



Built from the Core // Part 1

Introduction:

This week Chance begins a new series called '**Built From The Core**' starting with the message for **Week 1**. What is the Core at Grace and why is it important?

Every church is shaped by its vision and beliefs. Before we can talk about what it is that we do, we need to understand who God has called us to be. Have you taken the time to read who we are at Grace and what God has called us to be?

Questions:

1. What is the mission statement of Grace Community Church? Why is it important for you to know? How does it help tell you who we are anchored to and what we believe God has called us to be? Why is it critical to honor God in everything we do?
2. When it comes to the 'body' of the church, why is the strength of the 'Core' vitally important? How does that relate to how the early church functioned? What were they devoted to and why? Do you pray specifically and intentionally for others?
Acts 2:42
3. What were the results of the early church being devoted to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, sharing meals and to prayer? Was it important that 'all' of the believers were 'together' and involved? How much are you meeting the needs of those around you? **Acts 2:43-45**

4. What impact did their worship and fellowship have on the community around them? What brought them together daily that caused such dramatic results? Do you see God moving through you and around you? **Acts 2:46-47**
5. What are the 'Core Beliefs' at Grace? How do those, along with the mission statement, provide the foundation of who and what God has called Grace to be? How do those together help us to live out the mission God has given us? How do these guide how we do it?
6. How can you know where you are building your foundation? How can investing your time to build a solid foundation rooted in the bedrock teaching of Jesus prepare you for the storms of life that will come? **Matthew 7:24-27**
7. What does it mean to you that: "Healthy people in healthy churches don't drift into their mission; they're driven by conviction for the purposes of God"? How can knowing the mission statement and core beliefs at Grace help you to serve God effectively and achieve His purpose for your life?

Key takeaway: *When we attend a church, it's vitally important to know who they are, what they are called to, and how God is being followed. The mission statement is important as it ought to align with the great commission. But HOW ministry is done is just as important. Do you know what we believe at Grace?*

Summary:

- Mission Statement - why is it important to know?
 - To honor God by reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and teaching them to become fully devoted followers of Him.
- Why is the strength of the 'Core' important?
- Sharing out of the abundance of love, because God was on the move through them
- Worship & living in community together led to other people being added to their fellowship
- Grace Core Beliefs:
 - Biblical Authority
 - Salvation by Grace alone thru Christ alone

- Relational Evangelism
- Authentic Transparent Community
- Gifted Service
- Excellent Environments
- Core = foundation that we are built on (rooted in bedrock vs built on sand); prepared for the storms
- Healthy people in healthy churches don't drift into their mission; they're driven by conviction for the purposes of God