

Core Values

If you boiled down our church to its basic elements, what would you have? Here is the heart, the substance, the nine core values of the Grace Brethren Church of Millersburg:

We are Committed to Relevant Bible Exposition. We believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, the authoritative and trustworthy rule of faith and practice for all Christians (2 Tim. 3:16). The Bible is both timeless and timely, relevant to the common needs of all people at all times, and to the specific problems of contemporary life. *Therefore*, we are committed to equipping Christians, through preaching and teaching of God's Word, to follow Christ in every area of life.

We are Committed to Prayer. We believe that God desires his people to pray, and that He hears and answers prayer (Matt. 7:7-11; James 5:13-18). *Therefore*, the ministries and activities of this church will be characterized by a reliance on prayer in their conception, planning, and execution.

We are Committed to Family and Fellowship. We are committed to the importance of marriage (Gen. 2:20-24; Mark 10:6-9) and the family (Deut. 5:16; Prov. 4:3-5). We also believe that the Bible presents the local church as a place where we treat each other with honor and respect, just like family members (1 Tim. 5:1-2). *Therefore*, we make fellowshiping together a priority in family and church settings as a means of

moving toward spiritual maturity (Phil. 2:1-2; 1 John 1:3-7).

We are Committed to Joy. God's Word clearly tells us that we are to be a people characterized by joy, no matter what the circumstances of life (Phil. 4:4; Ps. 28:7). *Therefore*, we will purposely seek to infuse every ministry of our church with rejoicing, and we will encourage every attendee to live out a life of joy -- at church, at home, and at work.

We are Committed to Excellence. We believe that the God who saved us deserves the very best that we have to offer. The Lord Himself is a God of excellence (Ps. 150:2); likewise, He gave the very best that He had to give -- His own Son Jesus Christ -- for us (Rom. 8:32). Believers are to work "with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Col. 3:23). *Therefore*, all ministries of the Millersburg Grace Brethren Church will seek to maintain a high standard of excellence to the glory of God (Phil. 4:8). This will be achieved when every person is exercising their God-given spiritual gift to the best of their ability (1 Cor. 12).

We are Committed to Ministry by Everyone. We believe that the primary responsibility of the pastor, elders, and teachers in the local church is to "prepare God's people for works of service" (Eph. 4:12). *Therefore*, the ministry of Millersburg Grace Brethren Church will be placed as much as possible in the hands of non-vocational workers. This will be accomplished through training opportunities and through practices which

encourage lay involvement -- leadership, responsibility, and authority in the various ministries of the church.

We are Committed to Creativity and Innovation. In today's rapidly changing world, forms and methods must be continually evaluated, and if necessary, modified to fit new conditions (1 Chron. 12:32). *Therefore*, while proven ministries will not be discarded on a whim, we encourage creativity and innovation, flexibility and adaptability. We are more interested in effectiveness in ministry (1 Cor. 16:9) than with adherence to mere tradition (Isa. 29:13-14).

We are Committed to Outreach. We are totally committed to the intentional pursuit of lost and unchurched people with the saving message of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 19:10). *Therefore*, we will explore every opportunity, as individuals and as a church body, to make God's Word relevant and available to the people in Millersburg and our home communities, in Holmes County, the State of Ohio, and throughout the world (Acts 1:8). We will consciously seek to develop men and women for ministry as godly servant-leaders, ministers, and missionaries. It is our desire to not only support missions, but to actively send missionaries of our own as representatives of Jesus Christ (Acts 13:1-3).