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Strengthen Your Stakes – Core Values

Isaiah 54:2 – "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

Introduction

Core values are the stakes that keep our lives grounded and secure, no matter what storms come.

They provide stability in success and failure—without strong values, we drift with the winds of circumstances.

Just as a tent needs firm stakes to hold it in place, our lives need core values to anchor us.

1. Core Values Define Our Behavior

Ephesians 5:15 – “Be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.”

Our behavior is shaped by what we truly value.

If our values are weak, our actions will be inconsistent.

Question: How do my daily decisions reflect my values?

2. Core Values Keep Us Aligned with Truth

2 Corinthians 13:8 – “For we cannot oppose the truth, but must always stand for the truth.”

The world promotes values like **wealth, power, pleasure, revenge, fame, vanity,** and **status**—but these are fleeting.

God calls us to uphold values that last: truth, integrity, love, humility, and faithfulness.

Question: Are my values shaped by culture or by Christ?

3. Identifying Your Family/Personal Core Values (see resources)

What are the ongoing principles I live by?

Choose 3–5 personal/family core values that keep me grounded:

- Keeps me focused – Prevents distractions.
- Guides my decisions – Helps in tough moments.
- Shapes my legacy – What will I be remembered for?

Self-Reflection:

What stirs righteous anger in me?

What brings me the most frustration or joy?

When I look at my personal timeline, what consistent values do I see reflected?

Which values have I displayed recently?

Which values would others say are true of me?

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4. Strengthen Your Stakes for the Future

As we grow, our stakes must be strengthened—this means being intentional about reinforcing our values.

We don't strengthen our values in comfort but in stretching seasons.

Just as reducing to produce creates capacity for more, letting go of weak values makes room for stronger ones.

Conclusion

Core values are not just words—they are the standard by which we live.

If we want to enlarge our tent (influence, income and impact), we must first strengthen our stakes (core values).

Resources:

- [List of Core Values](#)

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Examples of Core Values in Action

Core values are more than words—they are the foundation that shapes identity, mission, and impact. Whether in a **church, family, or personal life**, values provide clarity and direction.

1. Bridge City Church – Core Values in Mission

At **Bridge City Church**, our mission is clear: "**We Build Bridges to New Life.**"

This mission is upheld by five foundational core values:

- **Spirit-Led** – We follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do.
- **Healing** – We believe in God's power to restore lives and relationships.
- **Generosity** – We give freely, knowing that God is our ultimate provider.
- **Family** – We create a church community where everyone belongs.
- **Unity in Diversity** – We embrace differences, knowing that Christ unites us.

These values guide how we worship, serve, and reach others with the love of Christ.

2. Hedgecoth Family Values – A Foundation for Life

The **Hedgecoth Family** is built on six essential values that guide decisions, relationships, and legacy:

- **Attitude** – A positive and resilient mindset in all situations.
- **Authenticity** – Being real and transparent, living with honesty.
- **Faith** – Trusting God in every season of life.
- **Family** – Prioritizing relationships and loving unconditionally.
- **Generosity** – Giving of time, resources, and love freely.
- **Integrity** – Doing what is right, even when no one is watching.

These values ensure that, through successes and challenges, the family remains strong, purposeful, and grounded in faith.