

# CORE VALUES FOR CHURCH OF HOPE

(Extract from Church of Hope Christian Foundations Manual)

## 1) SERVING OTHERS (Acts 6:1-3)

Jesus was known as the Servant King, and willingly gave Himself for all mankind. We believe as a church, that serving others is a key to seeing a church make an impact in the lives of those in the community. All leaders should have a servant heart where they give of themselves so that others grow in their faith and are prepared for ministry.

A vibrant church must look for opportunities to connect with the community, schools and market place. Practically demonstrating the love of God in the community is crucial for any church to make an impact on the community. Having a drop in centre for people is also a great way of connecting with the needs of the community.

**In what other ways could your church connect with the community or village?**

Jesus said, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew. 20:26-28)

## 2) THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICALLY CARING FOR OTHERS (Acts 4:32-35)

- i) The need to reach out into the community to connect with those who are hurting
- ii) The need to practically love people by providing help to those who are disadvantaged or homeless
- iii) The importance of providing a place where people can experience God’s love and acceptance (**A place of belonging**)

## 3) THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL (Acts 8:4-8) (Romans 10:13-15)

Church of Hope believes that the preaching of the gospel is the key to seeing people come to Christ and having their lives changed. Jesus said, “He who the Son sets free is free indeed.” Every human soul is of importance to God. As eternal life can only come through a person repenting towards God and believing in Jesus Christ, the preaching of the gospel is a major priority at Church of Hope, (both in the Centre and streets of Melbourne, Sydney and in Parramatta Prison).

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

**Maintaining our passion for souls is imperative. Leaders must be the example.**

#### **4) THE ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY (ACTS 2:46-47)**

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”  
(Psalm 133:1)

- i) **Walking in Love** (John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 1 Peter 1:22)
- ii) **Walking in Forgiveness** (Matthew 6:14-15)
- iii) **Having no critical and judgmental (religious) attitudes towards others**  
(Matthew 7:1-4)
- iv) **We need to look out for the interests of others** (Philippians 2:1-4)
- v) **Encouraging others** (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- vi) **Genuine acceptance of others (Looking for the best in others)**

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

**A leader must aim to build unity in the leadership team. Some keys to maintaining unity will be discussed in being a leader of influence.**

#### **5) WORSHIP (A KEY TO KEEPING US CLOSE TO GOD)**

Church of Hope recognizes the importance to a believer of worship, both corporately (at church) and privately, in maintaining a strong Christian walk and intimacy with God. King David was a man who loved to worship the Lord and the Bible says that he is the only person who was a man after the heart of God. **(For this reason worship is a key part of all of our meetings and study groups)**

Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)

**TRUE HEART FELT WORSHIP IS A KEY TO USHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. (God inhabits the praises of our worship) WORSHIP IS A KEY TO MAINTAINING OUR INTIMACY WITH GOD.**

#### **6) THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER (Acts 4:23-31)**

Our church acknowledges the power of prayer and encourages all believers to have an active prayer life. A strong prayer life and dependence on God empowers us to resist temptations and to remain strong during trials. A strong prayer life is a key to seeing God move in the area of supernatural provisions. When our prayers are in accordance with the will of God and backed by faith, we can expect answers to prayers.

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”  
(1 Peter 4:7) **Jesus said**, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

## 7) THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING (To your local church home)

The bible says that it is more joyful to give than receive. The bible also says that giving is the key to receiving financial blessings. God Himself promises to those who tithe to Him, abundant financial blessings. (**Malachi 3:10-11**)

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground. Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts;”

THIS IS A WONDERFUL **PROMISE** FROM GOD. “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (**2 Corinthians 1:20**)

## 8) THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP (Matthew 28:19-20)

Church of Hope has a heart to see all believers develop into strong and stable Christians, who will be able to stand in the times of trials and temptations, and who will be living examples of the power of Jesus Christ to restore broken lives and to see people walking in victory. Church of Hope believes in the importance of:

- i) **Encouraging people to develop a hunger for the Bible** (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- ii) **Ensuring that all people who attend our Centre have a sound appreciation of Christian Doctrine**
- iii) **Helping people to identify and follow God’s plan for their life**
- iv) **Encouraging people to develop healthy communication skills**
- v) **Helping people to develop healthy life skills which will assist them in developing meaningful relationships**
- vi) **Providing encouragement and help to people, to enable them to identify and overcome life controlling problems**
- vii) **Helping all believers to walk close to the Lord, where prayer and worship becomes an important part of their lifestyle, and**
- viii) **Helping to equip and release people for ministry**

## 9) EQUIPPING (EMPOWERING) PEOPLE FOR MINISTRY

God has a special plan and purpose for every Christian. For many believers their mission field is their workplace, school or another sphere of influence where they can minister the love of Christ to others.

God has placed each believer in the Body of Christ as He has chosen. It is only as we find and follow God’s plan for our life that we will experience the fulfilment and abundant life which Jesus spoke of. Jesus Himself said to His disciples, “**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**” (**John 4:34**)

**Church of Hope has a heart to help encourage all believers to find and follow God’s plan for their life.** Church of Hope is committed to training and equipping believers, to help them realize their God given potential in whatever spheres of ministry God may have placed them. We believe that the five-fold ministry gifts are for the equipping of all believers, including those who are being called into full time ministry.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (**Ephesians 4:11-12**)

## **10) CREATING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELIEVERS**

**(Romans 12:4-8) (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) (Ephesians 2:10)**

Church of Hope has a heart to create ministry opportunities for all believers. Our Friday and Saturday night outreaches and Saturday Night meetings give all Christians the opportunity to be equipped and used in the area of evangelism and outreach.

All ministry gifts can be used in the streets of Melbourne, but most importantly it is important for the unsaved to see a commitment from Christians to reach out to them. To have a concern for the lost and unsaved must eventually translate into an action to become involved in their lives.

Our Centre also provides many opportunities for Christians to have some experience in the area of pastoral care and hospitality evangelism. **Does your church create opportunities for everyone to be used in their ministry gifts?**

Opportunities are given for committed Christians to be raised up in the area of small group leaders and Pastoral Care assistants, as well as many “helps” ministries which are needed to support any extension of ministry activities within the Church.

**OUR CHURCH ENCOURAGES ALL CHRISTIANS TO USE THEIR GIFTS AND ABILITIES FOR GOD’S GLORY, KNOWING THAT OUR LABOUR FOR THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN**

## **11) EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING**

Church of Hope is now running monthly evangelism schools to help equip people in the area of evangelism. (First Saturday of Each Month) A part of this evangelism training will include the equipping and preparation of church planting teams.

Our church has a heart to set up 7 Worship / Preaching sites each weekend in the City of Melbourne where other Christians can join us to reach out to the multitudes in the City who do not yet know Jesus. These sites would also have the purpose of supporting other Christian teams that come into the City, whilst giving Christians the opportunity of being equipped and mobilized in the area of preaching.

**THESE ELEVEN CORE VALUES FOR CHURCH OF HOPE COULD BE SUMMARISED INTO TWO MAIN VALUES**

1. That all those within our community and who attend our church meetings will experience God’s love and be encouraged to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and
2. That there will be in all of our church meetings and fellowships an atmosphere of love and acceptance, in which all believers are encouraged to grow in their faith and to fulfil their God given destiny.