55-59, Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:1-12, Luke 24:44-49, Acts 2-3, Acts 6-7

3. The transforming power of the Gospel.

How are you addressing brokenness in relationships between God and individuals? in relationships between individuals? in relationships between communities? in relationships between human-created systems that result in oppression?

Scriptures: Zechariah 8, Acts 2-4, Acts 9, Acts 16, Acts 18, Romans 12, Philemon

4. The leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

What are some examples of genuine repentance in your ministry with regard to communities and systems? What are some ways in which you've shown that you're relying on the Spirit's leadership to address the issues of brokenness you've identified? What are some ways in which the Holy Spirit is leading you to seek justice?

Scriptures: Psalms 40, 44, 74, 79, 80, 85, 90; Jeremiah 9, Acts 3-4, Romans 8, James 4:1-10

5. Expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.

What are some of the main tensions between God's goodness and the reality of evil and suffering that you're seeing in your ministry? How are you addressing them? What is the role of lament and groaning?

Scriptures: Daniel 9:1-19, Nehemiah 1:4-11, Acts 1:14, Acts 2, Acts 4:23-37, Acts 12

6. The dignity and value of every person.

How does the demographic make-up of your ministry compare with that of your community? How are you training people in your ministry to reach out to those outside their demographic groups?

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Who is considered marginalized in your community/society? What parts of society are not listed here that are pushed to the margins in your community? How is your ministry affirming dignity to people struggling with poverty or marginalization?

Scriptures: Psalm 82, Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 14:7-14, Acts 10-11, Acts 16:16-40, Philemon, James 2,

7. Love and grace expressed among us in community.

How have believers and non-believers in marginalized sectors of society been able to positively influence your ministry decisions? How are inequities in ministry resources being mitigated by practicing love and grace in community?

Scriptures: Zechariah 8, Acts 6:1-7, Acts 11:19-26,

8. Families and relational networks in discipling the nations.

What are the sectors of society that would be most disliked by people in your ministry? How are you training people in your ministry to call them into fellowship and listen to them?

Scriptures: John 4:3-42, Acts 10, Ephesians 4-6

9. Interdependent relationships in the Body of Christ in advancing the Gospel.

Who in your ministry seems especially called to address issues of righteousness and justice? How are you including them in decision-making for the ministry? How are people in your ministry learning and demonstrating biblical principles of giving?

Scriptures: Luke 8:1-3, Romans 16, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Corinthians 16, 2 Corinthians 8-9, Galatians 6:1-10, Phillipians 4:10-20, Colossians 4, 3 John