

PRAYING THROUGH OUR SEVEN SHARED VALUES

GARY RICUCCI

Our Values as a Whole

Our gracious God and Father, our glorious Lord and Savior, our indwelling Helper and Counselor, we come to you with hearts of reverence, worship, gratitude, and awe. Lord God, that we come to you at all is the fruit of your sovereign goodness, mercy, and grace alone, lavished upon us in the substitutionary sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, who bore your wrath and was raised for our justification. Thank you, that by your grace we know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent, and are thereby saved to eternal life.

Father, thank you for being self-revealing – desiring that we know you, believe in you, obey you, and display your glory as you make us more like your Son. You have taught us that passion and pursuit of your glory is the purpose for which we were created and is thereby our greatest good. We ask that you grant us fervent faithfulness and abundant fruitfulness that brings you glory.

Lord God, we treasure your sovereign and effectual call, the gospel which saves us through your Son, and your Spirit who fills us. We find in that trea-

sure the precious gift of a new family of brothers and sisters you've joined together as loyal partners and co-laborers and as a priceless means of grace to one another in our glorious mission.

You have instilled within us, as a family of Sovereign Grace Churches, specific biblical values and convictions. By your grace, we resolve to have these values shape our lives, our homes, our relationships, our practices, our churches, our partnership, and our gospel mission together. Such resolution is futile apart from your enabling and empowering grace. So we now draw near to you, call upon you, and trust you to answer our prayers in a way that furthers our fruitfulness and brings great glory to your name.

1. Reformed Theology

Lord God, we bow our knees before you, Creator of heaven and earth, enthroned in the heavens and whose kingdom rules overall. In your omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence, we believe that you work all things – all things – after the counsel of your will, including the choosing, calling and saving of sinful man. Father, we confess that our finite minds cannot fully grasp the infinite mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. However, because your Word proclaims both, we trust you will faithfully save those whom you have called as we faithfully proclaim the gospel.

Help us, as a family of churches, to declare the living God with grace and confidence. You have the final word in all things. Keep us from passive resignation and stir us with faith-filled proclamation to the exaltation of your name.

2. Gospel-Centered Doctrine & Preaching

Father, we pray our every desire and every endeavor will be informed by the gospel, which is of first importance. Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, he was buried, and he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. Because the gospel is the power of God for salvation, may all that we say and do, may all we preach and teach, be infused with what Christ has accomplished, is accomplishing, and will accomplish through his substitutionary death and his resurrection. Remind us to embrace thankfully and to declare faithfully that only the gospel brings reconciliation between God and man. Only the gospel provides any hope

of peace on earth. The Holy Spirit empowers the lives, the relationships, and the churches of Sovereign Grace to display as central the wondrous transforming grace of the gospel.

3. Continuationist Pneumatology

Lord Jesus, in your ascension to heaven, you blessed us with another Helper to be with us and within us – the Holy Spirit. We thank you for his guidance into truth, conviction of sin, empowering as ambassadors, and revelation of your glory. We also praise you for the manifestation of your Spirit at work in the gifts you’ve given to each member of your church for the common good. We ask that your Spirit stir us to steward his presence and power with godliness, evangelism, and the exercise of the gifts he’s given us to serve others. Lord, fill us with the Spirit, keep us ever dependent upon him in humility, and create faith-filled anticipation of his presence and power, so we increasingly bring glory to Christ and blessing to and through Sovereign Grace Churches.

4. Complementarian Leadership in the Home and the Church

*We ask that your
Spirit stir us to
steward his presence
and power.*

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of the majesty and beauty of your creation. You’ve crafted humanity to reflect your glory as we bear your image in our maleness and femaleness. Holy Spirit, draw us again and again to God’s Word to behold your perfect design, your perfect plan, and your perfect purpose for each man and woman to display your glory uniquely on the

earth. We ask you to sustain our convictions, declaration, and application of our identities and roles by the clear teaching of Scripture forever. Protect us as Sovereign Grace Churches from the influence of cultural acceptance, identity distortions, or misapplication of roles – whether in the home, the community, or the church. Guard us from that age-old, evil question of the deceiver: “Did God actually say...?” May joy, honor, respect, and abounding fruitfulness in our homes, our families, and our churches be the result of embracing our roles and privileges as man and woman created in your God.

5. Elder-Governed & Elder-led Churches

Lord Jesus, we once again thank you that when you ascended on high, you gave gifts to men to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Throughout your Word and throughout redemptive history, you display your care for your people by authorizing specific roles assumed by specific men to guide, instruct, direct, and lead your people.

We are grateful for those you have placed among us to shepherd our souls and for the biblical standards you hold for those so delegated to represent you as under-shepherds among your flock. Please grant our leaders discernment to recognize those you have called so they might sufficiently equip, train, affirm, and deploy them for the expansion of the gospel and the care of your church. May our leaders walk in fear of the Lord and so receive your promised wisdom. May they walk in humility and so abound with your grace. And may they wisely and courageously shepherd your flock with integrity of heart.

*Having received the
priceless treasure of
the gospel, may your
love compel us to
share that gift.*

6. Church Planting, Outreach, and Global Mission

Father, amid the names by which we are joyfully called – your children, disciples, a holy nation, and heirs – we also want to steward the name given as representatives of our Lord and Savior and King...the name of “ambassadors.” Having received the priceless treasure of the gospel, may your love compel us to share that gift with every tongue and tribe, and nation. Please raise up among Sovereign Grace Churches pastors, teachers, evangelists, and church planters, both here and abroad. Empower us by your Spirit to be a means of filling the earth with your glory as we proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches to be light in a darkened world. May we all embrace the privilege and mission of the gospel, from our own communities to the ends of the earth.

7. United in Fellowship, Mission, and Governance

Lord, we thank you for the blessings you grant us as we, by your mercy and grace, dwell together in unity. You have blessed us with unity and har-

mony in our doctrine and theology, in our values and distinctives, and in our ecclesiology and missiology. And Lord, may we always be humble as we recognize, trust in, and follow those specifically gifted and called to lead and govern. Thank you for a governing and unifying order that not only protects but also multiplies our ministry and fruitfulness. We pray that an ever-deepening commitment to you, to our mission, and to one another would provide a powerful display of the righteousness, peace, and joy that is your kingdom. And may our love and loyalty to our leaders and to one another also display that we are indeed your disciples.

Closing Prayer

Father, we offer these prayers that we might increasingly walk in a manner worthy of your calling, that we might be increasingly unified and fruitful in our gospel ministry, that we might steward the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and that we might bring glory and honor and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we gratefully pray.

AMEN

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