DISCIPLESHIP 101



The Role of the Church in Christian Discipleship

Notes by Pastor Tom Fittis

The Master Key for filling in the blanks can be found at:
Calvarybaptistnews/Discipleship 101

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"



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Hello Friend

Treceived Jesus Christ as my Savior at age eighteen, when I attended for the first time Victory Baptist Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I had never been to a Baptist Church before, but after hearing the gospel that night and receiving Jesus and His gift of salvation, my life would never be the same. Before that night I had no interest in going to church, but after coming to the Lord, my relationship to the church changed. I never missed a service and before long I was baptized and became a member of that church.

Some people teach that we get to Jesus through the church, but I got to the church through Jesus. The Lord saved me and gave me an interest in the things of God. Salvation is a free gift, something God does for us, but discipleship is something we do for God. It will cost us to follow Jesus!

Discipleship 101 is intended to be a part of a "New Members Class" that introduces newcomers to our church. Joining a church is not the end of our commitment to the Lord, only the beginning, so this booklet seeks to introduce you to what the Bible says about being a disciple, a follower of the Lord. As we study the New Testament, we find that the believers were very interested in the church. The believers were the church, and the church became the center of their fellowship and service for God.

You see, it is possible for a person to be saved without church involvement, but it is impossible to be a disciple of Christ apart from involvement in a New Testament patterned church. So won't you join me in this study as we find out more about serving the Lord, and about the role of the church in Christian discipleship.

I stand ready to help you as you continue your journey with the Lord.

Your friend and fellow traveller,

Tom Fittis, pastor

Discipleship - Where It All BEGAN

Introduction: As we begin our study of discipleship 101, we want to first understand where discipleship started. Where did it all begin? Many know of Jesus and His 12 Disciples but even before that, John the Baptist had his disciples, Matthew 9:14. Today we live in the church age and the responsibility for Christian discipleship was given to the church and is accomplished as a part of the ministry of the local New Testament church.

Jesus INSTRUCTIONS To His Church

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Discipleship is the Mission of the Church

Information - Give them the Gospel Identification - Give them a Home Indoctrination - Give them the Truth

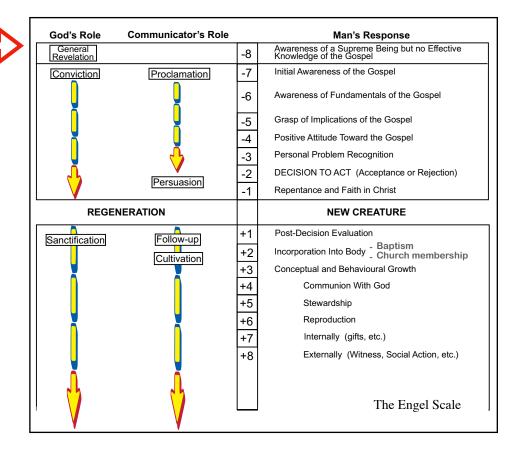
- 1. First, the church's first responsibility is to preach the gospel, "that Christ died for our sins", 1Cor 15:1-4. Through believing the gospel, people can be saved and receive eternal life through Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16, 1Cor 1:17-18, Galatians 1:6-8.
- 2. Second, the believers are to be baptized, identifying them publicly as belonging to Christ and helping them to identify with the Lord's people. Mark 16:15-16.
- 3. Third, the believers are to be taught to follow Christ and grow as Christians. Matthew 11:28-29, John 6:35-37, John 8:30-32.

Where are you on this chart?

The church's responsibility is to help people move from unbeliever to believer, then to help them become a mature believer, who can in turn help others.

Our ministry does not stop when people get saved; we must continue to help them to continue to follow Jesus. We must make disciples.

Paul said, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:" Colossians 1:28



"It is possible for a person to be saved without church involvement. However, it is impossible to be a disciple of Christ apart from involvement in a New Testament patterned church."

THE CHURCH In Discipleship The Role Of

It is fashionable in today's culture to sideline the church's importance when it comes to Christian worship, growth and service, the "I don't need to go to church to be a good Christian" philosophy. However, the pattern of the New Testament makes an inseparable link between the church and discipleship. Involvement at church may not make you a disciple, but you really cannot be a disciple without involvement. By the way, church membership does not always equate to church involvement.

Most of the New Testament is written to churches. It is assumed that believers were identified with local assemblies and together made up those churches. Jesus said "...I will build my church" Matt 16:18. The church is not a denomination but an assembly of believers following the New Testament pattern. If you are for Jesus, you should also be for the church He built.

Greek root for Church = Ekklesia (Ek - out, Kaleo - to call) - A called out assembly

English root for Church = Kirk (Kurion - Lord's) - The Lord's people or belonging to the Lord

Consider These Scriptures Concerning CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Jesus identified with God's people - Matthew 3:13-15. The disciples were numbered - Acts 1:15, 17, 26. New believer's were added to that number - Acts 2:41. Unrepentant members were dropped from that number - 1Cor 5:1-2, 9-13. This teaches us that the local church should have a membership roll.



Do We Really **NEED** The Church?

Christians should consider the church to be their spiritual home and a vital part of their discipleship development.

It's where we MEET

Acts 2:1, 12:5,12, Hebrews 10:25, 1Cor 16:19.

It's where we HEAR THE WORD

Col 4:16, Acts 20:7-12, 20-21, 28-31.

It's where we WORSHIP

Acts 2:47, Hebrews 2:12, Eph 3:20.

It's where we MINISTER

Eph 4:11-16, Hebrews 10:23-24.

It's where we **SERVE**

Romans 12:4-10, 1Cor 12:7,12-14,25-28.

It's where we GIVE

1Cor 16:1-3, 1Cor 9:9-14, 2Cor 8:1-4

It's where we are **ACCOUNTABLE**

Acts 5:1-11. 1Cor 5:11-13. Titus 3:10

It's where we **OBSERVE** the ordinances

It's where we PRAY TOGETHER

Acts 12:12, Matt 18:20,

Six Important QUESTIONS and ANSWERS About The Church

We have already learned that discipleship is inextricably tied to the ministry of the local church. The commission to make disciples was given to the church in Matthew 28:18-20.

So what is the church supposed to be? The church exists with a clearly defined purpose, with doctrines to believe and defend, and with actions that fulfill its purpose. This purpose is accomplished by committed members who make up each local congregation. As we consider discipleship through the church, we hope to answer these basic yet important questions.

- √ 1. What is the church?
- ✓ 2. Why does the church exist?
- √ 3. What does the church believe?
- √ 4. What does the church do?
- √ 5. Who leads the church?
- √ 6. What does the church promise?

1. The **PEOPLE** Of The Church - What is the Church?

The church is people! The church is revealed in the New Testament as a special group of people, distinct from Israel, made up of both saved Jews and saved Gentiles, who are called "the bride of Christ" and "the body of Christ". These represent God's people in the world from the time of Pentecost in Acts 2, until the rapture of the church at the end of this age, 1Thessalonians 4:13-18.

The local church should only be made up of those people who have believed on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, who have publicly professed Christ, and who have identified with Him and His people through baptism by immersion. *Acts* 2:41-42.

2. The PURPOSE Of The Church - Why Does The Church Exist?

The church has four main purposes:

- 1. **To Glorify God.** Its purpose (as is the purpose of every believer) is to glorify God. "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever". (Westminster Confession) *1Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 3:21.*
- 2. To Witness The Gospel. The church is to preach the gospel to the world. Luke 24:46-48, Acts 1:8.
- 3. **To Make Disciples.** The church is to make disciples by baptizing the believers and teaching them the truths of Scripture. *Matthew 28:18-20.*
- 4. **To Defend The Faith.** The church is responsible for not only teaching the truth of the Bible, but also to uphold it and to defend it. 1Timothy 3:15, Jude v3, Galatians 2:4-5, 14, 2Timothy 4:1-4, Titus 1:9-13.

3. The PRECEPTS of the Church - What Does The Church Believe?

Examine the beliefs of Calvary Baptist Church which are listed in the Articles of Faith on the following pages.

The church is to believe all the teachings of the Holy Bible, to propagate those teaching, and to stand and defend them in an unbelieving world.



"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." 1Thessalonians 2:13

The Articles of Faith

Section 1: The Scriptures.

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Bible, "as it is in truth, the Word of God..." I Thessalonians 2:13. We believe in verbal, plenary inspiration in the original writings, and God's preservation of His pure words to every generation Psalm 12:6-8. The Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the Received Text of the New Testament (Textus Receptus) are those texts of the original languages we accept and use; the King James Version of the Bible is the only English version we accept and use. The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.

2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:19-21.

Section 2: The True God.

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite, sovereign Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Exodus 20:2-3; 1Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11.

Section 3: The Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin; of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He baptizes, seals and indwells every believer at the moment of salvation. That He, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. The gift of tongues and healing were "sign gifts" which fulfilled their purpose in the first century, at which time these gifts ceased.

John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26 Luke 1:35 John 1:13; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14; Hebrews 2:4; 1Corinthians 13:8.

Section 4: The Devil, or Satan.

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the ruler of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire.

Matthew 4:1-11; 2Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10.

Section 5: Creation.

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory or myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God, in six literal twenty-four hour days, without any evolutionary process; that man, spirit, soul and body, was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing life forms; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.

Genesis 1 & 2: Colossians 1:16-17: John 1:3.

Section 6: The Fall of Man.

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from this sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature and are sinners by nature and by conduct; and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 5:12 & 19; Romans 1:18 & 32.

Section 7: The Virgin Birth.

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man ever born or can ever be born of woman and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Hebrews 1:8.

Section 8: The Resurrection and Priesthood.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our Great High Priest.

Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1Corinthians 15:14; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:6; 1Timothy 2:5; 1John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17.

Section 9: The Redemption of Man from Sin.

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Him a human body and nature, yet without sin, and by His suffering, death and resurrection made full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who believe, and that it is the immediate duty of all to accept these offers of mercy.

John 1:1-3; 14; 3:1-7; Hebrews 10:4-14; Acts 16:30-33.

Section 10: Salvation by Grace.

We believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly by grace; that no works, however good, make that salvation more secure.

Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 10:9-13.

Section 11: The New Birth.

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

John 1:12,13; 3:3-16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Gal 3:26.

Section 12: Justification.

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be righteous through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes pardon from sin and the imputation of God's righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood.

Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; 2Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 5:1, 5, 9; 8:1.

Section 13: Repentance.

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith.

Luke 13:1-3; Acts 8:22; Romans 2:4; 2Corinthians 7:10; Acts 20:21.

Section 14: Sanctification.

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a three fold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of the Lord's return when the saint is glorified and perfected forever.

Hebrews 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; 2Corinthians 3:18; 1Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23-24; 1John 3:2; Jude 24-25; Revelation 22:11.

Section 15: The Security of the Saints.

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by the Father for Jesus Christ. That one who has been truly saved can never be lost.

Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude.

Section 16: The Church.

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the Church which is the body of Christ, which was established on the Day of Pentecost and will be taken up at the Rapture. Both Jews and Gentiles, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local Church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; and that its Scriptural officers are Pastors and Deacons, whose qualification, claims and duties are clearly defined in Scripture. We believe the mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity.

We hold that the local Church has the absolute right to self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the

furtherance of the Gospel; that each local Church is sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation and that on all matters of policy, government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local Church is final.

Ephesians 1: 22-23; 3:1-6; 4:1; 5:23-24; 1Corinthians 11:2; 12:12-13; Acts 2:41-42; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; Colossians 1:18; 1Timothy 3:1-7.

Section 17: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, under the authority of the local Church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to new life; that baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of Church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that participants should be immersed believers.

Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; Colossians 3:12; 1Corinthians 11:23-28.

Section 18: Separation.

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate entirely from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy unto God.

2Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; 1Thessalonians 1:9-10; Romans 16:17; 1Timothy 6:3-5; 2John 9-11.

Section 19: Civil Government.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings.

Romans 13:1-7; 2Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19-20; Daniel 3:17- 18.

Section 20: Human Sexuality.

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's Gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. *Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23.*

Section 21: Family Relationships.

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12.

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction.

Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; 1Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; 1Peter 3:1-7.

Section 22: Divorce and Remarriage.

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. *Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6*.

Section 23: The Sanctity of Life.

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable.

Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

Section 24: Lawsuits Between Believers.

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. *1Corinthians* 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32.

Section 25: Missions.

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us.

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2Corinthians 5:20.

Section 26: Giving.

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithe or offering once the gift has been made.

Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1Corinthians 16:2; 2Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1Timothy 5:17-18; 1John 3:17.

Section 27: Israel.

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal, covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ.

Genesis 13:14-17: Romans 11:1-32: Ezekiel 37.

Section 28: The Second Coming.

We believe in the imminent, personal, pretribulational and premillennial return of Christ for His Church. At that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

1Corinthians 15:42-44; 51-54; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 3:10.

We believe that the tribulation period, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to establish His earthly millennial reign and to sit upon the throne of David in Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29-30; Revelation 20:1-6.

Section 29: The Righteous and the Wicked.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in life and after death. We believe in the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire.

Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; 7:6; Proverbs 14:32; 1John 5:19; Luke 16:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21; Revelation 20:14-15.

4. The PASTOR of the Church - Who Leads The Church?

The **HEAD** of the Church

The Head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who loved the church and gave Himself for it, Eph 5:25. Christ is our Head! He must be glorified in His Church, He must have the preeminence in all things, Col 1:18.

The **PASTOR** of the Church

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, and it is He who has ordained under-shepherds who have the care of the flock of God. Three names are given to the pastors in scripture, 1Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:17, 28, 1Timothy 3:1-7, Ephesians 4:11.

Elder: (Presbyter) This speaks of the position as being held by one of spiritual maturity.

Bishop: (Episkope) This word means to oversee or superintend, to look after the church. This would involve the pastor's duties of organizing the church and protecting it from harm.

Pastor: (Poimen) This means shepherd. The duties of the shepherd are to feed (teach) the sheep, guard the sheep, and to lead the flock. The pastor is to lead.

The **PRINCIPLE** of Leadership

The principle of leadership comes from God. Every human organization has leadership.

Human government is ordained by God to have leaders who have authority, kings, presidents, prime ministers, etc. Paul instructed Timothy to pray and give thanks, "For Kings, and for all that are in authority". 1Timothy 2:1-2.

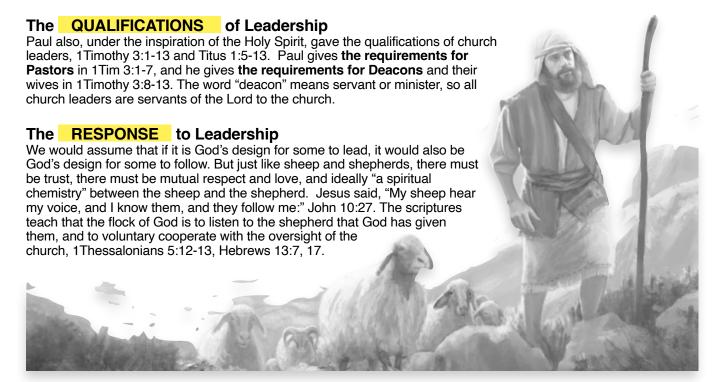
The home is ordained by God to have leadership, and that leader should be the man, the husband, the father, 1Cor 11:3, 1Peter 3:1-7.

In Israel, God ordained leaders to lead His people, men like Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, etc.

Everywhere people meet, leaders will emerge! Do you remember your classes in school? Leaders always emerge. When it comes to the church, God desires qualified leaders, not just those who have a charismatic personality, or those who have influence. Church leaders must meet the qualifications that God requires.

The **QUALITIES** of Leadership

Jesus gave those qualities in Matthew 20: 25-28. "But Jesus called them *unto him,* and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Church leaders are not to be tyrants, but servants and ministers.



5. The **PRACTICE** of the Church - What Does The Church Do?

The church must function in harmony with its God given purpose, which is to glorify God, evangelize the world, make disciples and defend the faith. These functions fall into three important relationships. Our relationship to God above, our relationship to saints within, and our relationship to sinners without.

EXALT the Savior Above



Our first responsibility is to God, and to His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. The church meets regularly on the first day of the week for the purpose of worshipping God. Acts 20:7, 1Corinthians 16:12, Ephesians 3:21.

Singing - We as the church are involved with singing to God and about God, in the spirit of reverence, devotion, worship and praise. "Psalms" carries with it the use of instruments. Ephesians 5:20. Special music is encouraged by our members through the choir, other singing groups and instrumentalists.

Praying - Jesus said, "My house is the house of prayer" Luke 19:46. It is right when we meet together that we pray together. Matthew 18:19-20. Special times for prayer should also be held by the church.

Giving - Worship giving is giving in response to what God has done for us. Tithing has always been the means of giving God His glory and thanking Him for His provision in our lives. Genesis 28:20-22, Malachi 3:8-10, 1Corinthians 9:7-14.

Listening - Part of our worship is valuing what God has written in the Bible. Listening to and learning the scriptures is an important part of worship. Nehemiah 8:8-12, Acts 17:11, 2Timothy 4:2-4.

The worship of God must be holy and reverent. He holds a sacred place in our hearts and our worship is for His benefit, therefore we come before His presence with gratitude and reverence, giving our best to Him.

EDIFY the Saints Within



We also have a responsibility to the believers within the church. Edification of the saints takes place through relationships and learning.

Teaching - Most of the teaching at church comes by way of the pulpit ministry at the regular services. This is mainly accomplished through biblical, expository preaching and lessons that include apologetics and a strong defense of the Christian faith. Small group teaching settings will also continue to be developed mainly through the Children's Church, Sunday School, Youth Meetings, Newcomers Classes, Senior's Fellowship and other age appropriate fellowship groups. 1Thessalonians 2:13, 1Timothy 4:13-16, 2Timothy 2:2.

Community - For edification to take place, it makes necessary our attendance to the services, our communication with one another in love and mutual understanding and respect. Ephesians 4:15-16, 30-32, Hebrews 10:24-25.

Fellowship - To encourage community and ministry within the body, the church promotes "fellowship get togethers" where we can eat together and be with one another to our mutual spiritual and social benefit. This may take the form of church picnics and barbecues, age appropriate outings and activities. Acts 2:42.

EVANGELIZE the Sinners Without

We also have a responsibility to unsaved people everywhere. Jesus has commanded the church to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark16:15. So how does the church do that?

Evangelistic Services - Because it is our burden and responsibility to preach the gospel, the normal services will be laced with gospel messages and gospel appeals, given with urgency that sinners might come to Christ. 2Corinthians 5:11,14, 20-21.

Evangelistic Outreach - The church provides regular avenues for its members to be involved in reaching out to our community with the gospel. At present this is done through our GPS (God's Plan of Salvation) Visitation program, either Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings. GPS involves those who go speak to people, but also those who write and send out letters and literature. Gospel literature, including our quarterly, "Calvary Newsletter" is also readily available for believers to use in their witness.

Broadcast Ministries - The church funds a weekly T.V. and Radio Broadcast. The "Amazing Grace" Television Broadcast, through BLTV6, has over 46,000 potential viewers, and a coverage area located in Warren, White, Van Buren, Grundy, Cumberland and Coffee counties, with pockets of viewers in Cannon, Rutherford, Sequatichie, Marion, and Franklin counties. The "Amazing Grace" Radio Broadcast, through King of Kings Radio, broadcasts into six States, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri. Preaching and teaching audio and video can also be found on Facebook, YouTube, and at calvarybaptistnews.com

World-Wide Missions Program - Every Christian should be open to the call of being a missionary, either here at home or overseas. However, if we cannot go, we should be willing to pray and pay for others to go. Calvary Baptist supports dozens of missionaries which is accomplished by church members giving generously and sacrificially above their tithes and other offerings. These gifts go directly to the missionaries that the church votes to send around the world on our behalf. Under normal circumstances, missionaries will periodically visit our



church to present their missionary calling and burden. Special emphasis on worldwide missions is given at our annual Missions Conference, usually in the Spring of the year.

6. The **PROMISE** of the Church - What Does The Church **PROMISE**?

The Church Covenant

What is a Covenant? A covenant is defined as a contract, a commitment, a pledge and a promise. Each church will have its own covenant, and when someone joins that church, they are committing themselves to keeping that covenant, pledge or promise. So the Church Covenant is a promise that the church makes to itself.

This is a Promise

This is a Promise Concerning our WORSHIP

This is a Promise Concerning our WALK

This is a Promise Concerning our WATCH

Covenant of Calvary Baptist Church

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on public confession of our faith, having been immersed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ. (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to give it sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations. (Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; 2 Peter 1:5-7).

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotions, to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting, and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior, and to give Him pre-eminence in all things. (Joshua 24:15; Job 1:5; Luke 8:39).

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to watch one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and be mindful of the rules of our Savior, to seek it without delay. We moreover purpose that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church of like faith and order where we can carry out the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such Church, we shall seek with the Lord's help to establish one. (1Thess 4:13-18, 1Peter 3:8-11, Eph 4:31-32, Matt 5:23-24, 18:15-17).

My Covenant with the members of Calvary Baptist Church

Signed:



Membership COMMITMENT

Here is another way of outlining the Church Covenant. Every member should try to honor theses promises to each other.

1. I Promise To Protect The UNITY Of My Church By:

1) Acting in love toward other members (Romans 14:19, 1Peter 1:22)

2) Refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29, Leviticus 19:16-18)

3) Following the leaders (1Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17)

2. I Promise To Share The RESPONSIBILITY Of My Church By:

1) Praying for my church (1Thessalonians 1:2)

2) Inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)

3) Welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7)

3. I Promise To **SERVE** The Ministry Of My Church By:

1) Discovering my gifts and talents (1Peter 4:10)

2) Being equipped to serve by my pastor (Ephesians 4:11-12)
3) Developing a servants heart (Philippians 2:3-4)

4. I Promise To Support The **TESTIMONY** Of My Church By:

1) Attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)
2) Living a godly life (1Peter 1:14-16)

3) Giving Regularly (Genesis 28:22, 1Corinthians 16:2, 9:13-14)

What Can I DO ?

We will continue our study by considering the relationship of the individual believer to the church in the discipleship journey.

You Are Very **IMPORTANT**!

As a saved person, you belong to God, and are very important to Him and very important to His church.

We are a part of God's house: In 1Peter 2:5 it teaches us that each believer is a stone in the larger building of God house. We are unique, but we are designed to fit together and support each other.



We are a part of Christ's body: 1Corinthians 12:12-18 teaches us that Christians are all members of Christ's body, the church. Each member is different, but contributes to the overall health and function of the body. Each body part represents a particular function within the body and points to a spiritual ability, or gift, that each member possesses.

You Have At Least One SPIRITUAL GIFT

Most everyone has natural talents that God can use in some way, but also the New Testament makes clear that every believer has at least one spiritual gift that was given him when he received the Holy Spirit at salvation. 1Corinthians 12:4-12. The purpose of that gift is to profit the whole body, v7. It is God who decides who gets a particular gift, v14-18, 28-30. Some gifts, like "The Gift of Tongues", were temporary, because they had a temporary purpose. Other gifts continue to this day. The scriptures that teach us of spiritual gifts are: Romans 12:3-8, 1Corinthians 12:1-31, Ephesians 4:7-13, 1Peter 4:10-11.

You Can **DISCOVER** Your Spiritual Gift

Every Christian should know what his gift is because that gift dictates the area of service in which the Christian will be most useful. An ear is better at hearing than seeing, and an eye is better at seeing than hearing; this demonstrates that there are some tasks to which we will be better suited as we involve ourselves in ministry.

Spiritual Gifts Evaluation

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." 1Peter 4:10-11

Further references: Romans 12:3-8, 1Corinthians 12:1-31, Ephesians 4:7-13.

Instructions: In the list below, you will find various questions which are designed to aid in discovering how God has uniquely gifted you for His work. For the best results answer each statement below according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. How true are these statements of you? What has been your experience? What do others tell you? To what degree do these statements reflect how you live your life every day? Each question is very important, so try not to miss out on any. You will calculate your score at the end of the evaluation.



Using a scale of one to five, five being the strongest, circle the number underneath each question. Be sure to answer all of the questions, and to wait until you have completed each question to score your test. I am always looking for practical ways to help. 1. I enjoy public speaking and teaching. 2. I find it easy to motivate people to do the right thing. 3. I am usually able to help unbelievers understand the gospel. 4. I am a take-charge person who can usually bring order out of chaos. 5. 3 6. I look forward to seeing what God will do. 2 3 5 7. I am very sensitive to the emotional state of others. 2 3 5 8. I am able to discern wise investments so as to have more to give. 9. When people are in my home, I like to wait on them "hand and foot." 3 10. People often tell me that I helped them understand things better. 3 I am always uplifting those who are around me. 11. 3 I especially like sermons which try to persuade unbelievers. I can organize people and delegate easily. 13.

2

3

14.	I find it easy to believe God's promises in spite of adverse circumstances. 1 2 3 4 5
15.	I am an easy mark for stray animals, especially if they are hurt. 1 2 3 4 5
16.	I have a desire to give quietly without public notice. 1 2 3 4 5
17.	I really like going to GPS Visitation. 1 2 3 4 5
18.	I often stop to help motorists in trouble (if not dangerous). 1 2 3 4 5
19.	I prefer systematic Bible teaching as opposed to a series of unrelated topics. 1 2 3 4 5
20.	When people ask my advice, I suggest a definite course of action. 1 2 3 4 5
21.	I enjoy a team effort more than doing the work myself. 1 2 3 4 5
22.	People in emotional distress often come to me for comfort. 1 2 3 4 5
23.	I am motivated to give unto the Lord at His prompting, not man's. 1 2 3 4 5
24.	I am not easily discouraged concerning God's ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. 1 2 3 4 5
25.	I sometimes get irritated when others don't jump in to help. 1 2 3 4 5
26.	I like trying to persuade the unsaved to believe the Bible. 1 2 3 4 5
27.	I find it easy to illustrate spiritual truths and make them clear. 1 2 3 4 5
28.	I tend to be optimistic—always giving hope. 1 2 3 4 5
29.	People who talk about problems, but never take action, irritate me. 1 2 3 4 5
30.	I am sometimes accused of being too soft on sin. 1 2 3 4 5
31.	I have a desire to give gifts that are of high quality. 1 2 3 4 5
32.	I have tracts in my car right now. 1 2 3 4 5
33.	I find it almost impossible to say no to others.

34.	Disorganized messages (with no outline) irritate me. 1 2 3 4 5
35.	Even in failure, I see the potential in people. 1 2 3 4 5
36.	Other Christians have been inspired by my trust in God. 1 2 3 4 5
37.	I am a goal-oriented person. 1 2 3 4 5
38.	My heart is continually burdened for unsaved people. 1 2 3 4 5
39.	I am reluctant to confront people; I don't want to hurt them. 1 2 3 4 5
40.	I have a tendency to test faithfulness by how people handle funds. 1 2 3 4 5
41.	Stepping out by faith excites me. 1 2 3 4 5
42.	I prefer a "behind the scenes" role. I am not an "up front" person. 1 2 3 4 5
43.	I get upset with people who use verses out of context. 1 2 3 4 5
44.	I am able to encourage others, even when I am suffering. 1 2 3 4 5
45.	I am "pushy" and demanding - driving people to the limit. 1 2 3 4 5
46.	I love ministering to the sick, to the poor, and to the handicapped. 1 2 3 4 5
47.	It is important to be involved in meeting the church's financial need. 1 2 3 4 5
48.	The humanly impossible promises of God are not difficult for me to believe. 1 2 3 4 5
49.	I find it difficult to delegate; it is usually easier to do the job myself. 1 2 3 4 5
50.	When I share the gospel, people seem to be interested. 1 2 3 4 5
51.	People tease me about being a "bookworm." 1 2 3 4 5
52.	People tease me about being a "cheerleader." 1 2 3 4 5
53.	Some say projects are more important to me than people are.

54. Others tell me that I am a good listener.

1 2 3 4 5

55. I always consult with my spouse to determine how much to give to a project or ministry.

1 2 3 4 5

56. I have great confidence in God's ability to answer my prayers.

1 2 3 4 5

Spiritual Gifts Evaluation Answer Key

Directions: Transfer the number you circled to the blank beside the corresponding question. Add the totals up in each row. The highest possible score in one column would be 35.

INSE	RT SCOR	ES FROM	I CORRE	SPONDIN	IG QUES	TIONS	ADD TOTALS	HIGHEST TOTAL INDICATES GIFT
1	9	18	25	33	42	49		# HELPS SERVING
2	10	19	27	34	43	51		#TEACHING
3	11	20	28	35	44	52		# Encouragement Exhortation
4	12	17	26	32	38	50		#EVANGELISM
5	13	21	29	37	45	53		# Administration Ruling
6	14	24	36	41	48	56		# FAITH
7	15	22	30	39	46	54		# MERCY
8	16	23	31	40	47	55		# Giving

Where Do I Fit

1Peter 4:8-11

Spiritual Gifts and Ministry Match-Up

After you have taken the spiritual gifts inventory, please write your three highest gift scores here. Then refer to the next few pages to determine possible areas of ministry and service.

•	Dominant Gift (1) _	(Highest Score
•	Secondary Gift (2) _	
•	Secondary Gift (3)	

1.	Helps /	Serving
Мy	Score	

Closely tuned to ever day needs of persons; Desires to be helpful in specific, concrete ways.

Sunday School Helper Children's Church Helper Jam Club Worker Telephone Team Sound Room Video Ministry Website/Online Ministry **Church Committees** Children's Ministry Music Group Take Meals to Those in Need **Decorating for Special Events Bus Ministry** Sunday School Secretary **Baptism Committee** Lord's Supper Preparation Children's Church Worker First Impressions Ministry Photography Parking Lot Attendant Church Office Worker Choir Member/Officer **Hospital Visitation Nursery Worker Hospitality Committee** Children's Choir Worker Women's Ministry

Kitchen Help

2. T	eaching
My	Score

Desire to speak the truth in ways that nurture growth; Capacity to analyze, explain and interpret facts.

Sunday School Teacher Children's Church leader Jam Club Worker Adult Sunday School Teacher Retreat Leader Discipleship Class Leader Vacation Bible School Teacher Youth Ministry Worker Children's Church Missions Leader Lay Preacher

3. Encouraging / Exhorting My Score ____

Capacity for stirring and inspiring speech; Sensitive to others' problems and dilemmas; Patient with others.

Sunday School Class Worker
Decision Time Counselor
Adult Sunday School Teacher
Discipleship Class Leader
Vacation Bible School Teacher
Sunday School Division Leader
Card & Letter Writer (GPS Outreach)
Pastor's Prayer Partner
Church Committees
Usher/Greeter
First Impressions Ministry

4. Evangelism My Score ____

A burden for those without Christ. Ability to share the gospel clearly.

Sunday school Teacher
Jam Club Worker
Decision Time Counselor
In-Home Visitation (GPS Outreach)
Support Missions
Benevolence (Helping the Needy)
Mission Group Leader
Mission Trips
Soul-winner

5. Administration / Ruling My Score ____

Interested in organization and delegation; Ability to see needs and provide leadership in meeting needs.

Sunday School Class Leader Children's Ministry Discipleship Class Leader Senior Adult Ministry Counseling Mission Group Leader Lav Preacher Student Ministry Single Adult Ministry Shut-In Ministry Committee Chairperson Sunday School Director First Impressions Ministry Leader Sunday School Class Officer Organize Special Events Long-Range Planning Team **Church Committees** Leadership Training Choir/Music Group Officer **Finance Committee**

6. F	aith	
My	Score	

Sensitive and aware of spiritual concerns; Optimistic about other persons' motives and actions

Disciple New Christian In-Home Visitation (GPS Outreach) Phone Caller / Letter Writer (GPS Outreach) Class Care Group Leader Benevolence (Helping the Needy) Hospital Visitation Support Group Ministry Counseling

7. Mer	су
My Sc	ore

Compassionate and caring; Bearing others' burdens; Sensing in others the emotions of pain and despair.

Decision Time Counselor
Mission Trips
Shut-In Ministry
Take Meals to Those in Need
Benevolence (Helping the Needy)
Nursing Home Visitation
DivorceCare Groups
Counseling
Hospital Visitation

8. Giving My Score ____

The capacity to see the needs of others. Compassion and sacrifice to give to others.

Support Missions
Special Projects & Building Programs
Disciple New Christian
In-Home Visitation (GPS Outreach)
Phone Caller / Letter Writer (GPS Outreach)
Benevolence (Helping the Needy)
Hospital Visitation
Missionary Closet
Mission Trips
Counseling
Soul-winner
Finance Committee

Skills and Interests

coordinate

The Following is a list of Skills and Interests that Planning are listed on "Realm", our church organizational The ability to arrange, map out and prepare database. You can go online and check which □ Repairing interests and skills you would like to share with The ability to fix, mend or restore the church. If you have not set up your information on Realm or would like more □ Singing information, please see Ms. Sherry Kirk or call The ability to singing skillfully individually or (931) 304-1042 for details. within a group Accounting ☐ Teaching The ability to audit, balance, total or calculate The ability to explain the Bible and speak in a group setting Building The ability to construct, make and assemble Welcoming The ability to greet and make comfortable □ Cleaning The ability to renew, enhance or refresh □ Writing The ability to compose, create, edit and record □ Communicating The ability to share, convey and impact □ Bus Ministry Driving a bus and/or assisting the driver as bus ☐ Computer Technology
The ability to manage computer software, captain hardware, web page design, networking, etc. Children's Ministry Caring for the children of our church family Cooking ☐ Food Preparation The ability to prepare, serve, feed and cater Assist in preparing food for church functions and Counseling for the bereaved or incapacitated member... The ability to guide, advise, support, listen and □ GPS Visitation Ministry care for Visit new people in the community or send letters Decorating to inform them about our church and/or visits The ability to beautify, enhance and adorn ☐ Ground Maintenance Encouraging Maintaining the grounds by cutting grass, weed-The ability to cheer, inspire and support including eating, etc. the bereaved ☐ Hospitality/Welcoming Making people feel welcomed at church and Engineering church functions The ability to construct, design and plan ☐ Music Ministry Landscaping Leading and participating with our worship team The ability to garden, plant and maintain grounds through musical proficiency □ Leading □ Nursery Ministry The ability to pave the way, direct, excel and win Caring for babies in the nursery during church services Mentoring The ability to advise, guide and teach □ Senior Ministry Serving and caring for our older generations ☐ Musician Ability to play a musical instrument Ushering Welcome the people, provide assistance to new-Nursing comers and collect the offering The ability to provide medical care, heal, aid and make comfortable ☐ Youth Ministry Serving and caring for the teenagers in our church ☐ Organizing
The ability to simplify, arrange, fix, classify and

and community

Let's be the church together... online.

- Q Look up members in our church directory
- Update your personal information
- Give online one time & recurring gifts
- View giving history & print giving statements
- Make & keep track of pledges

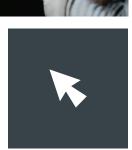


Google App



Apple App





Sign up or sign in

at onrealm.org

If you would like more information about Realm, how to download the app, or how to sign on, please see Sherry Kirk at church or call her at (931) 304-1042. Thank you.





We have a Members area on the church website at calvarybaptistnews.com This is available for members and attenders

> Enter the password: mercy for access to this



Independent - Fundamental - Premillennial

The Tabernacle
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Pastor Tom Fittis
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