

# Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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Discipleship Stream

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**SCF: Glorifying God through unity.**

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SCF has a voice  
to share The  
Gospel of Jesus



WHOLE HEARTED  
ADHERENCE  
TO THE BIBLE AS  
GOD'S WORD

Developing Strong  
and Deep Disciples  
of Jesus

CREATE A  
CHURCH THAT  
UNCHURCHED  
WANT TO  
ATTEND



People see  
Christ-in-Us  
transforming lives

**"I SENSE PROPHETICALLY  
THAT AS A FELLOWSHIP  
YOU ARE FACING,  
NOT JUST A NEW SEASON,  
BUT A NEW ERA."**

A PERSONAL  
ENGAGEMENT  
IN EVANGELISM



People will  
know SCF &  
come to us for help

RADICAL ACTION  
TOWARDS THOSE  
LESS FORTUNATE  
(CENTRE OF CARE)





# God's vision for SCF:

**Developing Strong & Deep Disciples of Jesus:** members of SCF will grow as disciples, and their relationship with God will deepen; they will have a **passion to be ever more Christ centred**. As members of the church family go about their daily lives they will **exert Christ's influence**. **SCF will be a missional family...** Every aspect of our plans and purposes will be founded on our **deep desire to be in God's will and to do His calling; everything will continue to start with, and to be covered by, prayer.**

**R e l a t i o n s h i p s   M a t t e r**  
G O D ' S   D E S I R E   F O R   A   C O M M U N I T Y   O F   B E L I E V E R S

# Summary:

Our lives and our witness bring praise to God the Father and raise high the name of God the Son when we allow the love of Christ to flow in and through us.

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*“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: ‘The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.’ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. **May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.**”*

Rom15:1-7 NIVUK

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# Unity in Christ:

Where is the centre of our identity? Are we defined primarily by who we are in Christ?

Is our identity as a Christian a source of joy or is it a burden?

Are we investing in our relationship with Jesus - how important is it to us?

Are we expectant to hear from God?

Are we energised by being a Christian or does it drain us? Is it a relationship or a religion?



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# Unity within the Church:

The Church is “the body of Christ”:

*“God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, **so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.** If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. **Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**”*

1Cor12:24-27 NIVUK

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# Unity within the Church:

Are we secure with our place within the body? Does each of us really know how important we are within that body?

Are we expectant to hear from God about things concerning the body?

Have we truly got that sense of connection - love, responsibility, care - for the other members of the body?

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# Walking alongside each other:

***“bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves”:***

- walking alongside one another;
- holding each other up;
- encouraging & supporting;
- striving to move together and not leaving anyone behind.

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# Putting others first:

***“please our neighbours for their good, to build them up”:***

- speaking the truth in love;
- why are we choosing to say something;
- will it build someone up, will it edify or destroy;
- is it for their good or for our own;
- how are we sharing - will they be able to receive it easily;
- believing the best of each other and choosing not to take offence.

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# Applying Scripture:

***“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us”:***

- *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” 2Tim3:16 NIVUK*
- Nb. “Everything” + “All”;
- have we got a teachable spirit;
- willing to receive through scripture and via our brothers and sisters in Christ;
- have we atrophied or fossilised;
- thirst to understand more of God's heart and purpose – are we expectant.

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# Discipline & Commitment:

***“through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope”:***

- *“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1Thes1:3;*
- Nobody ever promised it was going to be easy;
- Focussed like Olympic athletes;
- What do we hope for?
- Where is our confidence?

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# The mind of Christ:

***“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had”:***

***“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.” Phil2:1-3 NIVUK***

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# Glorifying God:

***“so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”:***

- united in Christ;
- sharing in The Holy Spirit;
- being like-minded;
- being one in spirit and of one mind;
- united together as the ecclesia but also being in unity with Christ;
- our lives glorify Christ and Father God, both individually and collectively.

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# Accepting one another:

***“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God”:***

- Everyone is made in the image of God and dearly loved by the very Son of God;
- Outworking of Christian faith: transforming lives through the love of Christ;
- The beauty and blessing of harmony;
- The pain and anguish of disunity.

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# Summary:

Our lives and our witness bring praise to God the Father and raise high the name of God the Son when we allow the love of Christ to flow in and through us. **Unity in Christ & Unity in the Church;**

- Walking alongside one another;
- Putting others first;
- Applying Scripture;
- Discipline & Commitment;
- The mind of Christ;
- Glorifying God;
- Accepting one another.



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# What Next:

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31*

1. **Make yourself accountable to someone;**
2. **Over the coming weeks there will be lots of opportunities to come together in prayer. God will speak;**
3. **Be expectant and *excited*! Let's move forward in unity.**

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# Coffee Table Questions:

1. How can we - as the people of SCF - be more united?
2. What is necessary for the majority of the SCF Church family to engage together in times of collective prayer?
3. What do you understand by the term “glorifying God”?
4. What will you do personally to increase that glorification?



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# Accountability:

## Values

- Choose to think the best of one another
- Respect and honour one another
- Trust one another

## Attitudes

- I will be open and honest with you
- I will consider you when I have something to say to you
- If I have a problem with something relating to you that I can't resolve in my heart within 4 days I will come and speak to you
- I will Choose not to take offence
- I will keep short accounts, fostering an attitude of forgiveness

## Purposes

- I will look for opportunities to build a relationship with other members in the team
- I will walk along side you in good and bad times
- I will pray for you
- I will find times to have fun and laugh together.



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