

The Four Pillars of River's Edge

1. Intimacy — *God invites us to passionately embrace him through...*

- ***learning his Word.***

To know about God, his nature, his passion, his purpose, and his ways, comes through reading, study, and meditation upon the divinely inspired Bible he authored and preserved for us to have.

- ***practicing Prayer.***

To know God personally is developed through intentional, passionate times with him in conversational prayer, journaling God's thoughts to us, fasting often, making our petitions known to Him, and interceding on behalf of others both saved and lost.

- ***abandoned Worship.***

To know God intimately and passionately through his Word and prayer results in the expression of songs of adoration, declaration, proclamation, exultation and worship. It is a place where he comes to envelop us with his loving presence.

2. Community — *We're called as ministers & priests to engage community through relationships...*

- ***in our natural family.***

The home environment is the first single unit community where the practicing of our obedience to God is most tested and challenged. It is the place that exposes the true nature of our hearts, and is the cornerstone for building authentic relationships with others.

- ***in our spiritual family.***

The local church is the extended family community where relationships are forged and accountability, encouragement, and protection are received through corporate gatherings, small groups, and one-on-one discipleship. It is the environment in which the believer is encouraged, trained, and equipped in Christ's gifts to minister to each other in love.

- ***our social spheres of influence (i.e. marketplace & neighbors).***

The workplace and other social environments are the "frontline" communities where the believer brings God's kingdom to invade and transform the devil's territory. The people we engage with, in our social spheres of influence, are the people we're called to pray for, to serve, and to love as Christ did when he came to earth.

3. Identity — *we empower identity through Christ...*

- ***by exchanging our life for His.***

Many people search for their identity and significance through things, people, and personal achievements. When we try to find our identity in ourselves we so often come up with disappointment because we fail ourselves and the expectations we demand. Jesus said, "Whoever tries to find his life will lose it, but he that loses his life for my sake will find it (Matt 10:39)." This is why John the Baptist said, "He [Christ] must become greater, I must become less (John 3:30)." And Paul confirms this with, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come (2 Cor 5:17-18)!" It is an exchanged life. Christ for ours. The more intimate we become with him and behold his glory, the more we will be transformed to reflect his identity and glory through us.

- ***by reckless abandon to God's will.***

When we exchange our lives with Christ, present it to him as a living sacrifice, we will become wholly abandoned to do his will, no matter how small or menial the task, no matter how obscure or insignificant in the eyes of others. When we begin to find value in living solely to please God rather than ourselves, we will become empowered and fulfilled through Christ's identity manifesting itself through us, his glory pouring out of our earthen vessels. To live is Christ, to die is gain (Philippians 1:21).

- ***by selfless service to others.***

Nothing empowers the identity of Christ's nature in us more than deferring to and thinking about others more than ourselves. Christ in us has gifts to use. If we seek to excel in the gifts he's been endowed with; if we seek to activate our faith to practice those gifts; then we'll become empowered when we empower others through the edification, encouragement, and comfort that comes. Because our identity is in Christ and not ourselves, using these gifts will draw people to Christ in us, and not to the old self we've died to.

4. **Destiny** — *we are destined to effect transformation...*

- ***in life.***

Jesus came into this world to reveal the Father. He made it possible to approach a holy God by laying down his own life for our sins. He effected transformation in people's lives to the degree they became world changers, affecting their world around them. Individuals were transformed, families were transformed, businesses were transformed, religion was transformed, cities were transformed, Jews were transformed, Gentiles were transformed, nations were transformed, and empires were transformed. For this purpose Jesus came, and for this purpose he left us in the world—destined to transform the world around us.

- ***in kingdom.***

Jesus came as the King and rightful heir to the throne of David. His is a kingdom that is not of this world. It is not a place, a creed, or an institution. It is a kingdom that resides in the hearts of the sons and daughters of God. It is initiated by faith, driven by love, and manifested in power. It is a movement that invades the enemy's territory in order to effect *transformation* in the hearts, lives, and culture of people. When God's kingdom comes, people's destinies become altered to reflect the kingdom of the King.

- ***for eternity.***

Compared to eternity our life is a vaporous burst of steam which appears and vanishes on the pages of time. Yet, what we sow in this short, allotted time on earth will be echoed in the halls of eternity. An eternal destiny determined by the depth and breadth of the transformation we've effected in the lives of others.

The goal of River's Edge is to:

*Embrace intimacy with God,
Engage **community** through relationships,
Empower **identity** through Christ, and
Effect **destiny** through transformation.*

Embrace Intimacy Engage Community Empower Identity Effect Destiny
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- **Intimacy** – *We view intimacy with God as non-negotiable.*
- **Community** – *We seek intentional community through relationships.*
- **Identity** – *Our identity is empowered best through Christ's identity in us.*
- **Destiny** – *We are destined to transform the world we influence in our daily lives.*