

City Life Track – Part 3



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CITY CHURCH HALIFAX - OUR CORE VALUES

Jesus

We value Jesus as the Son of God. He is at the centre of everything we do as a church, it all comes back to Christ.

The Bible

We value the Word of God and its transforming power. In these changing times we believe that the Bible remains the one constant that is practical, applicable, timeless and true.

Prayer

We value prayer as our first response not our last resort. Together we faithfully seek God first, trusting in His power alone to create lasting impact in our lives, our church and our world.

All Generations

We value the family. We celebrate all generations and acknowledge that each is essential in the Kingdom of God. We honour those who have gone before us and empower those who are following.

Community

We value community and the sense of belonging that comes from choosing to do life together. We are one church, represented by many nations reflecting the beautiful diversity of our city.

Honour

We value honour as the core of our church culture and community. We love and honour God with our worship, our committed service, and our generous living.

Creativity

We are created in the image of God and we are His most creative work reflecting Him to the world.

OUR MISSION

What We Do

To love God and love people while leading them to become fully devoted followers of Christ. (Based on the following two scriptures)

The Great _____: *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

The Great _____: *“Jesus said, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

OUR VISION

How We Do It

*** The church we see keeps _____.**

We’re not a church content to stay who we are. We have a Holy dissatisfaction. There’s always more in Him.

*“...the righteous shall MOVE onward and forward; those with pure hearts shall become stronger and stronger. **Job 17:9** (TLB)*

We see a church where every member is a minister. Young and old, equipped as disciples and serving on teams; “WE” not “ME.” Everyone using their God given gifts and abilities to serve our Creator and one another.

We celebrate our differences, yet we are of the same family, we are the body of Christ together. We see a church of dreamers and doers filled with faith, ready to risk our comfort for the cause of the Kingdom.

We want to reach people for Jesus Christ and bring Hope to the hopeless.

* **The church we see** _____.

Sometimes we need to stir ourselves up to truly demonstrate what He's done in our lives.

We see a Spirit empowered church that knows how to celebrate and passionately worship God. Through music, drama, dance; using the arts to convey the Gospel. We want City Church to be encouraging, exciting and full of life.

We see a church that is extravagant in generosity toward God and one another.

* **The church we see is** _____ **and** _____.

May God helps us to always be a church that is cheering on and supporting the next generation, and may they always know that we're in their corner.

We see a church filled with children who are the church of today, not the church of tomorrow.

We see a church filled with honour, where the wisdom of one generation and the passion of the next are both celebrated in one place.

* **The church we see is** _____.

Your mission field could be on the other side of the ocean or the other side of your fence? We see a church **BIG enough** to reach a world, but **SMALL enough** to feel like home.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

We love our community, our city, our nation, and the nations of the world and it is reflected in how we plan, deploy our resources, and pray.

WHAT CAN I DO?

The most valuable way you can participate in reaching out is to engage in all three of these.

1. _____ - *“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”* Matthew 9:37-38
2. _____ - *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ He said, ‘Go and tell this people.’”* Isaiah 6:8-9
3. _____ - *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV 1984)

“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.” Haggai 2:9

WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET AND A LIFE BY WHAT WE _____!

“Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity!” 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB)

AREAS OF GIVING

1. Give of our _____

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:15-16 (NASB)

2. Give of our _____

“If your gift is... giving, give generously.” Romans 12:8 (NLT)

“And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” Mark 12:17

3. Give of our _____

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” I Corinthians 12:4-6

4. Give _____

“We are Christ’s ambassadors” (2Corinthians 5:20).

Jesus encourages us to share our faith with others.

BENEFITS OF GIVING

1. Giving draws us _____ to God.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

2. Giving is the remedy to _____

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous rich and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” | Timothy 6:17-19

3. Giving strengthens our _____

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing.” Proverbs 3:5,9-10

“Give and it will be given to you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38

4. Giving is an investment in _____

“earth below... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
Acts 2:17-21

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY IS:

1. _____

“For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one doesn’t have.” 2 Corinthians 8:12

2. _____

The Greek word “Makarios” (mak-ar’-ee-os) is often translated “blessed” in the Bible, but it literally means “happy.” We are supposed to enjoy giving.

“...for God loves a cheerful giver!” 2 Corinthians 9:7b

“...it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32

3. _____

“They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service.” 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

4. _____

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously also will reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;” Proverbs 3:9

“They gave themselves first to the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 8:5

WHAT’S NEXT?

Giving money seems understandable but what about your personal talents, abilities and giftings?

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The discovery of _____ is the discovery of YOU!

MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY!

S - _____ Question: What are you gifted for?

H - _____ Question: What do you love to do?

A - _____ Question: What are my natural skills?

P - _____ Question: Where does my personality
best suit me to serve?

E - _____ Question: Where does my experience
best suit me to serve?

This is the privilege we all have – to serve one another and make a difference.

Jesus said, *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"* (John 15:8,11).

Notice this isn't just a command from the Lord; it's a recipe for joy.

Many look for joy in money, physical pleasure, material things, etc. Here is another thought... what about making a difference for eternity?

“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” (1 Peter 4:10 NLT).

The world says look out for yourself, but God tells us to give.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” Matthew 5:43

“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25 NLT).

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

In basketball, is it Jordan or LeBron? In the NFL, is it Montana or Brady? What about the Spiritual?

Matthew 23:11 *“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”*

1. A servant puts _____ over status.

“Do no thing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

2. A servant puts _____ over comfort.

Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan in Luke 10. We are supposed to do what’s right, not what’s convenient or easy.

3. A servant puts “ _____ ” over “ _____ .”

“All the believers were together and had everything in common” (Acts 2:44).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In addition to growing intellectually and physically, Jesus grew “*in favor with God and man*” (Luke 2:52.) This kind of growth implies we’re designed to change and grow through our relationships.

We should never stop growing spiritually.

If we’re not growing, then we’re resigning ourselves to stagnation, apathy and a diminished life. There is always more room to grow.

Here are some examples of questions you may ask yourself:

1. **FAITH LIFE:** How is my relationship with God?
2. **MARRIAGE LIFE:** How is my relationship with my spouse?
3. **FAMILY LIFE:** How are my relationships with children and immediate family?
4. **OFFICE LIFE:** How are my relationships with co-workers?
5. **COMPUTER LIFE:** Do I spend too much time there?
6. **MINISTRY LIFE:** Where can I give more?
7. **FINANCIAL LIFE:** How can I make things better?
8. **SOCIAL LIFE:** Do I have close friendships?
9. **ATTITUDE:** What has my attitude been lately?
10. **CREATIVE LIFE:** Am I living the dreams? Learning? Writing? Experiencing?
11. **TRAVEL LIFE:** How do I balance time away from home and church?
12. **PHYSICAL LIFE:** Am I taking care of my body?

Where do you believe you need to grow more?