

# Session II

## Core Values, Part 1

### THE SRPC STORY

#### FOUNDATIONAL VALUE:

### *Soli Deo Gloria: A Theocentric Church*

*Isaiah 6:1-4* "In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.'"

The passion of the church is to honor and exalt God and not to please people. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

#### A. WE ARE COMMITTED TO GOD-CENTERED \_\_\_\_\_.

*Psalms 67:3-4* "Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth."

- Worship is something you attend not principally to get something out of it – instruction, inspiration, hope, etc. Worship is first and foremost for God's glory, not our good, though nothing does us good like putting our affections on the only one worthy of them. In worship, we are not the audience, God is.
- "Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of the imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose - and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable, and therefore the chief remedy of that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin." *William Temple*
- "I was very thankful that I walked into a church that was different—a church where the otherness of God was sensed immediately. In the music, in the message, and in the mingling afterward, it was clear that God was the guest of honor there, not I. I had suffered the consequences of the modern world's emphasis on the individual, and I was unbelievably refreshed to discover a place that took the focus off me and put it on Him. He was the one being 'lifted up for all men to see,' not the pastor or the 'praise team.' He was the difference I longed for, not some carefully orchestrated performance that, believe me, I would have been able to see right through. And I am glad He was not communicated in the distasteful ways, whether musically or otherwise, that I had grown weary of. Whether or not I understood everything the preacher said that morning didn't matter. I was the recipient of something more powerful than a 'user-friendly' service with its 'seeker-sensitive' sermon. I was observing the people of God honoring God not as a man-centered show, but by a God-centered atmosphere. It was, quite literally, out of this world!" *Tullian Tchividjian*

## **B. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_.**

*2 Tim. 3:16-17* "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

## **C. WE ARE COMMITTED TO A DEVOTED \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Deuteronomy 6:5* "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."  
*Matthew 10:37-38* "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

### **CORE VALUE #1:**

## *Renewing Grace*

In a world of brokenness, Seven Rivers seeks to be a place where hearts and homes are healed by the love of God.

### **—HOW DOES GRACE RENEW? —**

- **WE BELIEVE IN SALVATION BY \_\_\_\_\_ ALONE.**

*Eph. 2:8-9* "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

To be a Christian is to confess you have no merit of your own. Grace is unmerited favor. Our reconciliation with God is the work of Christ alone. There are no "good Christian people." *Phil 3:8-9* "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith"

- **WE BELIEVE THAT TO "GET THE GOSPEL" IS TO LIVE IN RELIANCE ON JESUS' \_\_\_\_\_ FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

*Romans 1:16-17* "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it a righteousness from God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "but the righteous man shall live by faith.""  
*2 Corinthians 5:21* "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

**From the Heidelberg Catechism: *How are you righteous before God?***

**Answer:** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Although my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all God's commandments, have never kept any of them, and am still inclined to all evil, yet God, without any merit of my own, out of mere grace, imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ. He grants these to me as if I had never had nor committed any sin, and as if I myself had accomplished all the obedience which Christ has rendered for me, if only I accept this gift with a believing heart.

- **WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOSPEL WILL RESULT IN A REFRESHING PURGING OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND AN HONEST \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE CHURCH.**

Why are church-goers often the most offensive people? "Christians who are no longer sure that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously

radically insecure persons – much less secure than non-Christians. Their insecurity shows itself in pride, a fierce defensive assertion of their own righteousness and defensive criticism of others. When people do not build their lives on their standing in the gospel, they are insecure, guilt-ridden, defensive, quarreling, selfish, inward looking, and afraid.”

SRPC should be a safe place to fail and a safe place for failures to belong. Staff and officers should be the lead repenters, truly seeing themselves as the “big sinners” in their families and in the church. SRPC should reflect a startling authenticity causing even visitors to remark on how “real” we are.

- **WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE BELIEF THAT WE STAND NOW HOLY IN GOD’S SIGHT AND THAT HE \_\_\_\_\_ IN US AS HIS OWN CHILDREN.**

*Colossians 1:22* “He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.”

## **ASSIGNMENT**

1. Read chapters 4-6 (pp35-64) of *The Apostles’ Creed: Rooted*.
2. Read Part 1 of the New City Catechism
3. If you haven’t already, read the brochure “How Can I Know God” and pray about your relationship with Christ. Consider making a decision to commit to Christ, if you haven’t already done so.
4. Be sure to be in worship this weekend.

