

“SHARPEN YOUR AX”

MSC Core Values

1. *Loving God*

Our primary priority is to teach and lead people to develop a passionate, loving and personal relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit based on the truths of the Bible.

2. *Being a Loving Community of Believers*

As a demonstration of our love for God, we purpose to cultivate and demonstrate personal, loving committed relationships with the members of our church family.

3. *Sharing God’s Love with Others*

We share the heart of God, that he loves people and has given us the privilege and responsibility to proclaim his message of salvation through Jesus Christ to the people in our community and the world.

THE MAIN THING (Ecc. 10:10)

- Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself (Mk. 12:28-34).
- This command is given to represent what our natural response should be to a God who loves us. Love begins with God. “If this relationship is not right, nothing in your life will be in order” (Blackaby).
- An brief Old Testament overview;
 - God reveals His glory (Ex. 34:6-7).
 - God’s covenant of faithful, unending love (mentioned over 100 times in the Psalms).
 - God’s history of love (Jer. 31:3; Lam. 3:22).
 - His love does not change (Is. 54:10).
 - God’s forgiving love (Joel 2:12-14).
 - God’s redemptive love (Jer. 33:10-11).

LOVING GOD

- Love God with all your heart – your innermost self and thoughts.
 - This has to do with the motives of your heart.
- Love God with all your soul – your thoughts and emotions and will.

- This has to do with what you give your life to.
- Love God with all your mind – understanding, reasoning and thinking.
 - This has to do with thought life and decision-making.
- Love God with all your strength – with all you are capable of.
 - This has to do with passion and commitment.
- Loving God is the most important work of your life. *This is the foremost thing God wants from you!*

HOW WE LOVE GOD

- We must pursue knowing Him, who He is. This must be an ongoing pursuit.
 - Jesus is the full revelation of who God is (Jn. 14:9; Heb. 1:3).
 - You cannot respond in love to someone you don't really know.
 - God loves you ... what does that mean to you?
 - It must be personal revelation and understanding.
- We must come to know Him as "Lord."
 - He is the leader and we are the follower. He knows the way, we don't. He knows what is best, we don't. He is God, we are not.
 - Give Him the title-deed to your life (2Cor. 5:15).
- We must believe, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right" (2Tim. 3:16).
 - Love convicts, corrects and disciplines us for our good.
 - When we obey His Word, we are loving Him (Jn 14:21). It says, "I trust and believe what You say is out of your heart of love for me."

A NEW YEAR

- A new year can be a good time to sharpen your ax.
- Let this be a year when you commit to pursue knowing God's love and growing in love for Him.
 - Let the "greatest commandment" become your greatest goal for 2012.