

Priorities & Ministry Philosophy of Columbia Bible Church

August 1, 2006

The following priorities more clearly define Columbia Bible Church:

1. The Local Church

We view the local church as one of God's biblical means for the growth and care of each individual believer. We encourage all believers to fully partake in a local church; to serve, to be shepherded, to love the saints, and for mutual accountability. Within the structure of the local church, the gospel will constantly bear fruit and will be increasing so that each believer will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. Col 1:1-14.

2. Biblical Teaching

We determine to accurately teach the word of God and submit to it in all we believe and do (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12). We will rely on expository teaching and emphasize the key doctrines of the faith as a basis for like-minded unity of faith in our body according to I Cor. 2:1-5.

3. Reverent Worship

Our desire is to corporately glorify God in His presence with hearts, voices, and instruments. With regard to corporate worship, we promote an accurate and exalted view of God, both in method and content (1 Chronicles 29:11; Colossians 3:16). We value corporate worship at our gatherings, performed with excellence as a means for exalting God and edifying one another. We commit to equip one another for respectful worship.

4. Effective Discipleship

We purpose to equip the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12) encouraging all towards the good works He has prepared for them. We will entrust the oversight of ministry to faithful men in equipping men for good works. We commit to teach a biblical masculinity and femininity. We will encourage men toward faithful shepherding leadership in the home and in the church (2 Timothy 2:2). Women are encouraged to fulfill their role according to Titus 2:3-5. We hold to an age-integrated philosophy of discipling our young people.

5. Personal Holiness

With Christ as our model, we want to be individually characterized by personal holiness (1 Peter 1:16), being doers of the word and not hearers only (James 1:22), and by the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We want to exhibit purity and the joy of the Lord as we walk in obedience because His commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3).

6. Fervent Prayer

We express our dependence on God as we pray, trusting that He hears and answers our prayers as we pray according to His will (James 4:3). We want to be characterized both by praying often and with great expectancy, both privately and corporately (Matthew 7:7; Luke 5:16; Acts 2:42).

7. Compassionate Outreach

We fully embrace the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We purpose to equip, train, and encourage the body toward a heart for the lost and a prayerful posture and spiritual readiness to share the gospel boldly (Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15). Our desire is that each individual and household would initiate compassionate care and evangelism towards the opportunities God provides them.

8. Stepping Out in Faith and Reliance on God

God has given the church His Holy Spirit to empower each one of us to mature in Christ (Acts 1:8). As a result, we want to be characterized by reliance on God and stepping out in faith, both in personal growth and in ministry (Ephesians 3:20). We desire to promote an environment of trusting God, waiting on God daily, and believing that seeing Him at work will cause our faith to increase (2 Corinthians 5:7).

9. Edifying Fellowship

We are committed to assembling together as a family of believers. God's word, prayer, and the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are a priority as we fellowship in various settings. We desire to be characterized by sincere love for one another, bearing one another's burdens, and building relationships as we encourage one another to love and good deeds. Together, we strive to serve those in need. (1 Peter 1:22; Acts 2:42, 46-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15).