



WE LOVE THE BIBLE
WE LOVE GOD'S SPIRIT
WE LOVE WORSHIP
WE LOVE PRAYER
WE LOVE COMMUNITY
WE LOVE DISCIPLESHIP
WE LOVE MISSION
WE LOVE STEWARDSHIP
WE LOVE DIVERSITY.

1 CORINTHIANS

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Welcome

Thank you for picking up this little booklet. It may be small, but it's full of big statements about what we value—values that affect our whole walk with Jesus and how we do church together. As you flick through these pages you will see that they're drawn straight from Scripture, as our hearts desire is to build church the way Jesus wants. And his foundation is love.

Jesus says "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." Love is like that. It's not something heavy, that's imposed. It's not rule-keeping, or trying to look good on the outside. It's something that flows right from the very core of our being, and brings life to us and to others. Our values, we hope, encourage this sort of life and discipleship. We hope it helps us become the people God's called us to, and more able to accomplish the work he's given us.

So take a look through, we hope our values resonate with you as well. Perhaps it's the start of a conversation, or perhaps it's the start of an adventure together—as a church family.



King's Church[®]
Eastbourne

LOVE JESUS • LOVE EASTBOURNE • LOVE OUR WORLD

WE LOVE _____ THE BIBLE

LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

BASED ON THE BIBLE—GOD'S WORD

The Bible was written by forty different people over 1500 years, and yet forms one unified story that all leads to Jesus, who is God himself. Getting to know the Bible means getting to know the incredible good-news message of Jesus which leads us to eternal life.

IN NEED OF AN UPDATE?
A FLAWED, HUMAN WORK?
OLD + IRRELEVANT?
INSPIRATION FOR FRIDGE MAGNETS?
OR
THE VERY WORDS OF GOD?

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

To quote the Bible itself, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible claims to be the very words of God, and Jesus treated it as such. So like him, we believe the Bible is our very highest authority, that it's inerrant and its words have power. And while the Bible challenges us in so many ways, it does so to bring life, to connect us to our Father who doesn't just have love, but is love.

* INCAPABLE
OF BEING
WRONG

Not all of the Bible is easy to read or easy to understand. Which is why we give ourselves to study, to discussion, to asking questions and to teaching through its pages. So many things are in constant change... like culture, the economy, relationships or even our own health. In the midst of all of this, it's so good to have a solid rock which we can hold on to. The Bible is for all people, for all cultures, and for all time.

We love God and we love his Bible, and everything in us wants to live a life of faith and obedience to it.



WE LOVE _____ GOD'S SPIRIT

WALKING DAILY IN THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is so important to us. So often we try to live life in our own strength, relying on our own abilities, gifts and talents to see things through. But there's a better way—one that expresses faith and admits that we ourselves are not enough—to pursue God and seek his help every day. We're meant to follow Jesus, to walk with God.

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” (1 Cor 3:16). The moment Jesus died on the cross the temple curtain was torn in two. No longer were we physically separated from God. No longer was his presence here on earth confined to one place, with such limited access. As flawed and as human as we are, God now chooses to live *within us*, and it's all because of Jesus.

The Bible tells us we “are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18). The more we let God's Spirit work in us, the more we look and sound like Jesus, and the more we are able to do his work his way.

*“The Spirit of God within me is a Person!
I am only an earthen vessel, but in
that earthen vessel I carry a treasure
of unspeakable worth, even the
glory of God”
- Watchman Nee,
The Normal Christian Life.*

As flawed and as human as we are, God now chooses to live within us, and it's all because of Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples that “it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come”. In Acts 2, after Jesus returns to heaven, we see the Spirit fall in a dramatic and powerful way on this small group of believers. On the day of Pentecost the church exploded, and has been growing ever since. Followers of Jesus, filled with God's Spirit, now encompass the globe.

We want the Holy Spirit to drive our church, to drench our church, and be a part of everything that we do. We also want to get to know the Holy Spirit, not as a force but as a person who impacts our lives and equips us for God's work here in Eastbourne and beyond.



watch online

www.kings.church/teaching/we-love-the-holy-spirit

WE LOVE _____ WORSHIP

EXPRESSING A LIFE OF INTIMACY WITH GOD BY

WORSHIPPING HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

Worship is not something that is reserved for Christians. All people worship because all people have been created by God to love. It has been said “you are what you love”—that the orientation of your heart has a huge influence over everything you say and do; and in fact, who you are. Worshipping God transforms us, as it sets the direction of our hearts. We gradually become more and more like the One we love.

→ a fantastic book by
Christian philosopher
JK Smith.

WHO WE LOVE IS WHO WE WORSHIP
AND WHO WE WORSHIP IS WHO WE SHALL BECOME
WITHOUT WHOM WE COULDN'T
EVEN SAY 'JESUS IS LORD'
AND BELIEVE IT (1 COR 12:3)

→ JESUS!

Worshipping God transforms us, as it sets the direction of our hearts.

Worship is more than singing, it's the entire way we live our lives. Acts of service, of generosity, of patience and taking time to talk and listen—acts like these all happen because of our desire to be like Jesus.

Jesus says in John 4 that “true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” Worship is tied in deeply

with the work of the Holy Spirit, and our love of the truth revealed through Scripture. This is why it's so powerful to gather together and sing truth, to hear God's word, to encourage and build up one another; to serve each other and be united around the table of communion.

All of this is worship, all of this helps transform us into the likeness of Jesus when he takes first place in our hearts.

And we, who with unveiled faces contemplate
the Lord's glory, are being transformed
into his image with ever-increasing glory,
which comes from the Lord,
who is the Spirit.
2 cor 3:18

watch online

www.kings.church/teaching/we-love-worship

WE LOVE _____ PRAYER

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER TO FUEL

ALL WE DO AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Prayer is how we connect with our Father and listen to his voice. It takes faith to pray—it involves something deliberate that can feel unnatural—we have to pause, to stop what we're doing and take time out to be present with the One who can do all things.

"As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray" - Martin Luther

"...crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:15-16)

Jesus models this lifestyle even in the midst of his busiest times. In Luke 5 we read that "crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Instead of being swept along by crowds and success and the needs of others, he withdraws. He finds some time and space, and tunes into his Father's voice. When we're recharged and reconnected, it helps us discern what God's called us to. It also gives us the strength to do it.

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, nothing." John 15:5

*MATTHEW 7:21-23
IS A STRONG
REMINDER!*

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about God—the great Creator of the universe—is that he wants to spend and enjoy time with us. He's called us to *relationship*, to know us one-to-one. In John 10 Jesus says "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." To keep following Jesus we must take time to listen.



watch online

www.kings.church/teaching/we-love-prayer

WE LOVE _____ COMMUNITY

DEMONSTRATING THE LOVE OF GOD IN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIFE TOGETHER

Community is at the heart of everything we are as a church. To love God, we need to love each other. As Jesus says in John 13 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” This love is a key witness to the world around us that our faith is real. ★

“...the cave has no answers. Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship.”

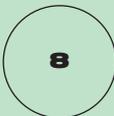
We love community because it reflects who God is. We love community because it strengthens and encourages us; it sanctifies and makes us more like Jesus. And we love community because Jesus is coming back, and it's a taste of eternity. Hebrews 10 makes it clear that we cannot follow Jesus on our own. As Max Lucado says in his book Fearless:

“Questions can make hermits out of us, driving us into hiding. Yet the cave has no answers. Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess, and pray, Christ speaks.”

God has never existed alone. He has always been in relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the first community, and when you consider that we are made in God's image, it's not surprising that community is something we were created for, and something we need.

It's not always easy. Sometimes it's tricky and sometimes it's tough. But we're so glad Jesus didn't give up on us, despite how difficult we all can be. The more we love Jesus the more we'll reflect his heart for walking in relationship with others.

*“Christ works in us through all sorts of ways, but above all he works on us through each other.”
C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*



watch online

www.kings.church/teaching/we-love-community

WE LOVE _____ DISCIPLESHIP

PURSuing CHRIST-LIKE MATURITY IN OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Jesus tells us in the Great Commission “to go and make disciples of all nations”. A disciple isn’t just someone who attends, who’s signed up to be part of a crowd. It’s someone who is changed forever through an encounter with Jesus. It’s someone who’s ruined for this world and is totally devoted to God.

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”
Matt 8: 19-20*

**Jesus said “if you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”
(John 8:31-32)**

The day you gave your life to Jesus you became a disciple. There’s actually no other type of Christian—it’s an identity, not an event, and is something that’s ongoing. It’s a continual process of growth and change as we gradually look more and more like Jesus.

Jesus said “if you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32

Discipleship involves hearing Jesus’ teaching through the Bible. It involves believing it, and following through in action. In this we all need help—we need each other. This is why we give time to things like teaching and discussion, to developing relationships, to groups and prayer. They all create a framework for discipleship, for understanding the truth of the gospel, and how to work it out in practice.

Jesus’ teaching wasn’t just words, it was action as well.* He did and he taught. Which is why modelling what we teach is so important, and why discipleship involves acts of encouragement and exaltation; of admonition and of generosity and kindness.

** Acts 1
... “Jesus began to do and teach”*



watch online
www.kings.church/teaching/we-love-discipleship

WE LOVE _____ MISSION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IN ACTIONS AND WORDS

Mission is something we're engaged with on multiple levels: as individuals, as a church, and as part of our wider family of churches.

As individuals we are all called to witness, and a witness is simply someone who tells people what they know and what they've experienced. We don't have to be able to explain everything—just the good news and our own story. Thankfully it's not up to us to convince or persuade or make someone else's decision for them, because new life is a work of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:3) and following Jesus requires people to truly believe for themselves.

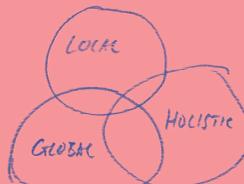
*SOME OF US HAVE GONE ALL
OVER THE WORLD*



As a church in Eastbourne we've always had a great desire to serve and reach local people. We've done this in all sorts of ways over the years, like ministries to the poor, to the vulnerable, to children, teens and families. Through the creative arts, outreach events and Alpha courses. We've done it through community and groups, through technology and online projects, and through volunteering in some amazing charities that run outside of Kings. Different seasons involve different things but the same heart drives them all: we want to use every means possible to proclaim the gospel.

While being sold-out for Eastbourne, it's important to expand our vision to something bigger. **As part of our New Ground and Newfrontiers family of churches** we have a shared desire to be caught up in global, apostolic and kingdom mission. This is expressed through church plants, ministries and projects where we can do much more together than we can apart.

**“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)**



- JESUS' ONGOING MISSION*
- PREACHING + SHARING THE GOOD NEWS
 - HEALING THE SICK
 - HELPING THE POOR
 - MAKING DISCIPLES
 - WELCOMING THE MARGINALISED
 - SETTING PEOPLE FREE

WE LOVE _____ STEWARDSHIP

MANAGING OUR RESOURCES WISELY; GIVING

GENEROUSLY OF OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE

We want to steward everything we have, considering God in it all. Our time, talents and treasure are things God has given to each of us in differing measures, which often change through the seasons and stages of life.

This goes against the grain of the capitalism and private ownership of our culture. Yet what we're called to is far bigger and far more exciting...

*THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT
PSALM 118:24*

Time: every day that we wake up with breath in our lungs is a gift from God, and one to rejoice in. Even the time taken to read this is an investment. Time is an incredible gift that we can do a lot with, and is something we seek to steward well.

Talents: each of us has been created and crafted by God as an individual. The specific mix of abilities you've been given is something no one else has. We want to take time to develop these talents, and use them to bring glory to God.

Treasure: we all have some possessions and some financial resources. Perhaps we've used our time and talents to obtain them in great measure. Yet everything we have is still a gift, and we want to invest them well.

All of life is a gift, and one that is totally dependent on Jesus who "holds all things together". This goes against the grain of the capitalism and private ownership of our culture. Yet what we're called to is far bigger and far more exciting. We're here to build a Kingdom that never ends, that can never fail, and will outlast anything we can obtain in this life. When we really give and steward well—and are even prepared to lose ourselves*—we make the type of investment that has incredible returns. ^{COLLOSSIANS 1:17} ^{MATTHEW 10:39}

Play up for yourselves, treasures do not

watch online

www.kings.church/teaching/we-love-stewardship



*treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust destroys
Matt 6:20*

WE LOVE _____ DIVERSITY



A RECONCILED CHURCH, UNITED AS FAMILY,

FULL OF UNEXPECTED FRIENDSHIPS

Diversity is about huge realities. It witnesses to the world of how the death and resurrection of Jesus has united people from every tribe, culture and tongue. It speaks of forgiveness, of reconciliation and healing in overcoming turbulent histories. It speaks of equality with all members of equal importance in one body, and it also reveals the expansive creativity of our Father, who loves his people from all corners of the earth, from all times, with all their distinctive qualities, characteristics and colour.

We have been woven together into Christ's body, the global Church which spans the centuries.

We have been woven together into Christ's body, the global Church which spans the centuries. Revelation 7:9 gives us a glimpse into our future as "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb".

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free"
1 Cor 12:12-13

Philippians 3:20 Hebrews 13:14

Our identity is first and foremost as Christians, as citizens of heaven and the city which is to come. Our hope here at King's is that we would increasingly represent God's Kingdom here on earth, with all it's different facets, shining light in all directions, reaching many different people groups with the good news.



But we also realise there's work to be done. There are still historic divisions and divides that need healing and our heart is to journey through them, becoming an increasingly reconciled church—one that moves beyond the celebration of our differences—and celebrates how Jesus has brought us together through the cross.

The gospel has brought us into tremendous freedom—free from conforming to cultural norms and expectations. In this we must ensure our cultures do not become a barrier to fellowship, but are a valuable contribution to the developing and growing body of Christ. So take some time to look around, step out of your comfort zone, and make some unexpected friendships.

So what's next?

So there we have it—nine of our values that underpin the way we seek to build church and do life together. The ultimate foundation is of course Jesus, his death and resurrection and the amazing hope this brings to all of us, including those outside our walls who've never yet heard the Good News.

This booklet, in many respects, is just scratching the surface of what we believe and why. The life following Jesus is all-encompassing. It's huge—there's so many aspects and facets to it. Which is why we never run out of material in the Bible to explore and teach, to study and discuss. So if you have questions, if there's things that are really important to you, we would love to chat.

JOINING THE CHURCH *family*

A great place to do just this is our 'Joining the Church Family' course. It's for both new and seasoned Christians. It's a place to explore our vision, culture and values; to meet our leaders and ask questions. And if all of this does resonate with you, we would love you to join our family and become partners in the gospel together. Head to the Connect Point on a Sunday morning or visit www.kings.church/joining and fill out the form.

GROUPS

If you want to jump straight into the heart of our community life, find all our groups listed online at www.kings.church/groups where you can also sign up. Groups are where we foster friendships, grow in faith, eat food, discuss the Bible, encourage one another and pray.

SERVING

What makes our church work is not a few key leaders at the front. It's everyone working together, using their talents, their time, their energy. God's kingdom advances through all of us, so to get stuck in, and to meet even more of our church, head to www.kings.church/teams

GIVING

Giving honours God, blesses the community and resources the church. It's also one of the most exciting things in life as we see God pour out his generosity and provision to us time and time again. Head to www.kings.church/give to join the adventure.



JOINING THE CHURCH *family*

Explore our vision, culture and values.
Discover your place.

Our Joining the Church Family course is for both new and seasoned Christians, and for anyone who hasn't yet explored what being a member of King's means. It's a chance to meet the leaders, to ask questions and find out what we believe. And we hope you make some great friends along the way.

We run a course each term. To find out more about Joining the Church Family, head to the Connect Point on a Sunday morning, or fill out the form at

www.kings.church/joining

