

Essentials

GROW DEEPER WITH **love** 



God has a plan and purpose for your life—and **Love Essentials** is designed to help you discover what that is!

In this course, you'll learn who we are as a church, uncover your unique purpose, and take steps to get connected so you can make an eternal difference **with love, for love, and through love**.

Love Essentials is your pathway to move from simply attending to truly engaging, serving, and becoming a healthy, thriving member of Love Church.

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OUR PASTORS

The Perry Family

Matt & Brianna

Pastor Matt and Brianna Perry are launching a new church in San Diego called Love Church. A place where anyone, no matter where they have been or what they have done can experience the love of God.

Matt, who was born and raised an hour and a half north in Riverside has felt the call to plant a church since he was eighteen years old. As an eighteen year old Bible college student in Sydney, Australia he heard a message on church planting which sparked his interest to learn more. Through that discovery and prayer it became clear that was his desire to one day start a church in a major city in California. As he moved back to California, he continued his education by obtaining a theology degree, and eventually a masters as well as interning at a church plant called Relevant Church.

It was in that season Matt met Brianna at California Baptist University, Brianna who grew up in Southern San Diego was graduating with her bachelors in Speech and Language Pathology. As she graduated and moved back to San Diego, Matt would spend week after week there and developed a heart for the city. They got married in 2018 and Matt moved to San Diego.

Matt was on staff at Eastlake Church, Cornerstone Church, and launched a campus for Union Church where he developed valuable skills and training to prepare their family for church planting. As they got pregnant with their first child Ava, they began to have conversations with their pastors and it became clear God was leading them back home to Southern California to plant a church in San Diego. That church is called Love Church.



PART 1: WHO WE ARE

The Love Church Story

Love Church was born from a simple but powerful truth. Everyone is searching for love and that love is found in God.

Scripture tells us that God is love, and Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and love people. That is why we exist. No matter your past or your pain, you are deeply loved by God, not because of what you have done, but because of who He is. At Love Church, our heart is to help people encounter that love in a real and life changing way.

What began as a vision in a dorm room on the other side of the world is now unfolding in San Diego, a city full of beauty, opportunity, and people searching for meaning, identity, and belonging. Many people look for love in relationships, success, or approval, but true love is only found in Jesus. That is why we are building a church where love is not just talked about but lived.

From the moment someone walks through our doors, joins a group, or meets us in the community, our prayer is that they would feel seen, known, and loved. Love Church is more than a Sunday gathering. It is a movement of love, changing lives one person at a time.



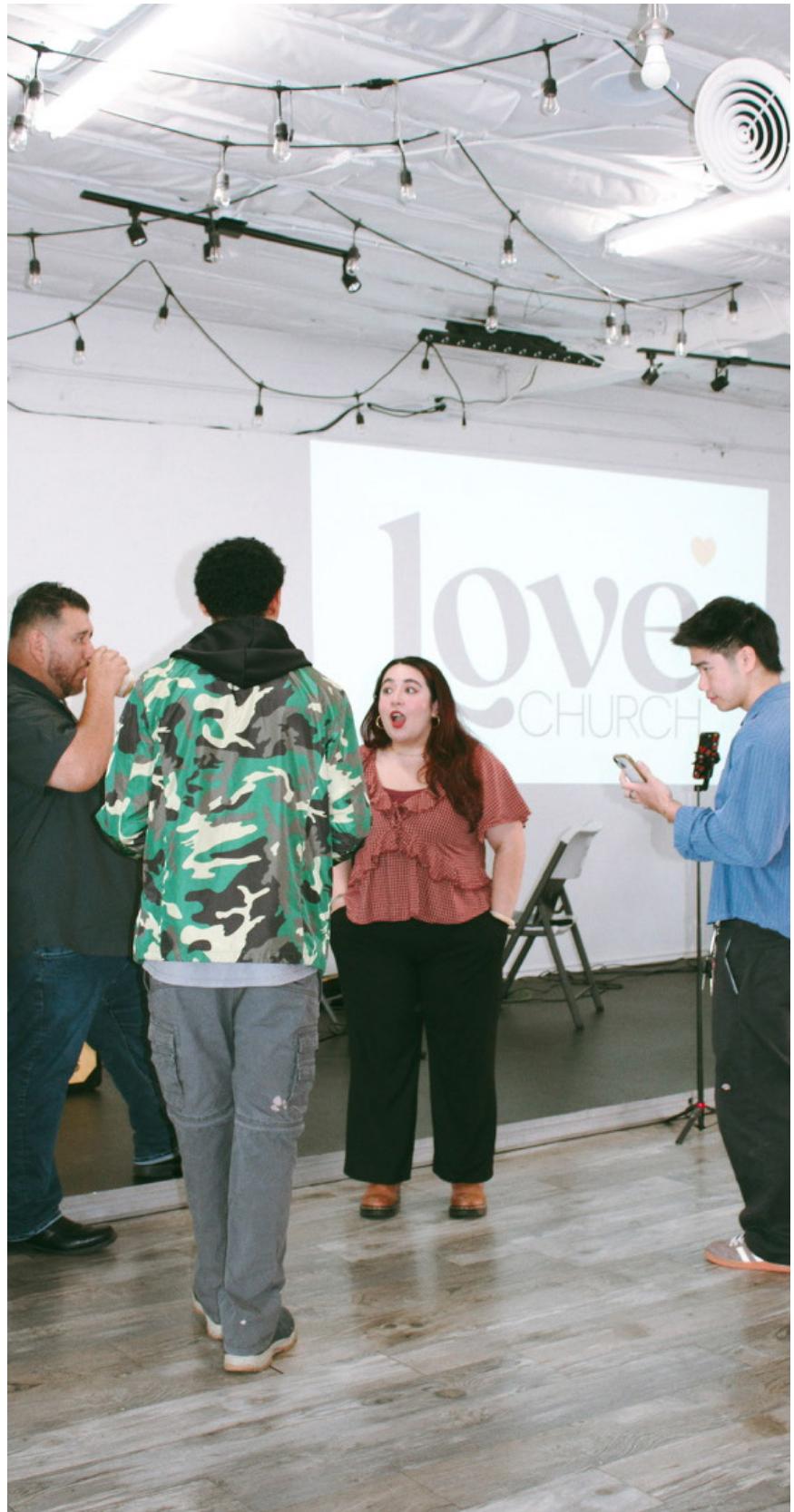
Why Love Church?

A City in Need of Hope

San Diego is an incredible city, but it is also marked by real pain. Poverty, homelessness, addiction, broken families, foster care, mental health struggles, and spiritual disconnection affect thousands of people every day. Behind the beauty and success is a deep longing for healing, belonging, and hope.

We believe Jesus is the answer.

At Love Church, we are passionate about sharing the life giving message of Jesus and meeting real needs with real love. We believe God heals, restores, and transforms lives, and that His light shines brightest in the darkest places. We are committed to loving this city both spiritually and practically, believing God's dream for San Diego is greater than its brokenness.



An aerial photograph of the San Diego skyline and harbor. In the foreground, the aircraft carrier USS Midway is docked at the San Diego Maritime Museum. The city skyline is visible in the background, featuring numerous skyscrapers and the Petco Park stadium. The water of the harbor is a deep blue.

THE CHURCH WE SEE

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR LOVE

That could be Saturday night out at the bars in Gaslamp.

That could be scrolling on their social media.

People are looking for love through **materialism, money or other things** to fill the void in their life.

WE BELIEVE THERE IS A GREATER VIEW OF LOVE THAN ANY OF THESE AND THAT LOVE IS FOUND IN GOD.

The Bible says in **1 John 4, that love comes from God and "...God is love."**

The love that humans were created to experience is found in God.

Love found in God is not earned but given.

We want to create a culture where you are loved from the first experience, not based on your works, or what you can do.

You can not earn the love of God, but are given it.

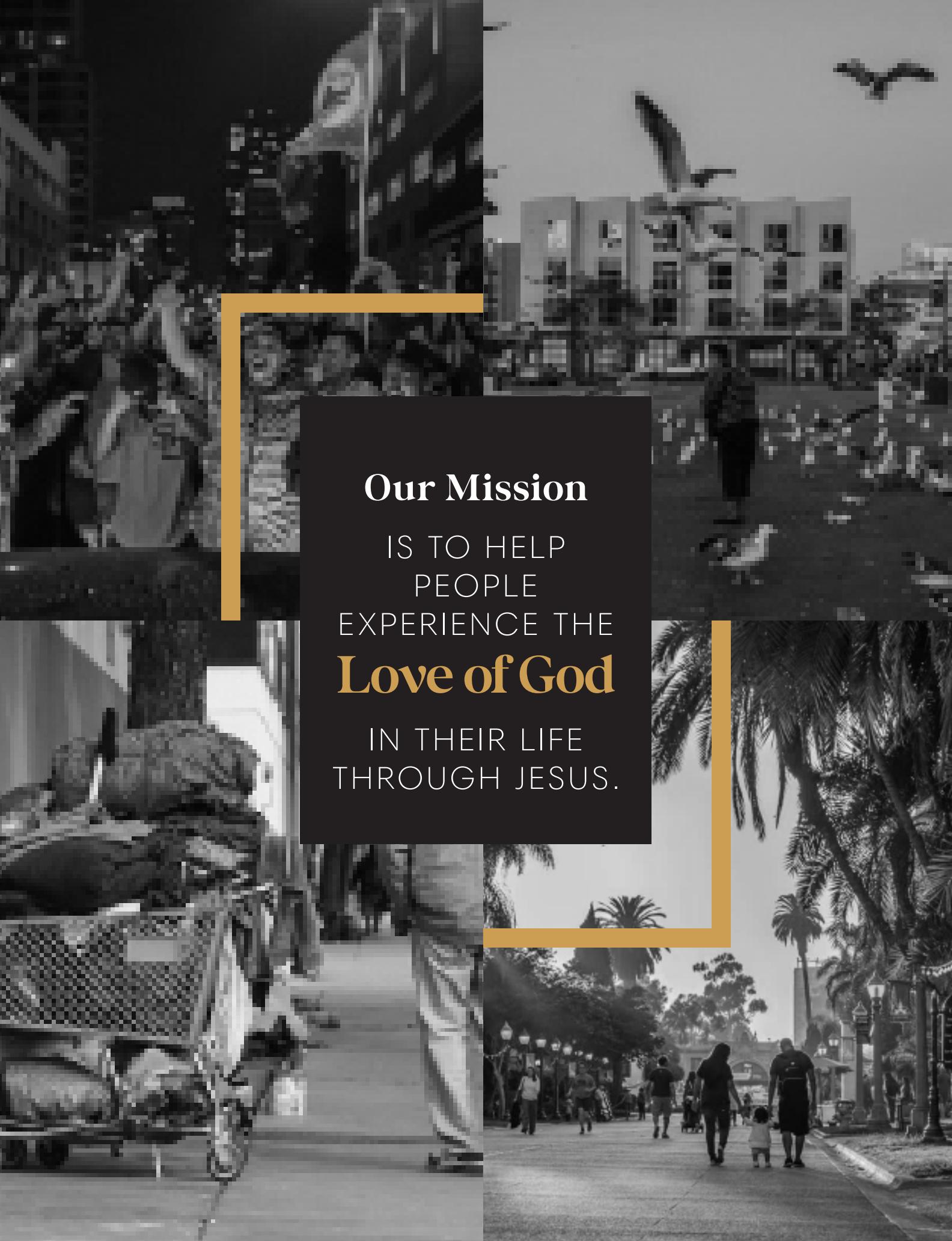
THE CHURCH WE SEE
will **make you feel loved** before you ever walk in the door.

THE CHURCH WE SEE
will **point you to the love of God** in all that we do.

THE CHURCH WE SEE
will not just talk about love, but **live a life of love.**

THE CHURCH WE SEE
will **show love** by being the church in community.

THE CHURCH WE SEE
WILL LIVE LOVE
BY SERVING OUR CITY.



Our Mission
IS TO HELP
PEOPLE
EXPERIENCE THE
Love of God
IN THEIR LIFE
THROUGH JESUS.

Our Vision

TO LOVE,
TRANSFORM
AND SERVE
SAN DIEGO
WITH THE
LOVE OF
GOD.

“
And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

”
Matthew 22:37 - 39

OUR VALUES

At Love Church, our values shape who we are and guide everything we do. They are not just ideals we aspire to—they are the DNA that runs through everything we do, from our Sunday services to our community outreach. These values are the foundation of our culture.

1 Jesus is Our Message

We are a Jesus-centered church. Everything we do points to Him. Our mission is simple: to make His love known to the world and to help people experience the life-changing power of the Gospel. We believe that Jesus is the answer to every question, the solution to every problem, and the source of true hope.

3 Generosity is Our Opportunity

We serve a generous God, and His generosity flows through us. Whether it's our time, our resources, or our love, we are committed to being a generous church. We believe that generosity is not just about finances but about our willingness to give of ourselves for the good of others.

We want to be a church that gives freely, knowing that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

2 People Are Our Heart

We believe that every person matters to God, and because of that, they matter to us. Love Church is a place where everyone is welcome—no matter their past, their struggles, or where they are in their faith journey. We exist to create a home for people to find belonging, healing, and purpose in the family of God. We serve others because that's what Jesus has called us to do.

4 Love is Our Identity

Love is at the core of who we are as a church. When people think of Love Church, we want them to think of love—unconditional, sacrificial, and transformative. Our love for God and others is what drives everything we do. We believe that as we love God with all our heart and love people as He has loved us, we will change the world around us.

HOW WE DO CHURCH AT LOVE CHURCH

OUR FOUR PILLARS

At Love Church, we keep things simple so we can keep the main thing the main thing: loving God and loving people like Jesus.

Everything we do flows out of these four pillars:

LOVE GOD (SUNDAYS)

We encounter God through worship, prayer, teaching, communion, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday is not the finish line of our week — it is the **launching point** into God's purpose for our lives.

We gather to worship with expectation, to receive God's Word with faith, and to respond to God's love with our whole life.

Where God's presence is — anything is possible. When His Word speaks — everything changes. When His Spirit moves — we are transformed.

LOVE PEOPLE (GROUPS)

We believe real growth happens in relationships — not in rows but in living rooms, coffee shops, and around dinner tables.

You weren't made to do life alone.

Love Groups are where we build friendships that encourage, challenge, and walk with us as we follow Jesus in everyday life.

Whether it's Men's Night, Women's Night, Singles Night, or Marriage Night — these aren't events; **they are relational environments designed for discipleship, support, and belonging.**

You belong here — before you believe, before you behave, before you have it all together.

You belong because you are loved.

LOVE CHURCH (SERVING & PURPOSE)

The church is not built on the gifts of a few but on the sacrifice of many.

Every person has a gift.

Every believer has a calling.

Every follower of Jesus has a role in God's story.

Through serving teams, leadership development, and discipleship pathways, we help people discover, develop, and deploy their God-given purpose — inside the church, in the city, and in everyday life.

We don't fill positions — **we release purpose.**

LOVE THE WORLD (MISSION & OUTREACH)

We refuse to stay inside the walls of the church.

Jesus didn't call us to watch the world — He called us to reach the world.

Locally, we serve our city, partner with organizations that bring hope, and meet needs in practical, relational, and spiritual ways.

Globally, we support church planting, missions, and leaders who are taking the message of Jesus to places we may never step foot.

We bring light into darkness, love into brokenness, and hope into hopelessness.

We don't just attend a church — **we are sent by Jesus to change the world with His love.**





A Heart for Discipleship and Evangelism

At Love Church, our heart beats for reaching people and forming disciples.

Jesus did not call us to simply gather attenders. He commanded us to go and make disciples. That means helping people who are far from God find Him and helping believers grow into spiritually mature followers of Jesus.

We believe the church is called to be both wide and deep. Wide enough to welcome people from

every background and story. Deep enough to form disciples whose lives reflect Jesus and bear lasting fruit.

Evangelism is not a personality type. It is obedience to Jesus. It is not just a moment but a mindset. It happens through everyday faithfulness. Conversations over coffee. Invitations to church. Praying with a coworker. Living as a light wherever God has placed us.

Discipleship is more than information. It is transformation. It happens

through Scripture, prayer, community, accountability, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to help people walk with Jesus, become like Jesus, and help others follow Jesus.

We exist to raise everyday followers of Jesus who carry His love into homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and the world. The message of Jesus is too powerful to keep inside the walls of a building.

Tithing and Generosity

At Love Church, we believe generosity is worship and obedience.

Scripture teaches that the tithe, the first ten percent, belongs to God. Giving beyond the tithe is an act of trust that honors Him and grows our faith. Tithing is not payment. It is alignment. It declares that God comes first and that He is our provider.

Generosity builds faith because every time we give, we release control and place our confidence in God. Jesus teaches that when we give, God works in ways that go beyond what we can provide on our own.

Giving also fuels the mission of the church. Every ministry, outreach, and life changing environment exists because people believe in the vision and give faithfully.

We do not give out of pressure. We give out of gratitude.

We do not give to earn God's love. We give because we have received it.

We do not give to maintain a building. We give to advance God's Kingdom.

Our Financial Philosophy

Our approach to finances is rooted in Scripture.

Everything belongs to God, and we are called to steward what He has entrusted to us.

Because God is the owner and we are the stewards, we give first, live open handed, and invest with eternity in mind.

Generosity shapes how we live. Stewardship shapes how we lead.

Financial Integrity and Accountability

Integrity matters to God and to the people who trust the church.

We are committed to transparency, accountability, and biblical leadership. Our church is guided by a leadership team that provides spiritual direction, protected by a financial advisory team that ensures stewardship, and strengthened by trusted overseers who provide external accountability and pastoral care.

This structure protects the vision, the church, the pastors, and the people. We handle money God's way because we are building God's Kingdom, not our own.

The Gospel: The Love That Changes Everything

At the heart of Love Church is a simple and life-changing truth: God loves you.

You were created by God, for God, and to live in relationship with Him. But Scripture tells us that sin separates us from God, not just the big mistakes, but the brokenness in all of us that keeps us from living the life we were created for. No amount of effort, good behavior, or religion can bridge that gap.

That's where Jesus comes in.

God did not wait for us to clean ourselves up. He came to us. Jesus lived the life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again so we could be forgiven, restored, and made new. Through Jesus, we are invited into a relationship with God—not based on performance, but on grace.

Salvation is not something we earn. It

is a gift we receive.

When we turn from our old way of life and place our faith in Jesus, God forgives us, gives us new life, and calls us His sons and daughters. This is the beginning of a transformed life—not a perfect one, but a new one marked by hope, freedom, and purpose.

If you have never made a personal decision to follow Jesus, this is your first and most important step. Before serving, giving, or joining a group, Jesus invites you to know Him.

And if you already follow Jesus, this is the foundation of everything we do. We serve, give, love, and live on mission—not to earn God's love, but because we have received it.

The message of Jesus is not just something we believe.

It is the love that changes everything.



PART 2:

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Our Essential Beliefs

Jesus informs every belief we hold.

If Jesus believed it, lived it, and promised it, we build our lives on it.

Our highest goal is to live, love, and look like Jesus.

Scripture

We believe the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God. It is trustworthy, alive, and applicable to everyday life.

God

We believe the Trinity which is one God who exists eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is loving, holy, and sovereign.

Humanity

We believe people were created in God's image to know Him but were separated by sin and unable to restore that relationship on their own.

Jesus

We believe Jesus is fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life, died in our place, rose again, and is the only way to be reconciled to God.

Salvation

We believe salvation is a gift of grace received through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. It cannot be earned.

The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit lives in every believer, empowers the church, and actively works through spiritual gifts today.

The Church

We believe the church is the body of Christ, called to love God, love people, and share the gospel through community, teaching, and prayer.

Baptism and Communion

We believe baptism is a public declaration of faith in Jesus, and communion is a remembrance of His sacrifice until He returns.

Eternity

We believe Jesus will return, there will be a final judgment, and every person will spend eternity with God or separated from Him based on their response to Christ.





Our Theological Distinctives and Cultural Convictions

We believe heaven and hell are real and eternal.

We believe in the empowering work of the Holy Spirit today.

We believe God still heals, saves, and transforms lives.

We affirm the calling of women in ministry.

We believe Jesus will return and call His church to faithfulness until that day.



Hot Topics and Biblical Convictions

We affirm biblical marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman while extending love, grace, and discipleship to all people.

We believe God created humanity as male and female and that sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage. We commit to teaching biblical truth with compassion, pastoral care, and grace.

We believe all human life is sacred from conception to natural death and is created in the image of God.

For deeper teaching on these topics, scan the QR code to read our full position papers.

Let there be no divisions in the church.
Be united in thought, purpose, and love.



PART 3: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Serving at Love Church

At Love Church, we are **contributors, not consumers.**

There is no bench in the Kingdom of God. Every person matters, every gift matters, and every role plays a part in building what God is doing through His Church.

You were not saved to sit, you were saved to serve.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

— Ephesians 2:10 —

God has uniquely designed you with gifts, passions, and experiences, not by accident, but on purpose. When you serve, you step into what God has already prepared for you, and lives are changed, including yours.

OUR STRATEGY

How Love Church Functions to Fulfill Its Mission

Love Church exists to help people experience the love of God in their life through Jesus.

To do that well, we value clarity, health, and teamwork.

LEADERSHIP LAYERS

We believe people thrive when they know:

- What they are called and gifted to do
- What they are responsible for
- Who they are supported by

Each layer exists to serve the layer below it, develop leaders, and protect unity.

LEAD PASTOR

Responsibility: Set the overall vision and spiritual direction of Love Church

Priorities: Cast vision, preach and teach, develop leaders, and steward the mission

EXECUTIVE & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Responsibility: Steward the vision, oversee multiple ministry areas, assist the Lead Pastor, and develop leaders

Priorities: Vision alignment, leadership development, and strategic execution

PASTORS & DIRECTORS

Responsibility: Lead a ministry area, care for people, develop leaders, and implement vision

Priorities: Shepherd people, build teams, and execute ministry strategy

COORDINATORS (Staff or Volunteer)

Responsibility: Facilitate ministry processes and help teams thrive

Priorities: Train leaders, support team leads, and execute ministry plans

TEAM LEADS

Responsibility: Care for and lead a specific team

Priorities: Recruit, train, and develop servant leaders

TEAM MEMBERS

Responsibility: Serve people and build God's house

Priorities: Love people well, serve faithfully, and invite others in

OUR STANDARD OF HEALTH

Your Path to Growth at Love Church

MEMBERSHIP AT LOVE CHURCH

At **Love Church**, we don't have a formal membership process, no sign-ups, no paperwork, no checklists.

But we do believe in something even better: **becoming a fully engaged member of the church family.**

Being a fully engaged member isn't about a title—it's about a lifestyle. It means you're bought in, showing up, and building together. It's choosing to move from attending to belonging, and from watching to participating.

Here's what that looks like:

Attend Consistently

Make Sundays a priority. Gathering 2-3 times a month builds spiritual rhythm, creates consistency, and keeps you connected to what God is doing in our church family.

Serve on a Team

Serving isn't just about filling a role—it's about loving people. Whether it's Love Club Kids, worship, production, hospitality, or set-up, serving helps you grow and helps others feel seen, welcomed, and at home.

Tithe Faithfully

We believe in living open-handed lives. Giving isn't about pressure—it's about trust, worship, and partnership. When we tithe, we honor God first and invest together in the mission of Love Church.

Share Jesus with Others

This is why we exist. Tell your story. Invite someone to church. Live in a way that points people to Jesus and helps them experience the love of God for themselves.

Be in a Love Group

Life change happens in community. We weren't created to do life alone. Love Groups provide a space to build real relationships, grow in faith, and walk through life together.

This isn't about pressure or perfection, it's about trust, obedience, and growth as we follow Jesus together.

FIND YOUR PLACE ON THE TEAM

Great churches are built on the backs of faithful people led by leaders who are in alignment with the vision and values of the church.

Leaders don't just appear, they are developed and discipled.

"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ."

— Ephesians 4:12 —

The Church doesn't move forward through individuals alone, it moves forward through teams of people serving together in unity.

SERVE TEAMS AT LOVE CHURCH



Greeters

Greeters are the first smile people see. This team welcomes guests with warmth, helps them feel seen, and sets the tone for a loving, joyful church experience from the moment they arrive.

Hosts

Hosts help people feel at home inside the service. From answering questions to helping guests find seats and navigating the experience, this team makes sure no one feels lost or overlooked.

Parking

The Parking Team creates a safe, smooth, and stress-free arrival. With clarity and kindness, they help guests park easily and feel welcomed before they ever walk through the doors.

Safety

The Safety Team helps provide a secure environment so families and guests can worship with peace of mind. This team serves with calm, awareness, and care for every person on campus.

Next Steps

The Next Steps Team helps people take their next step—whether that's joining a team, getting connected to a group, or learning more about Love Church. This team loves conversations and celebrates growth.

Kids (Love Club)

Love Club is a safe, fun, and faith-filled environment where kids learn about Jesus at their level. This team invests in the next generation by creating moments where kids feel loved, known, and excited about church.

Students

The Students Team builds relationships with middle and high school students, helping them grow in their faith and find community. This team shows up consistently to walk with students through real life and real faith.

Production

The Production Team works behind the scenes to create a distraction-free worship experience through sound, visuals, lighting, and media. Their excellence helps communicate the message clearly and effectively.

Worship

The Worship Team leads our church into God's presence through music and praise. This team serves with humility, skill, and a heart to help people encounter Jesus.

Creative

The Creative Team tells the story of what God is doing at Love Church. Through design, photography, video, and content, this team helps people connect to the mission and see the heart behind the church.

You don't need to be perfect.

You don't need to have it all figured out.

You just need to be willing.



CONCLUSION: YOUR NEXT STEP

CONGRATULATIONS-YOU'VE COMPLETED

Essentials.

BUT THIS ISN'T THE END.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING.

God invites you into a life of purpose, joy, and impact as you serve alongside others to build His Church. As we give our time and gifts to God, we discover that He gives us something in return, fulfillment, community, and meaning.

In just a moment, your Essentials hosts will help you take your next step by finding a Serve Team that fits your passion, gifting, and season of life.

REMEMBER AS YOU SERVE

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Different teams. One Church. One mission.
We fight for unity because we can do more together than alone.

INTEGRITY MATTERS

We represent Jesus and Love Church wherever we go.
We serve with excellence, commitment, and sincerity.

LEADERSHIP HONOR & ACCOUNTABILITY

Before serving, you'll be asked to review and sign a **Leadership Honor Agreement**, affirming our beliefs, values, and commitment to healthy leadership.

If you're serving in **Love Club (Kids) or Students**, a background check and additional application are required—because safety matters.

Love Church Leadership Honor Agreement

“Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

— 1 Corinthians 1:10 —

Having completed Essentials and desiring to serve at Love Church, I joyfully commit to the following:

My Commitment

I understand that as a member of the Love Church team, I am an ambassador of Jesus Christ and Love Church. I recognize that my life, words, and actions matter, and I commit to representing Christ with integrity both inside and outside the church.

I commit to live a life that honors God by pursuing spiritual health through prayer, Scripture, and community. I will seek to live above reproach, choosing holiness, wisdom, and self-control in my conduct.

I commit to protecting the unity of Love Church by acting in love toward others, refusing gossip, handling conflict biblically, and honoring the leadership God has placed in this church.

I commit to serving faithfully by showing up prepared and on time, communicating clearly, and honoring the responsibilities entrusted to me. If I am unable to serve as scheduled, I will communicate with my leader as early as possible.

I commit to being teachable and hungry to grow, allowing God to shape my character and leadership as I serve His Church.

I understand that these commitments are not meant to restrict me, but to help form Christlike character in me and create a healthy, life-giving church culture.

Agreement

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with the vision, values, beliefs, and culture of Love Church, I commit myself to God and to serving faithfully on a Love Church team.

(with the name signature and date we can have on a blank page so people can rip that out and turn it in)

Full Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



- You'll be connected to a Team Lead
- You will be sent a Spiritual Gifts Test
- You'll experience a shadow serve
- You'll be onboarded with care and clarity

Instagram

@lovechurchsd



Facebook

facebook.com/lovechurchsd



We don't just want you serving,
we want you **thriving.**

Website

www.lovechurchsd.com



A church that shapes a city in a city that shapes the world.