



THE ORCHARD VALUES AND ETHOS

1. Biblical

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes (Psalm 19:7-8)

We believe that God's Spirit works through His Word and that when the Bible is opened, God's voice is heard. What God does *through* us is an overflow of what He does *in* us by His Word, and so our continuing immersion in Scripture is foundational to all that we do.

2. Thoughtful

But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 4:2)

We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer, and so seek to communicate in a way that respects and encourages believers to think for themselves. We are called to communicate eternal truth and so try to avoid extravagant claims, exaggerated language, and attention-grabbing gimmicks. We are not frivolous, foolish, or trendy. We are more interested in the steady pursuit of godliness than in current trends or fashions and believe that what is of lasting value will be demonstrated over time.

3. Gospel Centered

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, (Romans 1:16)

We believe that God saves unbelievers and nourishes believers through the life changing power of the gospel. God's grace makes the Christian life possible (Titus 2:11-12), so the accent of our ministry is on grace rather than on law. We seek always to offer more than a description of what believers ought to do.

4. Focused

I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

We believe that the ministry of the church is fulfilled as people put down deep roots into the Word of God, grow in the life we share together in Christ, and bear fruit wherever God places us in the world. We are not directed by social movements or political agendas. We do not believe that the world should set the agenda for the church. We seek to reach people of all backgrounds and bring them to a knowledge of Christ.

5. Humble

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6)

We believe that whatever is accomplished in ministry comes through God's grace and kindness alone. Without Him we can do nothing. We aim to speak of God always with a sense of reverence and awe. We do not critique other churches or presume to tell them what they should do. We do not seek to promote ourselves, but rather to draw attention to the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Respectful

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand, (Romans 14:1-4)

We believe that all Christians are called to live under the authority of God's Word according to conscience. We recognize that believers will come to different conclusions about how best to act in different circumstances. We therefore seek to show respect where differences arise, and to honor Christian liberty under the Word of God, as we serve the Lord together.

7. Accountable

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)

We believe that the church is protected by structures and internal controls that ensure appropriate accountability. These include the accountability of the Senior Pastor to the Church Board and the accountability of the Church Board to the members of The Orchard. The annual budget, appointment of Board members and any changes to the bylaws must be approved by the members of The Orchard. The Board reviews the finances of the church monthly and sees every salary every year. Expenditures are subject to multiple levels of approval involving both staff and lay leaders. We also have an annual independent audit of all financial records and internal controls.

8. Collaborative

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." (1 Corinthians 12:21)

We believe that God has given gifts to all of His people and that every member has a contribution to make to the work of the body of Christ. Wise decisions are reached through a process of listening to input from pastors, members of the board, and members of the congregation. This process may demand patience, but the benefits of collaborative leadership far outweigh its demands.

9. Gathered

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

We believe that God's people grow as we gather for worship and fellowship around the Scriptures. Singing, praying, reading, and preaching the Word are gifts in which we rejoice, and means by which the Holy Spirit forms the likeness of Christ in us.

10. Evangelistic

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Romans 10:14)

We believe that Christ has commissioned His church to take the gospel to the world, and we want to run with the gospel, (2 Thess. 3:1). We are committed to reach lost people and seek to do this through the words and works of our people, and through the ministries of the church. Our global ministries are focused on evangelism, planting churches and leadership development, especially in the Balkan region of Europe, and in central, south, and southeast Asia.