

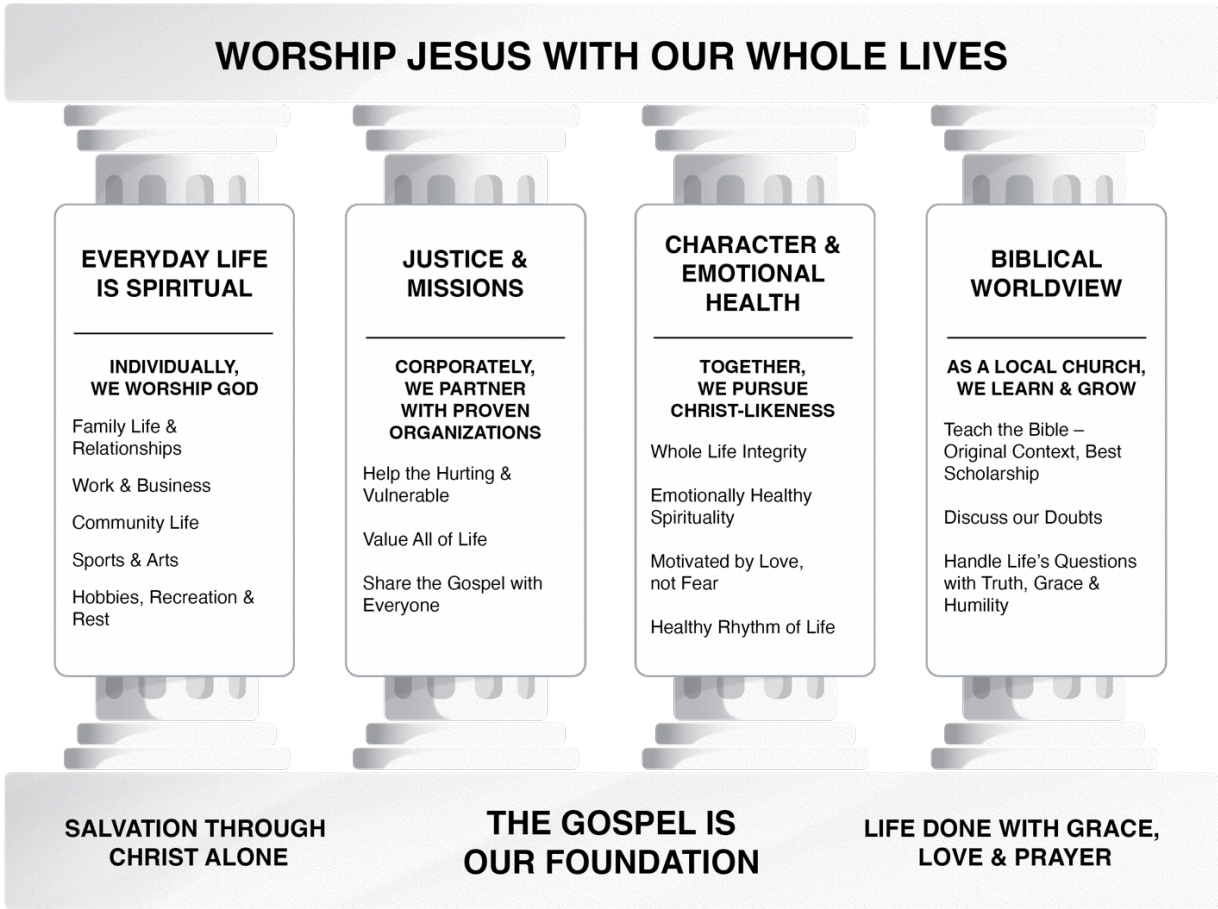
CROSSVIEW CHURCH PILLARS - BACKGROUND

At Crossview Church, it is our goal to worship Jesus with our whole lives (Deut 6:5). On the surface, that statement may sound cliché but, this is an all-encompassing belief that impacts us profoundly both as individuals and as a church. Our lives were not meant to be compartmentalized into things deemed worshipful and those that are not. Rather, everything we do and say throughout the week provides an opportunity to worship Jesus.

Every organization is based on a set of beliefs and ideals that provide vision, focus, and guide its ongoing activities. Crossview Church has its foundation on the Gospel (1Cor 3:11); this is not only central to who we are as a local church, the Gospel provides the essential basis for how we relate to people inside the church and out, the activities we engage in, and our view of the world, locally and abroad.

With the Gospel as our foundation, we believe that salvation comes through Christ alone; Jesus came down to earth to live among humanity and then offer up His life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Faith in Jesus and inviting Him to be Lord and Saviour of our lives brings with it hope and the promise of eternal life with Him (John 3:16-17; Eph 2:8-9).

While all of us are full of flaws and prone to sin (Rom 3:23), we want to follow Jesus’ example as we do life and interact with the people around us. We want our individual lives to be authentic, and done with grace, love, and prayer. These are also the values and culture we desire to develop and foster at Crossview; this is the reputation we strive for as a local church.



PILLAR #1 - *Everyday Life is Spiritual*; which means, as we do life, we worship God. Our spiritual activity is not restricted to attending worship services, volunteering in a ministry, or engaging in spiritual disciplines, all of which are good things! Our interpersonal relationships, whether at home, church or in the community can all be an act of worship where we reflect our Creator. Similarly, our activities that encompass our work and vocations, our community life and involvement, and our participation in sports and the arts are all spiritual in that we can worship God as we live our everyday lives. We were not created to constantly be busy, but God has given us interests in hobbies, recreation, and a need to rest as well; these are all good, all spiritual and all ways we can worship our great God as we simply live out each day! God has created us as spiritual beings; approaching everyday life as a spiritual experience and opportunity to worship God changes how we live and view all of life! (1Cor 10:31; Col 3:17; Col 3:23-24; Matt 5:14-16)

PILLAR #2 - *Justice & Missions*; which means, our stated beliefs need to be accompanied by attitudes and actions that extend beyond our individual lives. We believe that there are many excellent organizations already in existence and doing great work both locally and abroad; we view partnering with these organizations as a practical and effective way for us to engage and get involved in justice and missions. As followers of Jesus, we are called to help the hurting and vulnerable; there are many needs, and we need to do our part in helping those around us. We are all created in the image of God (Gen1:27) and as such, each human has great inherent worth. Crossview values all of life; from the unborn to the elderly and everyone in between. Meeting the humanitarian needs of others is important, valuable and an act of worship. Crossview also believes that we need to share the Gospel with everyone; spreading the Good News of Jesus is something that we stand for as individuals and corporately as the church. (Jam 2:15-17; Psa 82:3-4; Prov 14:31; Prov 19:17; Prov 31:8-9; Mark 12:30-31; Mark 16:15)

PILLAR #3 - *Character & Emotional Health*; which means, as a church family, we want to pursue Christlikeness. We want our lives, both individually and also corporately as a local church to be characterized by integrity in all we do since this strongly aligns with our belief that everyday life is spiritual. We desire and promote spirituality that is emotionally healthy; motivated by love for God and others and not driven by fear, guilt, and shame. We want to engage with God in a posture of joy, hope and anticipation as we see him at work in us and in the lives of those around us. When we view God and life through this lens, we are in a position and mindset to engage in a healthy rhythm of life. We desire to make space for work and play, rest and ministry, relationships, and community; all in a balanced and healthy way and each part a spiritual act of worship. (Col 3:12-14; 1John 4:18-19; 1Cor 13:4-7).

PILLAR #4 - *Biblical Worldview*; which means, we strive to teach the Bible in a way that includes the original context and the best scholarship available. We recognize that while the gospel message is simple and there for all to receive, the Bible is an ancient book that is messy, often complicated, and hard to understand. We also understand that we are each at different places on our faith journey; some are new to the Bible and faith and others have been on the journey for decades. We want Crossview to be a safe place; a church where we can be authentic about where we are at and discuss our doubts without fear and guilt. We are a church filled with people; that already infers that we do not have everything figured out! Life can be very hard and confusing, and we sometimes have unanswerable questions as we face our own circumstances and challenges. We want to handle those questions with grace and humility; both in how we interact with each other and how we approach the Bible (1Thes 2:13; 2Tim 2:15; Heb 4:12; 2Tim 3:16-17; Rom 12:1-2)

As our name *Crossview Church* suggests, we want to view all of life through the lens of the Cross; we are so thankful for the Gospel and the unshakeable foundation it provides for us! Considering that our salvation comes through Christ alone reminds us of who God is and who we are; responding in gratitude

moves us to do life with grace, love, and prayer. We want to worship Jesus with our whole lives; approaching our everyday life activities as spiritual and therefore opportunities to worship God. This helps us look past ourselves to where we get involved in justice and missions; engaging to help people and spread the Good News of Jesus with everyone. We strive for integrity and healthy spirituality in all we do; our goal is to live with love and joy, not fear and guilt. A Biblical worldview applied to our teaching and learning guides how we deal with our own messy questions and doubts. We are humbled and thankful as we see God at work; answering prayers, changing lives, growing Crossview as we come together to worship, build community and serve Him! Come join us!

Scripture (New International Version) referenced in the Crossview Church Pillars document

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV) ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NIV) ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

John 3:16-17 (NIV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 3:23 (NIV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

PILLAR # 1 – *Everyday Life is Spiritual*

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

PILLAR #2 – *Justice & Missions*

Genesis 1:27 (NIV) ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

James 2:15-17 (NIV) ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Psalm 82:3-4 (NIV)³ Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV) ³¹ Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Proverbs 19:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.^[a] ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 16:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

PILLAR #3 – Character & Emotional Health

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV) ¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 John 4:18-19 (NIV) ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

PILLAR #4 – Biblical Worldview

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) ¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) ¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.