

The Commissioned Living

Customary



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Historically, monastic communities would use a customary or rule of life to guide how they could practically enact their professed values. This customary is built on the World Mission Prayer League “Commissioned Living” statement, inspired in part by the Order of the Mustard Seed’s customary format, and broken down into 6 practices to be used day-to-day.

Commissioned Living statement:

God the Father has lovingly reconciled all people to himself through his Son Jesus Christ, rescuing them from sin and condemnation (2 Corinthians 5:19), and now by his Holy Spirit empowers all believers in Jesus to be his witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:8), commissioning them to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20).

Therefore, by God’s grace and presence we commit ourselves to commissioned living, to the end that God is glorified as people are made disciples of Jesus.

Six practices of Commissioned Living



Dependency on God

We will gladly receive and fully depend on God's promises and provision, choosing to live simply so as to make the best use of God's gifts.

Prayer

We will faithfully pray for the advance of God's Kingdom, particularly among those least reached.

Intentional Community

We will live intentionally in community with the Body of Christ and others, to best care for one another, God's world, and his abundant gifts.

Interdependency

We will pursue God's design for interdependency, discerning and valuing the roles to which God has called each of us for his global mission.

Proclamation

We will boldly proclaim God's Good News by our testimony and love for our neighbor.

Mercy and Justice

We will act in accordance with God's mercy and justice, in advocacy for the weak and marginalized.

The practice of Dependency on God

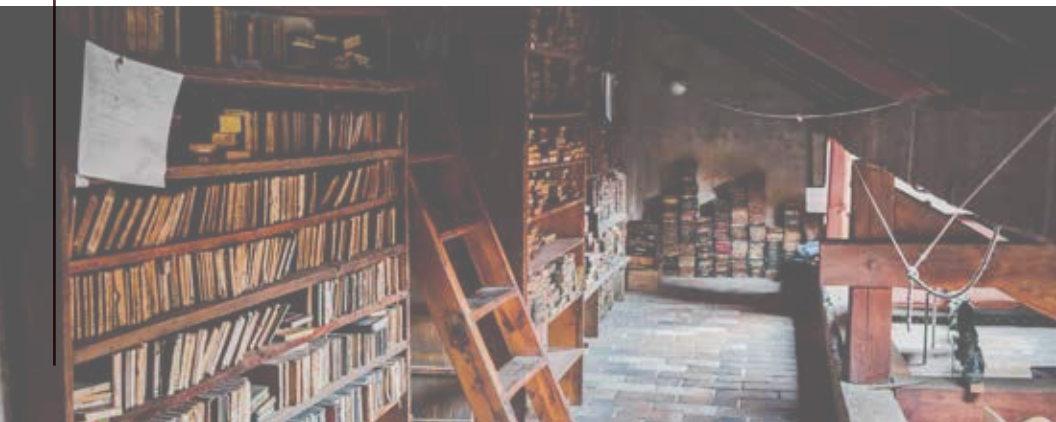


We will gladly receive and fully depend on God's promises and provision, choosing to live simply so as to make the best use of God's gifts.

We know that in order to live set apart lives, we need to start at the start: with the Gospel, the simple truth that we have been saved through faith by Jesus Christ to be in right relationship with the Father. As we go about living in a commissioned way, we start with depending on God, the giver of all things, and most importantly, the giver of our hope and salvation. As we learn to depend on him and practice this in our lives every day, we expect it to influence us to live simply, giving him room to provide, and allowing room for him to work in and through us.

Scripture for this practice: Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 19:21, John 15:4-8, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, Ephesians 2:1-10

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6



Dependency on God lived out



Prompts: How can I live simply with my material resources (money, possessions, etc.)? How can I live simply with my time? What spiritual rhythms do I have in my life? How can I live simply with my work/tasks/relationships? How can I intentionally learn about different spiritual rhythms? What can I add or take away to further my relationship with God?

The practice of Prayer



We will faithfully pray for the advance of God's Kingdom, particularly among those least reached.

We see the practice of prayer as a “breathing in” and “breathing out,”¹ spending time with the Lord in conversation, focused first on our own relationship with him, and then in an intercessory way, standing in the gap for our families, friends, communities, countries, and the world.

Scripture for this practice: Proverbs 15:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Ezekiel 22:30, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹Concept of prayer as breathing in and breathing out from Pete Grieg in “Punk Monk”



Prayer lived out



Prompts: In what ways can I practice continual prayer? How can I practice daily prayer? How can I practice community prayer? What can I learn more about spiritual disciplines, different types of prayer, or other spiritual learning?

The practice of Intentional Community



We will live intentionally in community with the Body of Christ and others, to best care for one another, God's world, and his abundant gifts.

Living in intentional community means that we share in the rejoicing and the hardships. It means that we must be vulnerable with one another and learn to wrestle together and with the Lord to grow. It might be harder, but is also deeper and richer, holding one another accountable and having iron sharpen iron.

Scripture for this practice: Proverbs 27:17, Colossians 3:14-16, Romans 12: 9-13, John 17:22-23, Acts 1:14
Ephesians 4:2-3 Hebrews 10:24-25

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22



Intentional Community lived out



Prompts: How are you practicing hospitality with other believers? Are you sharing your hardships? Listening to others hardships? Are there resources you can share with others? Resources you can receive? How can you journey together in day-to-day life? Can you share a meal regularly? Space? How can you put yourself in the way of one another to create space for intentional community?

The practice of Interdependency



We will pursue God's design for interdependency, discerning and valuing the roles to which God has called each of us for his global mission.

We recognize our need to operate in the body of Christ, both leaning on one another's strengths and helping one another to grow in areas of weakness. We recognize that God gives us different roles at different times, and that each is important to the body. As part of interdependency, we commit to intentional growth and discipleship through study and spiritual disciplines in the process of sanctification, hungering and thirsting for righteousness and to be made more in his likeness.

Scripture for this practice: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31;
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16; Romans 12: 3-8

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Romans 12: 4-5



Interdependency lived out



Prompts: In what ways am I learning from other believers?
Considering my strengths and weaknesses, what am I doing
to train up others, and grow from others in areas of weakness?
How can I fill gaps or work with others to better further his
kingdom? How can I be intentionally studying God and his
character? How can I pursue spiritual growth in community?

The practice of Proclamation



We will boldly proclaim God's Good News by our testimony and love for our neighbor.

We know proclamation of the Gospel is a huge part of commissioned living – and often even see it as “the embodiment” of Christian work. And yet, it often something we neglect, because it feels uncomfortable or awkward. We want to leave that for the people who are “gifted in proclamation” to do it – but Christ is clear though that this is something that is to be done by all.

Scripture for this practice: Isaiah 52:7, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 4:18-19, John: 3:16, John 14:6, Acts 1:8, Acts 4:20, Romans 10:12-15

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

-Matthew 28:19-20



Proclamation lived out



Prompts: How can I pray practically about proclamation?

In what ways are you being intentional about having conversations that are Gospel centered? Is there a time in the week where you are intentionally getting together with non-believers with an aim of testifying to the power of Christ?

What ways can you be further developing the skillset of proclamation? In what ways could you love your neighbor? Is there someone in your life you are mentoring, or discipling, or providing spiritual counsel?

The practice of Mercy and Justice



We will act in accordance with God's mercy and justice, in advocacy for the weak and marginalized.

Jesus demonstrated a love for people that extended beyond societal norms, and challenged injustice and inequality. We are called to do the same – not only being aware of what is happening around us and challenging our own privileges, but also finding ways to speak out against and challenge injustice. In a world where there is often one side pitted against another, we are called to walk instead in love, seeing both sides as people who carry the image of God and who are valued and precious.

Scripture for this practice: Leviticus 19:15, Proverbs 29:7, Psalm 145:8, Zechariah 7:9, Micah, 6:8, Matthew 5:7, James 2:13

“Learn to do right; seek justice, defend the oppressed, take up the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”

- Isaiah 1:17



Mercy and Justice lived out



Prompts: How can I be learning about what is happening around me to advocate for mercy and justice? How can I be regularly praying for mercy and justice in my community and the world? How can I join in serving to affect change in my community? How can I actively engage with the poor and oppressed, practically at an interpersonal level, prayerfully for the local community and even politically at a global level?



**Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.
But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.
They are like trees planted along the
riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.**

Psalm 1:1-3



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