

CORE VALUES | the essence of who we are as the Body of Christ

At The Table four leading values emerged from our understanding of the gospel. It is from these defining principles that we exist, rooting ourselves in one or all of these values. To illustrate the significance of these convictions, we asked our staff to share each week how one of these particular values is being played out in their area of ministry.

Authentic Community

To know and be known
To love and be loved

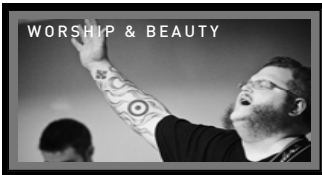
By Geoff Taylor, Worship Pastor



In the eighth grade I bought the sweetest leather jacket in the whole world. I saved my money for a while and finally got enough to go to the mall and buy my first leather jacket. I wore that thing everywhere all the time, even in the summer. I thought the jacket made me so cool until the day I looked closely at the tag. Inside my sweet leather jacket were the words, "genuine pleather." My heart sank and I gave that coat away because of its inauthenticity. The coat was real enough, but the material it was made out of was not the kind of authentic I wanted.

We value Authentic Community, but what if we were like a pleather jacket where we pretended to be the real deal, but in reality lacked quality? You see, I'm better at being inauthentic when it comes to community because then I can still look like I'm the real deal relationship wise. In reality, I struggle with being genuine pleather. I did not understand Authentic Community until I started my own family. I understood it even more when I joined a lifegroup, staying with it and engaging with people for more than just a few months. Community is hard work especially the kind of community The Table strives for; to know and be known, (and the scary one) to love and be loved.

Those closest to me know it takes a long time for me to wear a relationship around like I did with that pleather jacket, but the more I do, the better it fits and the more I do the more I enjoy our other values. With Truth & Meaning: my perspective and knowledge is limited to my own discoveries, thoughts, and ideas, but in community we broaden each other's understanding of God. Worship & Beauty: in community I am encouraged by my peers discovering each other's calling. There would be no real influence if I was in inauthentic community with these people. Finally for Missional Journey, nobody does mission alone, not even Christ.



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