

Love from God –

1 JOHN 4:19 “WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US”

JOHN 3:16 “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE”

Love first comes from God since God is love (1 John 4:8). We cannot love fully unless we recognize God's love for us.

- Love to God and to others –

1 JOHN 4:19 WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

MARK 12:29-31 “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THIS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND, LIKE IT, IS THIS: ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.”

Out of love *from* God comes love *to* God, and then to others. It must be upwards and then outwards.

We believe that out of God's love for us and our love for God and others come missions. We are a missional church.

– Honour -

ROMANS 12:9-11 “LOVE MUST BE SINCERE. HATE WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD. BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN BROTHERLY LOVE. HONOR ONE ANOTHER ABOVE YOURSELVES.”

We strongly believe that honour should be one of the backbones of this church. This is the centre piece of our values and it manifests itself in so many different ways. Some of the ways we pray to see honour show itself at LCC are:

Faithfulness – We believe in faithfulness to keep our word, to be on time, to be faithful to the truth. We prefer each other over ourselves and honour each other, speaking highly of one another.

Gossip – We desire to see LCC a gossip free zone, making LCC a safe place for all. Gossip can destroy lives. Instead, we hold strongly to Matthew's model for dealing with a brother/sister who has hurt you (Matthew 18:15)

Forgiveness – Like in the parable of the unforgiving debtor (Matthew 18:21), we believe that as God has forgiven us, we need to be infinitely forgiving of one another. We endeavor to never attack our brothers/sisters and instead look for the good in one another, always encouraging each other in the Lord. We have a common enemy, and our brothers and sisters in Christ are not it!

- Family + Fellowship -

Fellowship with God through prayer, worship and the Word. Fellowship with God first and foremost is what it's all about. In fellowship with God we have true fellowship with each other and vice versa (1 John 1:6-7).

The Church is a family. We don't give up on each other but desire and work towards working issues out. We want to be a healthy family who loves and encourages each other daily.

Church "membership". We don't have a formal Church membership. We don't ask our members to sign a piece of paper saying they are a member. We believe that our word is bond and we should let our yes be yes, and our no, no (Matt. 5:37). A body has many functioning members in it and we all have our place. If you say you are a member at LCC then you are functioning and active... this is our membership!

Home Groups. We believe that home groups are a top priority for a healthy Church. It is here you will get most of your fellowship and intimate teaching. It is a great place to grow with every person participating. It is also the main way the Church grows. This is the first port of call for pastoral care.

Children/Youth. We believe that children and youth should not be left behind as a separate entity in the church. They are not to feed on the crumbs left from the adults. We have a vibrant children's and youth ministry which is discipling young people and making them into healthy and active followers of Jesus.

Sunday Mornings. Sunday mornings are not "The main event" of the Christians week. It is an important part of the week though. It is here all the Christians come together from all the home groups and everything else within the week to celebrate the Lord, to have fellowship on a larger level, to worship intimately corporately and to have teaching/preaching and impartation from mature people within the local/trans-local, national and international body of Christ.

Friendships/ relationships. It is important for those within our church to be friends with each other and to build on those relationships. How can we truly serve and love one another if we don't know each other?! As friends and those in relationship with each other we encourage each other to never give up like the pioneers of faith (Heb 11).

Discipleship. We believe the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 is to be obeyed. As a Church we want to disciple the nations, starting right here in our home town. How that is done is different from person to person as the Holy Spirit so guides.

Accountability. We believe in being accountable with each other. We don't all need to know each others business but it is good to be accountable with those God teams you up with, to keep you in the right direction and to encourage you, as well as forgive you (James 5:16).

- Faithfulness -

Faithfulness is often a word overlooked in many areas of the worldwide Church. It is a fruit of the Spirit (Gala. 5:22) and is the path to promotion in so many areas of life (Matt 25:21).

Faithful to God. We believe in being faithful to God in all He has for us. This includes work as well as play.

Faithful to the Word & truth. We should be faithful in reading and studying the Word of God, which is God's love letter to us and our manual for life (2 Tim 3:16 & Psalm 19:11). We believe what we read, not necessarily read what we believe. This will keep us on the right path to the truth, which sets all men free.

Faithful to sound doctrine. We believe there are two types of doctrine (teaching)... false doctrine, and sound doctrine. We endeavour to have sound doctrine, rightfully dividing the Word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

Faithful to each other. We are faithful to each other. Faithful to love, serve, honour and encourage (among many other things) each other.

Faithful to pray. Prayer and communion with God (prayer being the main tool we communicate with God) is the most important thing the Church does. Obviously without God we are nothing. Prayer is simply talking to God and we should be faithful to stay connected to Him in this way (John 15:5).

Faithful to our word. As stated above under "Church membership" our word is bond. We believe in doing what we say. We mean what we say and say what we mean. This means being on time, showing up when we say we will show up and so on. Of course there is grace, we are not perfectionists, but we want to be faithful in every circumstance to our word.

- Giving/generosity -

We believe in tithing and offerings. We desire all to tithe in order to see God's blessings in their lives (Malachi 3:10-12). God has not called us just to give but to be *givers*.

God has called us to be generous in many areas... with our time, our homes, our resources, and our money. It is often the hardest thing to give up because it often has such a hold on people. To honour the Lord with the first fruits of your possessions (Prov 3:9) is the least we can do. The tithe is a place of grace for us, not of the Law. It is a starting place, not a legalistic place. Without the produce of the Church the local Church cannot function and it's members often go without.

All leaders should tithe. We believe it is important that all of our leaders at LCC should tithe. Most mature family members in a household give to the running of the house, this includes the children when they come of age. This is the same with our leaders. They give, firstly to obey God in their giving and to be blessed to be a blessing, but also to contribute to the running of the house they lead. We believe all leaders should be great examples of godly lives.

- Leadership -

The role is to serve, not be served (Mat 20:28). Jesus (our example) came to serve and not to be served. If someone wants to be in leadership for the purpose of being served that person would not be found at LCC.

The more someone leads, the more they serve. A leader should be found worthy according to the codes of 1 Tim 3. A leader at LCC must be someone who is mature in Christ and not a novice (1 Tim 3:6).

Be a servant of all (Mark 9:35). The one who wants to lead must be the servant of all.

Obey your leaders (Heb 13:17). This is often a contentious issue but we do believe in obeying

our leaders and submitting to them. The reason this can be said with confidence is because the leaders at LCC really *DO* love the Church and they take it seriously as people who watch over their souls as those who will give an account to God for them. So this is done with fear and trembling before God. Obeying is not controlling, but joyfully helping to shape the lives of others so that all may profit.

To teach and equip. We believe the leaders role is to equip the Saints for works of service and to see them become mature in Christ (Eph 4). They in turn will teach and train others.

Being teachable. We believe all believers should be teachable. This is both as a teacher and the taught. To sit at the feet of Jesus and learn is one of the greatest privileges a person can have. It is wrong for a leader to think they have it all and is not in need to be taught anything. Every leader, like everyone else, is still in the process of being taught by those around us and the Holy Spirit.

Being vulnerable. The life of the leader is for all to see. We believe the strengths... and weaknesses of the leaders should be seen as an example to the church of what to, and sometimes what not to do. Honesty is a great way for a person to lead. At LCC it is not above a leader to say they were wrong in a matter. The leader is not a superhuman who doesn't feel and never gets things wrong, but a person on a journey like the rest of the body. They may be held to a higher judgement which is why decisions and messages are made with the fear of the Lord in full view of the leader and leadership team.

- Worship -

Worship is who we are, not just what we do. As Psalm 99:5 says we are to exalt and worship Him. At LCC we live the life of worship. It's not just a Sunday morning thing but a 24/7 thing.

The Tabernacle of David. Amos 9:11 & Acts 15:16 talks about the Tabernacle of David. It was a place of praise and worship night and day before the Lord. As a church who worships in spirit and in truth (John 4:23) we believe in 24/7 worship as a lifestyle. We are not worshipers who are rigid in everything that comes out of us but who worship as the Holy Spirit leads us (Eph 5:19).

- Servanthood -

The Least will be the greatest (Matt 11:11). John the Baptist was the greatest man who ever lived (apart from Jesus)! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than him! We believe if someone wants to be in leadership and there is a calling on their life for such a thing then they must first be a servant. When we get to heaven we will want Jesus to say "Well done good and faithful servant..." (Matt 25:21). He won't say, "Well done good and faithful preacher, teacher, evangelist" etc. Servants are considered great in God's kingdom and we want that for all our members.

Those who want to be in leadership must first be tested (1 Tim 3:10). We believe all leaders must first be tested. One way is to be sure they have the heart of a servant. We believe in character over gifts. If a person will not serve their fellow man they will not be in leadership at LCC.

Teachable. We believe to be a good servant you should be teachable, ready to learn and glean from those who went before. The greatest servants, and therefore the greatest in God's kingdom, are teachable and learn from Jesus and those who teach, as well as learning from

life's lessons.

Humility. We believe a humble heart is a great place to start in order to be a great servant.

"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).