

This Is Us! 11th May 2025

Core Values 1 – “Introducing Our Christian Identity, Vision And Core Values”

Introduction

We are starting a new series called This is us! These notes focus on our identity, vision and mission. Notes on core values will follow the relevant sermons.

Our identity:

How would you describe your identity – other than being a Christian? What kinds of things have defined you as a person?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. What words and phrases stand out to you about our identity as a Christian? What is the purpose God has called us to?

This is how our identity at SBC has been defined:

Shirley Baptist Church is a community of Christians who live to worship God, to grow in our understanding and experience of God, to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to work for the common good in our community.

What do you like about this statement? Is there anything you would change?

Our vision:

“Mission without vision is drudgery. Vision without mission is fantasy”. Do you have a vision for your life? How would you describe it?

Read John 17:20-21. What excites you about Jesus’ ‘vision’, as it is expressed here in his great prayer?

What other ‘visionary’ verses in the Bible excite you? Here are some examples: Isaiah 25:7-8; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 7:9.

Our vision for Shirley Baptist Church is to see people:

- *come to **know God** through Jesus,*
- ***embrace His love** for people,*
- *intentionally **share in His mission** to the world through everyday living and then,*
- ***lead others** into their own experience of God.*

What inspires you about these statements? Is there anything you would change?

Our Mission:

“Mission without vision is drudgery. Vision without mission is fantasy”.

Read Mark 1:38. How did Jesus express his mission in this verse? What other ‘mission’ verses come to mind (see for example, Psalm 145:4-12; Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)?

Our mission is to help each person at Shirley Baptist Church:

- *discover and know God,*
- *build a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus and their fellow believers and,*
- *nurture an outgoing spirit of service and faith sharing,*
- *which leads others into their own life changing encounter with Jesus.*

What do you like about these statements? Is there anything you would change?

Conclusion:

Pray that God will help us keep our identity, vision and mission clear.

Share your thoughts with someone if you are not meeting in a group.