

## Day 35: Living Out Our Values

Today, we close out our week exploring Stonegate's six core values. Everyone lives by a set of values whether we know them or not. Our values at Stonegate are our core convictions, the fire in our shared belly, and the filters we use to make decisions and set boundaries as a church. It's not enough to articulate and know our values; we must commit to integrating them into all we do and say.

Do you see Stonegate's six core values in the life of our church? Why or why not?

Our focus scripture for today is Colossians 3:17

<sup>17</sup> "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

A man once said, "When we are clear on our core convictions (*our values*), it enables us to move with flexibility in the world without compromising." We want everything we do to be characterized by our six values, done as a representative of Jesus, with gratitude, and for the glory of God. We never want to move away from the beautiful tension of being *unapologetically biblical* while at the same time being a *welcoming oasis*. We want to as one preacher said, "to have the widest welcome to the narrowest path." We always want to be *expectantly prayerful* and not self-reliant. Never hold on to traditions and comfort, but push forward in a *pioneering spirit*, looking for opportunities to empower the *next generation*. All of this will take a shared, corporate *bold generosity* with our time, talents, and finances to fully become a disciple-making hub of blessing so our communities flourish.

Pause to consider how you could personally champion and live out the six core values in the life of our church body.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say "yes, Lord," take out a journal or a note on your phone. Write out the six values - *welcoming oasis*, *unapologetically biblical*, *expectantly prayerful*, *expectantly prayerful*, *pioneering spirit*, and *bold generosity*. Pick one, pray about how you could embody this value today, and step out and do whatever you were led to do. Then, at the end of the day, journal about your experience.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

Colossians 3:12–16 <sup>12</sup> "Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts."

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.