

## **Simple and Practical Faith**

Series: Following Jesus: The Kingdom Of God

Colossians (0904)

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### **I. A simple foundation for kingdom living**

#### **a. The mystery of the ages revealed**

*Colossians 1:26-27 TM* This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message. We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message.

#### **b. Common sense faith**

*Colossians 1:27-29 TM* We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.

### **II. Six simple markers of engaging the life of the kingdom**

#### **a. Relationship**

**RELATIONSHIP.** I am experiencing a saving and growing relationship with Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

*Colossians 2:13-14 NLT* <sup>13</sup>You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. <sup>14</sup>He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross.

#### **b. Vision**

**VISION.** I am in substantial agreement with the vision, values and leadership of the Vineyard Church of Marysville.

*Colossians 3:1-2 NIV* <sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

### c. Unity

**UNITY.** I am committed to Christian unity in the church by acting in love toward others, avoiding gossip, and managing conflicts biblically.

John 17:20-23 <sup>20</sup>*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

Colossians 3:12-14 NIV <sup>12</sup>*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

### d. Ownership

**OWNERSHIP.** I am committed to sharing in the responsibility of this church—actively seeking its health and growth, investing my time, my prayers, and my finances.

Colossians 1:11-12 TM *We pray that you’ll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.*

### e. Involvement

**INVOLVEMENT.** I am committed to being involved in the life of the church through reasonable attendance in Sunday worship celebrations and small group.

Colossians 2:2-3 TM *I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God’s great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we’ve been shown the mystery!*

### f. Service

**SERVICE.** I am committed to discovering, developing and using my God-given gifts in Kingdom ministry. This includes serving as a helper in Children’s Ministry once/quarter.

Colossians 3:23 NIV <sup>23</sup>*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men*

Colossians 1:27-29 TM *We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That’s what I’m working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.*