



CLI Principles: These are the 16 basic or essential elements that determine CLI's intrinsic values and characteristic behavior. We pray these principles will guide our ministry's thoughts and actions as we accomplish CLI's purpose in *Advancing Christ's Light in Prisons*.

1. Glorify and Love God

To know God is to love Him (Exodus 34:6-7; 1 John 4:19). When we truly love God, our desire is to glorify Him (Psalm 63:1-4; Romans 15:5-9). Getting to know God in His compassion, love and other awesome characteristics, we develop a real affection for God and honor Him.

Application: CLI encourages its staff, board members, volunteers, prayer warriors, imprisoned, partners and all connected with our ministry to know God better through His Word, prayer, other saints, and our own experiences in order to love Him with all our hearts, souls and minds. We express our devotion in obedient actions, words and thoughts that glorify God.

2. Lordship of Jesus Christ

God has given Jesus all authority in heaven and earth. He is Lord and Leader (Matthew 28:18; Romans 10:9; Revelation 2:27). Jesus, the Son of God, is the mighty One who has full authority to rule in heaven and on the earth. Neither humans nor angels can do anything except by permission of Christ.

Application: Jesus is the leader and focal point of CLI. We are Christ followers. The Lord Jesus is glorified, honored and worshipped as one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

3. Holy Spirit, Honored Counselor and Guide

The Holy Spirit is God; He is God's Spirit and Jesus' Spirit given to believers for communicating with God. He leads in prayer, guides, comforts, and enlightens with wisdom for understanding the Word (Matthew 12:32, 28:19; John 14:26; Romans 8:26, 14:17-18; Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit is not to be grieved or quenched but to be honored with our thoughts and actions. We honor Him by praising God and following what He leads us to think and to do. He is God's voice to us. He is also our strength and power to accomplish God's will.

Application: CLI is convinced that in order to be pleasing and effective for God we must be led by His Spirit in all our thoughts, attitudes, deeds and actions. We honor the Spirit as One with God. We strive to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily and continuously in order to live in God's presence loving Him, doing His will and completing His purposes.

4. Worshippers in Spirit and Truth

All people should worship the LORD only (John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; Revelation 15:4). Worship is attributing worth to God and serving Him. It means to praise, honor and glorify our Creator. Christians should worship God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit every day in all that we do, say and think. God is worthy of all of our praise and reverence.

Application: CLI should model and teach its staff, board members, volunteers, prayer warriors, imprisoned, partners, suppliers and all connected with our ministry various ways to worship the triune God and Him only. Our entire life and every facet of it is offered and lived out in a spiritual act of worship. Our prayers always reflect that we are worshippers in spirit and truth.

5. Necessity of being a House of Prayer

God calls us to pray individually and corporately (2 Kings 6:5-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 29:12; Luke 11:1-10; Ephesians 6:18). Prayer has always been an important part of man's relationship with God. Jesus modeled a life of prayer while He was earth and taught His disciples to pray.

Application: As a body, CLI must communicate with the triune God in all matters great and small. CLI prayer warriors, board members, and staff must seek God daily or at least weekly in praise, thanksgiving, confession and supplications. Once a year, staff and volunteers come together outside of certain correctional facilities to pray for the needs for inmates and prison personnel (Prayer at the Prison Gate). CLI is a house of prayer of God Most High!

6. Inerrancy of the Bible

The Bible is the living word of God. No other book in the world can make this claim (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19). Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers (1 Timothy 4:16).

Throughout the Bible we are told that the word of the LORD came to various prophets and servants of God. These words were given to the people at the time and also written down so subsequent people would have access to God's commands, ways and plans. God has given us the Bible so we can come to know Him and serve Him in truth.

Application: The purpose for our ministry comes from the Word of God as we submit ourselves to its teachings and commands in His Spirit of love. Our authority and power come from speaking, writing and communicating God's Word to others. We use discernment and care in choosing books and other materials based on God's word for salvation, edification and growth of the imprisoned. We also choose books recognizing the various levels of belief and growth that individuals pass through during their lifetime. We provide free Bible study lessons to the imprisoned in order for them to know and practice God's word.

7. Evangelism

Jesus Christ is the only way to know God and the only way to heaven. Sinners will suffer eternally if they reject Jesus and His salvation. Jesus has commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 13:23, 28:19-20; John 14:6; Romans 3:23-24; James 1:22; Peter 1:10-11). It is necessary to act on Jesus' teachings and to take steps to communicate the gospel and His commandments to all nations. God wants everyone to be saved and does not want anyone to perish (1 Timothy 2:3-6 and 2 Peter 3:9). Therefore all believers need to clearly get the message of God's saving grace into their families, neighborhoods, communities, nation and the world.

Application: God has called on many of His servants to write and communicate the gospel and teaching of Jesus Christ in books and other forms. CLI can make sure these materials get out into the world for all to read. Therefore, CLI provides Christian materials including Bibles to people

at no charge through prisons. Our website, newsletter and social media are other means to communicate the gospel. We encourage all connected with CLI to share the good news.

8. Loving and Caring Relationships in Humble Servanthood

Jesus told us that the second greatest commandment was to love our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39-40; Mark 12:31; Romans 15:7). Jesus emphasized the importance of loving others in His teachings and how He lived His life on earth. He was totally involved with people: healing, teaching, encouraging, rebuking, comforting and blessing wherever He was at the time. He was a loving, humble servant of His Father.

Application: We are to care for the needs of each other with love and compassion. There is no task or responsibility beneath any of us as we undertake our work with a humble heart, grateful for the privilege of serving Christ and His body. We also care for the needs of others God places in our path on a daily basis (always being mindful of God's will for us in each situation).

9. Emphasis on the Fruit of the Spirit

When we truly live by the Spirit, our lives bless others by the goodness that flows from us to them. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). God gave us His Spirit so that we could be like Jesus, who is the shining and majestic image of God Himself. Believers need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to be led in outward actions and inward attitudes. In this way, believers have the ability to produce an abundance of righteousness.

Application: CLI emphasizes and helps in developing the fruits of the Spirit in working, living and dealing with all people. We look to be a blessing to everyone no matter what task we are performing or plan we are implementing. Jesus shines through our faces to everyone we meet.

10. An Environment of Grace

God is sovereign and gives grace, undeserved merit or favor, to mankind for salvation and acts of service in His name (2 Samuel 7:22; Acts 14:3, 26; 18:27, Romans 5:20-21, 6:14, 11:6, 12:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 3:7). God has all authority in heaven and earth. He is in control and nothing happens without His approval. Through His grace people are saved and through His grace these same believers are enabled to do good works.

Application: CLI understands that we exist by God's grace. Nothing good happens in our lives or ministry that God has not given us by His grace. Our working environment and our relationships will be governed by grace, undeserved merit, to others.

11. Faithfulness to God

Believers should be loyally devoted to God and His commands. We should be staunch, true, constant and steadfast in following Jesus. As believers follow Jesus, we will be faithful to consistently minister to others (Matthew 23:23; 1 Corinthians 3:6-11; 3 John 1:3, 5; Revelation 13:10). Loyalty is not to just anyone or anything, it is to the sovereign God through Jesus Christ. God deserves everyone's fidelity, sincerity and reliability.

Application: We do not compare ourselves or compete with other ministries or secular business'. No one is singled out for special attention as we are all working together as a team that is faithful, loyal and true. We offer our best and our most excellent work because He is worthy. As we are faithful, God will determine the work, and hence the harvest that we are to enjoy together.

12. Maturation in Christ

After salvation one must study and move forward in knowing and serving God and in the ability to distinguish good from evil (Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 5:14-6:1). Sanctification is a process. Believers become more Christ-like each day as we make decisions to follow Him no matter the cost. Christians must grow in their wisdom and discernment in knowing God's will from their own desires or Satan's ploys. The process of sanctification, becoming holy, is essentially knowing and doing what God requires with a cheerful heart.

Application: CLI promotes higher learning in Christ and encourages all to grow and mature in Jesus. Books and other Christian materials are written and produced by some of the best teachers in the body of Christ. Their teachings on the Bible are available 24 hours a day and provide answers to some difficult spiritual questions. Believers can actually be mentored through the Spirit through the teachings in a book. The CLI Christian Leadership and Disciple of Christ Bible Studies are administered by mail for the purpose of maturing in Christ Jesus.

13. Importance of the Family

The family is important to God in teaching children and other family members about Christ and how to become His disciple. The family is also important to God in its member's relationships to each other (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 6:7; Colossians 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:21, 33, 6:4).

Realizing that family relations are important to God and that one of Satan's greatest battlefields is currently within the home, Christians should be committed to strengthening the relationships of families.

Application: CLI is committed to strengthening the spiritual lives of our families as we seek to become beacons of light for Jesus Christ within our neighborhoods, communities, nation and indeed the world. We pray for our own families and those connected to us through CLI. We ask God for specific ways to reach out in support, encouragement and love. We also pray for God to heal inmate's relationships with family.

14. A Mandate to Equip and Mobilize

Jesus chose twelve apostles to teach and equip them with God's truth in order to send them into a fallen world to share the good news. Jesus equips and mobilizes in order to make God known and to build the kingdom (Mark 3:14; Luke 10:2; Hebrews 13:20). From the very beginning of man's existence it has been necessary to learn God's ways and His commands and teach them to others. God is a relational Father. He uses His people to supply the necessary education, tools and provisions necessary to work in the Kingdom. Jesus modeled this relational pattern by equipping the apostles and sending them to minister in and to a lost world.

Application: Equipping and mobilizing the saints is an ongoing and continual process in Christian Library International. Education and motivation to perform in Christ by His Spirit will be our goal for staff, board members, volunteers, prayer warriors, imprisoned, partners, suppliers

and all connected with our ministry. Fruitfulness is produced in accordance to our faithfulness and confidence in Christ and our willingness to exalt His name no matter the cost. We are using the CLI Disciple of Christ Bible Study to equip and mobilize believers in prison.

15. Openness to Innovation, Development, and Growth

Jesus brought a new command, a new covenant, and new ways of doing things. Jesus' dying on the cross and being raised from the dead made each believer a new creation. In Revelation the old order is passing away and Jesus is making everything new. Jesus expects us to grow and develop our talents for the kingdom (Matthew 25: 14-29; Luke 8:18; 2 Corinthians 3:6, 5:17; Revelation 21:4-5). God never changes, but we must. God knows all, we know little. As new creations in Christ, we need to always be on the alert for better ways of doing things; how to change for the better. We should be constantly growing and developing. Jesus Christ was an innovator in His Father's will. We also must look at new ways of doing things that will be profitable for the kingdom.

Application: CLI is committed to innovation, development and growth not only for us as individuals but to the organization as well. We provide an atmosphere of acceptance of new ideas and fresh ways of doing things. CLI is willing to follow the movement of the Spirit into new territories and radical ways of performing in every single detail of our ministry.

16. Complete Obedience to God's Calling

Jesus tells us that whoever does the Father's will is His brother and sister. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in accordance with God's will. God's desire and purpose for us and CLI is of utmost importance and therefore we follow God's call (Mark 3:35; John 7:17; Romans 8:27, 12:2; Galatians 3:28-29; 1 Peter 3:17). God has a plan and purpose for CLI in making His Name known through Jesus Christ our Lord. When God calls, we answer: Here I am! Men and women are to diligently develop and use their God-given gifts for the good of the home, church and society.

Application: CLI gives complete obedience to God's call on our lives. We work as a team so that our mission is carried out according to God's desires. CLI recognizes the equality and essential dignity of men and women of all ethnicities, ages, and classes. We believe that all persons are made in the image of God and are to reflect that image in the community of believers in the home, society and prisons. We pray for understanding and carry out His call and will personally and to the imprisoned.

