

VISION FORWARD



KEEP PACE WITH THE SPIRIT

This short post was originally intended to be a video. However, we were hosting the local YMCA kids summer camp at the time. All the fun they were having was right outside my office window. So in *keeping pace* with the day, I began writing instead.

I've been told that I'm a fast walker. I can get ahead of people, which means either they have to keep pace with me or I have to *keep pace* with them.

In the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul writes about the fruit of the Holy Spirit. These are the character traits, the desires, the affections of Jesus himself. He comes to live and abide within us by the Spirit. Since, Paul says, it is the Spirit that gives us this new life, it is also the Spirit that directs or *sets the pace* for this new life. (Galatians 5:22-25)

So if the life of Jesus and the fruit of the Spirit are going to be manifest and evident in us, we must walk in the Spirit. We must stay in step with the Spirit. We must *keep pace* with the Spirit.

One of the pictures here is that of marching in order, in a row or line. Sometimes when driving, I get stuck behind a slow driver. I peek around the side to see if I can pass them. I don't want to keep their pace!

We must learn to keep pace with the Spirit. Whether we feel He's going too fast or too slow, we must learn to go His speed. We must follow the Leader.

I recently told Alissa I was going to the gym to work on my double under's. She started saying, "You should watch the video that"—I interrupted with, "I know what I need to do."

The Spirit often begins saying to us, “You should spend a few minutes in prayer...” “You should spend some time reading the Bible...” “You should ask your wife to forgive you...” “You should write a note to your daughter...” “You should rest...” But we interrupt, “I know what I need to do.”

Learning, knowing, and feeling what it is to keep pace at all times in the different areas of your life is critical to the overall quality of your life. Whether in your finances, relationships, work, health, etc..

The Holy Spirit in His perfect knowledge and leadership of us knows what we need. If we can learn to keep pace with Him, step in step and in line with Him, He is sure to lead us to Jesus. Into the life of Jesus. Into living the best kind of life there is.

NEW LEADERSHIP VALUES

I am very excited to introduce to you our new and proposed Elim Grace Leadership Values. Over the past few months I’ve been working with the elders and going through a process of distilling leadership values that are unique and important to us. The process has been one pursued from the inside out. We haven’t looked outside Elim Grace for what we THINK would make good leadership values. Rather, we have looked inside and have asked the question, “Who do we think is ALREADY leading well in Elim Grace? And WHY do we think that about them?”

So here is the summation of all we have discussed. We have identified 7 leadership values (each with a brief working description) that we hope represent the unique culture of leadership God is building here:

Elim Grace leaders (are those who):

1. *Worship Jesus freely* - they easily and freely enter into worship during our services, are not those who stand back and look around disinterested but lead the way
2. *Fight For Unity* - they kill gossip, won’t slander, speak the truth in love, keep each other accountable, are men and women of character, defend one another
3. *Serve With A Smile* - they easily and freely serve, are easy to work with, are a delight and joy to be around, don’t grumble and complain
4. *Look To Learn* - they are lifelong learners, creative, are part of the solution not the problem

5. *Move To Act* - not afraid to fail or to experiment, think inside the box (within the constraints and limits of our time, knowledge, and resources), chase excellence not perfection

6. *Come First And Stay Last* - (not literal!) they are available, take initiative, shoulder responsibility, are quick to respond to needs, go the second mile

7. *See And Seek The Harvest* - see the vision and seek the harvest God has called us to, have a prophetic passion and insight, have a fire to reach the lost, they rally others to join them

Among other things, we believe these values will help accomplish two very important things:

1) By having a set of leadership values to point to, we will be able to *hold each other accountable*, keeping our leadership culture healthy and strong

2) By having a set of leadership values we aspire to, we will be able to *identify new* current and future leaders within Elim Grace

I have submitted these 7 leadership values to our broader Elim Grace Leadership Team for their prayer and feedback. The goal is to finalize and officially roll them out in 2020.

OUR PRAYER TARGETS

Our September prayer targets are:

- 1) *To behold the Lamb* - to know Jesus, “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. To stand in his presence can be like “standing in the fire.” We are purified as gold.
- 2) *To keep pace with the Spirit* (see above)
- 3) *To treasure the Word of God* - If the Bible is a text book, I can just read it. But if it is the living word of God, then I must have a relationship with it.

These three things represent a getting back to the fundamentals of our discipleship. They are the basic, daily disciplines on which our entire Christian life depends.