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**Values /vályōōz/ noun :**

“One’s principles or standards; what one feels is important in life.”

**At Berryessa Valley Church, we believe our values will reflect who we are as a church, as a people, as a community following God. While there are many things that are of value in general, we feel that the following 12 values are key to fulfilling our vision as a church. Everything we do as a church will reflect these values. Our 12 values are:**

**1 Jesus: He Comes First**

We value Jesus first and foremost as our God and our Savior; we submit to him as the center of our lives. We desire that in all things, Jesus comes first—before work, before school, before friends, before family, before ourselves (John 14:6).

**11 Life: Sharing Our Faith**

We value sharing our faith with our community; telling our family members, our friends, our co-workers, and our neighbors about what God has done in our lives through Jesus. We desire all people to be a part of the greatest task God has given us (Matt 28:19-20; Rom 1:16).

**12 Life: Clear Communication**

We value clear communication in all parts of our lives. We desire that people would work to communicate effectively with their spouses, their families, and others in their lives. As a church, we will strive to communicate clearly, accurately, and honestly with everyone. Even when we disagree, clear communication allows us to convey disagreement without being disagreeable; clear communication permits us to retain healthy relationships (Prov 12:18; James 3).

**Douglas Estes** is the Senior Pastor of Berryessa Valley Church. He holds a PhD in Theology from the University of Nottingham, UK. Douglas has authored numerous articles in both academic and popular journals. He resides in San José with his wife Noël, a Marriage & Family Therapist, their son Wyatt and cat Sitka.

**Berryessa Valley Church**

1298 North Capitol Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95132  
(408) 272-3028  
[www.BVChurch.com](http://www.BVChurch.com)

# OUR VALUES



extending the hope of jesus christ to san josé

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## **2 Bible: Roadmap to Life**

We value the Bible as our completely trustworthy guide to life. At BVC, the Bible will be the sole foundation for everything taught or envisioned. We recognize the Bible as the unique source of truth in our world, inspired by God, we desire that it will serve as a personal roadmap to each of our lives (Ps 119:1-5; John 17:17; 2 Tim 2:15).

## **3 BVC: A Place of Hope**

We value the hope for life that comes only through relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our vision at BVC is to extend the hope of Jesus to our community, and as a church and people of God, that is our first value. We desire to be a place of hope for all people: a church focused on grace, joy, hope, and love in San Jose (Hebrews 6:19; 1 Cor 15:12-19).

## **4 BVC: Everyone's Invited**

We value all people, and desire to extend the hope of Jesus Christ to all people regardless of race, gender, past background, or socio-economic status. At BVC, we intentionally and proactively develop ministries in order to make the greatest impact in our community. We love all people (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-13).

## **5 BVC: Freedom of Expression**

We value the individual expression of each believer in worship and practice, and encourage all people to relate to God in their own way within Biblical parameters. We encourage people to worship in their own way before God. We also value freedom of expression in theology—agreeing harmoniously to the major issues of orthodoxy, but allowing freedom on minor issues. Freedom is not anarchy, and thus we strive to maintain healthy, Biblical limits/fences for the good of the church (1 Cor 10:23, 14:26-40).

## **6 BVC: Cutting-Edge Excellence**

We value ministry that is marked by both an acute understanding of the world we live in as well as a superb quality. We desire to minister in such a way that we make the Gospel as clear, plain, and relevant to our community as possible. We avoid conforming to culture, whether worldly or Christian, in order to be the most vibrant witness possible to a lost world (1 Chron 12:32; 1 Cor 9:19; 1 Peter 2:12).

## **7 BVC: Safety First**

We value the opportunity to provide a safe atmosphere for both children and adults. For children, we desire to maintain safe, healthy kid-friendly environments where parents may feel secure about leaving their children. For adults, we endeavor to

provide a grace-oriented environment. In order to make this possible, we will hold people accountable when they stray across the limits/fences established by the church and/or God (Lk 17:3).

## **8 Life: Growing in God**

We value the need to become fully devoted followers of Jesus. Our desire at BVC is for all people who are a part of the church to be committed to following Jesus on the path of discipleship. We will proactively create and develop ministries that will equip people to grow strong in God (Lk 9:23-24).

## **9 Life: Meaning and Purpose**

We value the gifts that God has given all people for acts of service to build up the kingdom of God. We desire to equip, empower and unleash the gifts of the people of God on their community (Eph 4).

## **10 Life: God Makes Us Whole**

We value God's ability to make everyone whole again. Because we are all incredibly broken, this may not be completed now or even fully in this lifetime. Yet we desire that our church be a safe-haven where grace—not judgment—is the norm, and people come for true healing. By remaining honest about sin, we desire to see lives changed, healed and transformed (James 5:16; 1 Pet 2:24).

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