

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.

Worship & Beauty

By Jason Barnes, Creative Arts Pastor



"To discover our God-given design... to live out our God-given destiny," is what we mean by Worship & Beauty. We believe, according to Scripture, that God has intentionally crafted each and every one of us with a unique purpose to reflect His glory (Psalm 139). As a church, we long to be a community of people that continually seeks to glorify God by discovering who God made us to be and what He has called us to do.



During our worship service this weekend we have the privilege of watching James Friend, a member of our West Campus, express his God-given design through painting. What I love most about James is not his way with words or use of colors. Nor is it his Texas accent or his southern culinary arts. Rather, what I appreciate most about James is his perspective: how he challenges me to think more deeply and holistically about what it means to be "fully alive." From time to time, James has been known to insert into conversation this beautiful line from Eldridge's *Wild at Heart*, "God's glory is man fully alive." At other times, James puts it in his own words, "This is what I was born to do."



While James may be an exceptional artist, I also know he comes fully alive behind the grill in his backyard, hiking with his sons, at the beach with his lovely wife, Michelle, or listening to the needs of others. All of this is an art form to James and what James was created to do. When my brother does these and many other things, the glory of God is revealed to a broken, hurting world. On this note, I leave you with this simple question, "How can you become fully alive this week to display the glory of God in your home, work, neighborhood, and city?"



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