

# Reflecting Jesus in our Life Together

BelPres is a community of people seeking to follow Jesus Christ. This central identity forms our priorities and directs our actions according to the word of God. BelPres strives to reflect the unity of the many-faceted family of God. But Christians and churches do not always agree nor do we perfectly reflect Jesus. We fail to love God and others as God intends. When our differences lead to conflict, we turn to God through prayer and scripture and focus on calling one another to the core of what it means to be followers of Jesus. In this, we recognize we are forgiven by the grace of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring God's message of reconciliation wherever God calls us. We are guided in our life together by the following statements.

1. **We love because God first loved us.** (1 John 4:19, Romans 5:8)
2. **We affirm all people's full humanity, made in God's image.** (Genesis 1:27, Ephesians 2:14-16)
3. **We submit to the authority of Scripture which teaches us above all to love God and our neighbor as ourselves.** (1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Mark 12:28-31, Romans 14:1-23)
4. **We welcome all people as they are to BelPres and expect our leaders to strive to live in obedience to scripture in every area of their lives.** (Matthew 9:12-13, James 2:1-11, Acts 10:34-35, James 3:1)
5. **We celebrate our oneness and diversity in the body of Christ.** (Ephesians 4:3-13, Romans 12:3-8)
6. **We lead with relationship, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.** (Luke 19:1-10, Philippians 3:13-16, Colossians 3:12-14)
7. **We renounce sin in all its forms without prejudice or favoritism and we address our own sin first.** (2 Corinthians 4:2, Matthew 7:3-5, James 2:10-12)
8. **We listen to others' views with humility, honoring our God-given diversity and unity in the Spirit.** (Ephesians 4:1-6, James 1:19, Philippians 2:1-4)
9. **We disagree respectfully and practice biblical conflict resolution.** (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17)
10. **We share with God's people in need, pursue justice for the poor, the vulnerable, and the outsider, and stand together against evil systems.** (Romans 12:13; Ephesians 6:11-13, Proverbs 31:8-9, Psalm 146:7, 9, Isaiah 1:17)