

CORE VALUES

ACM International's core values are framed by the Great Commandment (Mt. 22:34-40), the Great Commission (Mt. 28:16-20), the emphasis on the poor (James 2:1-13) and Paul's commands for unity in the church (Eph. 4:1-16). Each core value is extracted from one of these passages.

The Great Commandment (Mt. 22:34-40)

³⁴ *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

³⁷ *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

1. Image of God

We value the spiritual formation of every human being into the image of the Living God.

The first component of the Great Commandment calls for every human to conform every aspect of their life to the Lord. Jesus states it another way in John 17:3 declaring that eternal life is "knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he sent." The most basic part of Christianity is the process of allowing the Lord to remake us in his image so we are conformed to the image of Christ (Philippians 2:1-10). This process of being made into the image of God involves every member of the Trinity and brings us into closer relationship with each person of the Godhead.

2. Holistic Ministry Focus

We value community transformation through a holistic ministry focus with the local church meeting the physical, emotional, and mental needs of individuals in a practical way.

Christians meet the demands of loving our neighbor by meeting all the needs of people—spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental needs. The church is the vehicle of God's grace on the earth and is responsible for dispensing all aspects of his grace. Thus the mandate of the church is to be actively involved in redeeming the culture by transforming each community. James notes that meeting the needs of others is a true expression of our faith in Christ (James 2:14-26).

The Great Commission (Mt. 28:16-20)

¹⁶ *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

3. Lost People Matter

We value evangelism, taking the message and power of Christ's kingdom into the world because lost people matter to God.

Jesus' command to the apostles to go into the world declaring him as Lord of the world, savior of humanity, and giver of life is a mandate to all Christians in all generations. Christianity is not simply the spread of a religion, but an invitation into the kingdom of life and light. The mandate for the Great Commission is an expression of love from both parts of the Great Commandment—the obedience to loving God and inviting all humanity to know the Lord.

4. Discipleship for Maturity

We value personal discipleship as the means of educating individuals to become mature in Christ.

The words make disciples is the imperative command in the Great Commission. Jesus is essentially saying, “As you are going about life, intentionally help them to become like me—I’ll give you the power of my presence to do it.” The discipleship process is a microcosm of Christianity—the process of moving from out of relationship with the Lord to an intimate fellowship with Him through Christ. The focus of Christ is not just to have people state that he is Lord, but for everyone to live like he is Lord. The discipleship process also includes discovering and learning to use our unique combination of personality, spiritual gifts, and experiences in a Christ-like manner.

The Poor (James 2:1-13)

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. ¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

5. Remember the Poor

We value the admonition of the apostles to “remember the poor.”

God has a special place in his heart and kingdom for the poor. From the beginning of the church, the poor have been an important part of God’s kingdom. The Old Testament law is focused on fair treatment of the poor and celebrated the Year of Jubilee to end the poverty cycle for all Israelites. In Jesus’ proclamation of his Messiahship, he chooses a text in Isaiah that focus on the week and the poor. The church exercised an important ministry to the widows (Acts 6). In Galatians 2, Paul recounted how the point of emphasis from the apostles at the Jerusalem Council in discussing the expansion of the church to the gentiles (Acts 15) was to “remember the poor.”

Leadership in the Church (Eph. 4:11-16)

¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

6. Spiritual Leadership Development

We value spiritual leadership development as the means by which the Lord edifies and equips his people.

The way to reach masses of people with the gospel is to equip and encourage the best leaders to mobilize all their talents for the Lord. The Lord has always worked through leaders to move his people in the ways he desired. Paul notes in Ephesians 4 that the role of leaders is to help every individual come into contact with the grace of Christ. Therefore, the most effective manner for ACM to reach individuals in a targeted community is to develop strong Christian leaders.

7. Local Church Autonomy

We value the autonomy of each local church under the headship of Christ to carry out his commands.

In the early church, every church was self-sufficient. In Ephesians 4:16, Paul notes that every part of the body, connected by the ligaments of the Holy Spirit and Christ, should be able to stand on its own and contribute to the life of the church. Using a biological and mathematical metaphor, the church is fractal organism. Fractals are units or patterns when combined with units of the same size create a larger units or patterns that look the same. ACM International recognizes the nature of the church and the mandate of Christ to create churches that can express the full gospel on their own.

STRATEGIC LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES

Research:

Through prayer and adequate research, we will seek to determine which people would be strategic to the call placed on ACM International by the Lord.

Strategy Development:

To develop a strategy for ministry for each people group, including plans for measuring the progress of the strategy and plans for timely closure, while being sensitive to the unique challenges and opportunities each people group provides.

Organizational Development:

To design the operational processes, systems, and structures which will enable ACM International to achieve the vision.

Member Care & Development:

To provide care giving and opportunities for personal growth and development for all members.

Recruitment:

To select and equip Christians around the world to partner with ACM International in fulfilling its God given mission.

Church Partnerships:

To develop partnerships with congregations to assist them in their mission outreach.

Financial Accountability:

To maintain financial stability and to ensure that ACM International demonstrates faithful stewardship of all financial resources.

THE TASK

The mission task is enormous, both in the amount of work and because it is God's plan for reaching the world. Many jobs must be completed to make the whole work of missions effective. Sometimes these seem trivial and time consuming, but when evaluated for their contribution to the overall task of evangelism, they are seen as vital and can be done with renewed spirit. Every soul brought to the Lord is a tremendous reward.