

# CORE VALUES PRACTICUM

## DEFINING YOUR CORE VALUES

### 1. Identifying Core Values

- Read *Acts 2:42-47*. Identify the Core Values and behaviors in the passage.

### 2. List 4-7 Core Values that most describe YOU.

### 3. Evaluate your List for completeness and “disconnects” between professed and actual. (Read *Acts 2:42-47*)

### 4. Questions to help you assess the integrity of your core values:

- If the church were really the church, what would it be doing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What makes you angry about the church?

- What in the church makes you passionate?
- How do you invest your time and money?
- What's your biggest criticism of the church?
- For what do you want your church to be known?

- What are the essential functions of the church?

## CRACKING THE CODE

*Used with permission from Kevin Ford, The Transforming Church, (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale/SaltRiver, 2007) Pg.78-79*

A good leader is a good detective. A church discovers its code in much the same fashion as a team of crime-scene investigators break a case. Start with the obvious clues, and often through intuitive leaps, you can work yourself into deeper levels of defining motives. To understand how to crack a church's code, leaders must understand the process of how a church expresses its personality. I have found it helpful to imagine expanding concentric circles. The process of identifying your church's code is not purely linear. Each concentric circle interacts with all of the rest, and different aspects of your code may reveal themselves at different times. But we can note some core principles and tendencies:

- The code is the core of identity, containing the blueprints of genetic makeup and shared experience
- The next four inner levels – values, vision, mission, and strategy – represent conscious intentions to define and unleash code through action.
- The outermost levels – myths, rituals, heroes, décor and architecture – are symbolic expressions of code residing and expressed mostly beyond conscious awareness

At any level the possibility exists for corruption of code. These are the places where dysfunctions will take up residence.



