

September 8 & 9, 2018 Ken Long, Senior Pastor

# Our Values, Part I

# I. Abiding in Christ

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

### How do we know if we are "abiding"?

### A. We will be <u>fruitful</u>.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears* **much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* John 12:24

## B. We will be prayerful.

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall, for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, declares the Lord. In the prophets of Samaria I saw an unsavory thing: they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray. Jeremiah 23:12-13

# C. We will be **<u>obedient</u>**.

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."

John 15:10

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## II. Loving Relationships

"A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

## Where is this love expressed?

### A. In the home.

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Ephesians 5:33-6:1

## B. In the <u>church</u>.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 1 Thessalonians 3:12

# C. In the community.

"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." John 17:18

# Application:

# 1. Prioritize practice.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine **and does them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, 1 John 3:24a

2. Decide daily.

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross **daily** and follow me." Luke 9:23

### 3. Serve sacrificially.

... Having loved his own who were in the world, he showed them the **full extent** of his love ... After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:1b, 5 (NIV)

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