

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH: DNA

Who we are

What we want to be

Why we do what we do



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CORE VALUES

CORE VALUES

Our Core Values, along with other important characteristics like our theological distinctives, purpose, vision, and goals make up the DNA of Ryde Baptist Church. It is these things that define us, drive us, and shape us as a community of Christ.

What are core values? Core values are the attitudes, beliefs and characteristics that are central to who we are as a church. They define why we do ministry, and shape how that ministry looks. These values identify us as a church and unite us as individuals within the church. Our core values articulate who we are and who we desire to be and they keep us accountable to that end.

Why core values? Core values are the foundations on which we build our relationships and actions and all of our church life and ministry. Every person and every ministry has core values, and whether we realise it or not they shape who we are. Therefore, we are aiming to clearly define these values so that we are intentional about the central foundations of our decision making, practical ministry, and church community. They flow from the objectives of our church as stated in the constitution, and they are the basis of our theological distinctives and practical goals.

This booklet is designed to help you to better understand why we do what we do, to embrace these core values as a foundation for God building His kingdom in our community, and to allow them to richly impact your life and your experience of church.

Christ Centred

CORE VALUE:
Jesus is our focus

**We love Jesus
This is His church
We are His body
He is our focus
He makes us right with God
He gives us His presence through
the Holy Spirit.**

CORE VALUES

Christ Centred

Further Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Matthew 16:18

...I will build my church...

Colossians 1:17-18

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

A Jesus Focused Church

Jesus founded the church, commissioned the church, and leads the church. The church is His. Therefore as a church we centre all that we do in Jesus. Hopefully you will notice this Christ-centric nature in our objectives. Jesus is the message we proclaim and Jesus is the one we seek to emulate. In fact we see the church more as an organism rather than an organisation. We are the body of Christ. Christ is present in us as individuals and in us as His body - the church. He is also the head of the church. When making all decisions at any level in the church, it is Christ's will and direction we seek. He is not only the historical Jesus we study in the bible, but He is the living present Jesus we relate to by the Holy Spirit.

The church is also described as the bride of Christ. We are His people. Treasured and loved by Him. And by His sacrificial love He has made a way for us to be right with God. He is not just the way to be with God, but also the truth and the life. Jesus is the truth of God and the source of spiritual life. As a Christ-centred church we embrace the way that Jesus leads, we trust in His truth and through Him we have abundant life.

The Gospel is Good News

CORE VALUE:
We preach positively

**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom
for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

Luke 4:18-19

CORE VALUES

The Gospel is Good News

Further Reading:

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Galatians 5:22-23

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Positive Presentation of the Gospel

Hopefully you will also notice the positive perspective from which we proclaim and live out the Christian life - The Gospel message is GOOD NEWS. Our philosophy as preachers and teachers here at Ryde Baptist Church, is to present the gospel and disciple people in positive terms without neglecting the truths of Gods judgement, sin and repentance.

Many teachers and preachers engender fear, which is not God's will. This is often done from good motives - a genuine zeal for God, and His ways, however, their good word is often hijacked by Satan who is the god of fear and hopelessness. Therefore, teaching in positive terms is essential to an accurate presentation of the Gospel.

We endeavor to communicate positive messages with hope, love and confidence in Christ Jesus. And hope, love and confidence in Christ Jesus should be evident in the life and response of those who hear our messages. In fact evidence of the whole fruit of the Spirit should be seen. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This fruit should be evident in our teachers' lives, our teachers' messages and evident in the lives of those who come under our teaching.

God Speaks



CORE VALUE:
What the Bible
says, God Says

As God's word, the bible not only reveals to us the good news of Jesus, but is our primary source for teaching, instruction, and testing what is true.

GOD SPEAKS

Further Reading:

2 Peter 1:20-21: *...no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

John 5:39-40: *You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

What the Bible says, God says

God speaks today by various means, primarily through the Bible. The deep mystery of Jesus being fully human and also fully God is mirrored in the way the bible is written. Though penned by the hands of humans, it is inspired in a way which makes it completely divine - it is God's own words. The Apostle Paul speaks of the scriptures as "God breathed" (2 Tim. 3:16), that is to say that they came to be by God's Spirit (Breath).

The Christian faith is anchored in God's actions in history and it is through the Bible, first and foremost that God makes known who He is, what He has done, and what He is going to do.

Through its many authors, styles, and genres, the bible communicates the truths of God in a way that should be

revered as God's authoritative instruction and the most reliable revelation available to us of God's character, actions, and promises.

The climax of God's revelation is found in the person of Jesus, who explained the Old Testament scripture to be speaking of himself (John 5; Luke 24). And who the author to the Hebrews spoke of saying "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son," (Hebrews 1:1-2). The written word reveals the incarnate word (Jesus). And the authority of Scripture is ultimately found in it's author who chooses to reveal himself in words through the Scriptures and in person through His Son, in the world through His creation, and in the church by the Holy Spirit.

As God's word, the bible not only reveals to us the good news of Jesus, but is our primary source for teaching, instruction, and testing truths. 2 Timothy 3:15-16 describes the functions of Scripture in the church, "*you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"

We have assurance that the Scriptures originated from God and contain His truth. Jesus himself viewed the (Old Testament) Scriptures as His Father's written word. This is affirmed in the Apostles' teaching, where both Jesus teaching and the Apostles' teaching about Jesus were regarded as God's authoritative word.

A Centre of Worship

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CORE VALUE:

**We live for God's pleasure,
We take pleasure in His presence**

**We desire to be a church where
people are free to worship
corporately and inspired to live a
lifestyle of worship.**

CORE VALUES

A Centre for Worship

Further Reading:

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

John 4:21-23

...believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem... Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A Centre for Worship

Part of our objective is to be a centre for worship. This involves, but is not limited to, our church services. Worship incorporates all of life, and our purpose as believers and as a church community ultimately is to glorify God. Worship, therefore, is a lifestyle that willingly seeks to glorify God by an intentional response to God's calling, God's works, or God Himself with an attitude of thanksgiving.

Worship is the central purpose of the coming kingdom. We were created to worship, our salvation enables us to worship, and all that we do for Christ and His kingdom is an act of worship. Therefore, worship should permeate every aspect of a believer's life. It should be the ambition that drives every ministry.

As a centre for worship we endeavour to create a place where worship can be corporately expressed in a significant way in our gatherings as well as encouraging and facilitating lifestyles of worship beyond the walls of our building.

We are Family



**CORE VALUE:
Committed to
one another**

**Together we make up one
body and each member is
connected through Christ.**

CORE VALUES

Relationally Committed

Further Reading:

Titus 2:14

Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 27

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Committed to One Another

Throughout scripture there is a recurring theme of God creating, calling, and redeeming a people for Himself. The climax of this theme is found in Jesus who redeemed for Himself a people, a Kingdom. The church is the outward expression of this kingdom. Therefore our relationship with Jesus as individuals is practised in the context of relationships in the Christian community - that is being God's people. Though we are individuals, together we make up the one body and each member is connected through Christ.

Jesus said that we would be identified as His disciples by our love for each other. And Jesus Himself exemplified what it is to love. Therefore we are to be committed to each other and follow Jesus' example as we forgive, disciple, care for, nurture, serve, and challenge each other.

Where there are disagreements among us, we resolve them with love and seek to let the peace of Christ adjudicate as we seek the wisdom of His word. Where discipline is required, again we follow the example and teaching of Jesus who is the head of the Church. Christ also sustains our growth as His message dwells richly in our midst through inspired teaching and preaching of Scripture.

From the beginning, God designed family to be the central structure for relationships in society and we value and seek to support and enrich families within our church and community.

All are One in Jesus

CORE VALUE:
All are welcome

We value diversity and embrace people from all backgrounds as He who binds us together is greater than what differentiates us.

CORE VALUES

All are One in Jesus

Further Reading:

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

Colossians 3:11

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

All are One in Jesus

The Kingdom of God is made up of a diverse range of people with one thing in common, Jesus Christ. And He who binds us together is greater than what differentiates us.

As a church we place great value in diversity and embrace people of all ages and from many different racial, social, and cultural backgrounds, and this is reflected in our diverse and dynamic church family.

The good news of Jesus is God's gracious gift of eternal life for all who would repent and believe. Therefore it is our hope and desire that as many people as possible are gladly received by our community so that they may hear the good news, see the reality of the living Jesus in our community, and have the opportunity to respond. For, as Galatians 3:28 declares, *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

We desire to welcome as many people as possible into the Kingdom of God and therefore we seek to welcome all to our church.

Contagious Christianity

CORE VALUE:

**We share the good news
with words and actions**

**Relationships are the best context
for sharing the gospel when our
words are affirmed by our actions.**

CORE VALUES

Contagious Christianity

Further Reading:

John 1:40-42

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Evangelism Through Relationship

Evangelism, or sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus, is fundamental to our church objective to preach the gospel and promote evangelism and missions.

There are many methods of evangelism that may be effective in different circumstances, but all of us are called to share the good news with our friends, family, and colleagues with both word and action. In such situations conversation is better than confrontation, and the life of a spirit filled and faithful believer will speak volumes to those who witness their lifestyle.

When Andrew was introduced to Jesus in John 1:40, he went to get his brother Simon (Peter), told him about Jesus, and then brought him to Jesus. Just a few verses later Jesus calls Phillip to follow Him, and Phillip finds his friend Nathanael and tells him the good news, and he too believes.

This is the pattern that we want to see in our church. As people encounter Jesus and have their lives transformed by Him, they can't help but tell others. And the rich spiritual life that Jesus has given each believer should be contagious.

The primary method of evangelism then is relational. Close relationship gives credibility to the message where the good news of Jesus can be seen in the life of a believer as they share the reason for their hope with those who trust and respect them.

CORE VALUES

PURPOSE

The purpose of Ryde Baptist Church is outlined in the statement of objectives in the church constitution.

To glorify God by:

Being a gospel Church proclaiming the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to a lost world.

Teaching and applying the word of God to the life-styles of the members so that this proclamation will be matched by godly behaviour. By preaching, teaching and discipleship activities to promote the unity of faith so that the believers mature to be more like Christ and allow his ministry to flow thorough them.

Being a centre of worship, fellowship and active service for Christian people seeking to live out their lives in God's will.

Promoting and encouraging evangelism and missions in all the world.

Providing services and support as God's representatives in the local community.

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