

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

### Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

### Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

**T**his week is called Passion Week, a word which actually refers to the idea of suffering. When we think of the word passion, we often think of intense emotion or strong feelings about something that burns deeply within us. In many ways, the two ideas are related. For it was the deep, deep love of God—His passion for us, His passion for His own glory and honor—that caused Him to be willing to suffer such pain and humiliation. Passion—the truest and best kind, anyway—is willing to pay the price. Passion often leads to pain. But aren't we so deeply grateful for the passion of Jesus? This week, I invite you to journey into Christ's passion in a different way. As you sit with these verses and the price that passion paid, allow Christ's sacrifice to meet your heart. Respond as God leads you—in tears of gratitude, songs of praise, in silent thoughtfulness—whatever God brings. Simply be with Jesus and be reminded of what Jesus has done for you and in you.

Overwhelmed,

**Richard Gotthardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation**

This week's Engage is a bit different. In light of the uniqueness of this week—the week leading up to Good Friday and Easter—we want to focus our hearts and minds on the Cross of Jesus. Here's what we're inviting you to do:

**For each day, read the verse for the day. Spend some time meditating on it. Reflect, ponder and chew on it for a bit. You may want to look it up; you could try praying it back to God. Try journaling your thoughts this week. Ask yourself, "How does this lead me to a deeper appreciation for the Cross, for Jesus and the resurrection?"**

### **Sunday, April 9th...Romans 8:1-2**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

### **Monday, April 10th...Ephesians 2:4-6**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

### **Tuesday, April 11th...Hebrews 10:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

**Wednesday, April 12th...Hebrews 10:11-14**

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**Thursday, April 13th...Colossians 2:13-15**

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

**Friday, April 14th...Isaiah 53:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

**Saturday, April 15th...John 11:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

**Easter Sunday, April 16th...Colossians 1:13-14**

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.