

First Steps
with

Fellowship
BIBLE CHURCH

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Step 1: Christian Faith: Becoming a Follower of Jesus

Welcome to First Steps with Fellowship Bible Church! Before anything else, and more important than anything else, is your relationship with God and Jesus. That is why we call this step 1! We invite you to carefully think through the following.

1. Why do you need to follow Jesus?

God originally created humans to share a close relationship with Him. But our first parents rebelled against God's good order of things and put the human race into a situation where "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

This is our common lot, and the big problem with it is that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Basically, because we all are sinful people, we all die. Our physical bodies run out of strength. That is why there are cemeteries filled with the dead all around our world. But there is another problem: not just physical death, but also spiritual death. Just like physical death means the departure of one's spirit from the body, spiritual death is a separation also—the separation between our spirits and God. "Your iniquities have separated you from your God" (Isaiah 59:2). If left unresolved, this condition persists forever into the future.

The sin that we have done not only leads to death, but it also results in guilt and a guilty conscience. We experience this guilt when our inner person is confronted with the moral law of God. For example, have you ever stolen anything, even a small thing? Lied? Committed adultery? Looked at someone with a lustful desire? Become very angry with someone? Worshipped another god besides the true God? Used the name of God or Jesus as a curse word? Disobeyed your parents? Killed someone? Coveted anything? If you have done any of these things, you have disobeyed God and this results in guilt, which means that you are liable for whatever the penalty is when someone breaks God's law. This guilt is true whether you "feel" guilt or not. But if you ponder it for a while, you realize you are guilty, and this comes with some bad feelings.

In sum, we need to follow Jesus because we all have sinned, and sin results in death, and that death continues for ever into the future.

2. What has God done about our sin?

We have learned that we are sinners and we suffer from death and a guilty conscience. But there is one thing that can help us in this otherwise impossible situation. Here is the heart of the Christian message: Jesus the Son of God died on a cross for sinners. Then He rose from the dead as Lord and Christ. He is coming again as King and Judge, and He offers you forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life.

Jesus the Son of God

Jesus was born of Mary and lived in the early first century in Roman-occupied Palestine. He is acknowledged by many to be a good teacher, but he also claimed to be the Son of God (Matt. 26:63-64). If he were truly good, then his claim would be accurate; otherwise he would be a false teacher instead of a good teacher. Christians believe that his claim to be God's Son is true, and that he proved it by his life, his teaching, his miracles, and his fulfillment of the prophetic parts of the Old Testament.

Died on a cross for sinners

For what reason did Jesus come? He says that he came to give his life as a payment for sinners and their sin (Matthew 20:28, John 3:16, John 12:27). The historical record is clear, both in Scripture and outside of the Bible, that a man named Jesus from Nazareth died at the hands of the Romans in their cruel way on a cross, and he did so not in vain, but for a purpose—to voluntarily take upon himself the penalty due to all sinners. He poured out his soul in sacrificial substitution for us.

Then He rose again from the dead

Jesus did not stay in the grave. The Bible reports—and history agrees—that the tomb was empty. The Biblical explanation is that Jesus came back from death. This explanation is the easiest to fit all of the data about the matter including the empty tomb, but more significantly the changed lives of the disciples, the impact of Christianity on the world, the false report about the disciples stealing the body, etc. This also fits the predictions (prophecies) that the Messiah would come back from death and be glorified after His sufferings.

Because Jesus arose from the dead, we can be assured that God has received his payment for sins in full. His resurrection is like a receipt proving that a debt has been paid.

As Lord and Christ

When Jesus arose from the dead, this very event marked him out as someone special. The Bible says that the act of raising from the dead formed a declaration of the truth that Jesus is Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). This means that He is co-equal with God the Father, and He is the Messiah. The resurrection does not *make* him those things, but it powerfully declares that they are true.

He is coming again as King and Judge

Jesus tells us—and the rest of the Bible confirms—that he is going to return. This second coming is a key to untangle the seeming paradox of a Jewish Messiah promised in the Old Testament who suffers and is highly honored (1 Peter 1:10-11). When he comes back, he will be the judge of humanity—the one that everyone talks about when they say they are going to “meet their maker” (Acts 17:31). He will also become king over a worldwide kingdom and he will rule justly for all people, whether poor or rich, small or great.

These future things have implications for our present. They should shape how we believe and act now in light of the evaluation that is coming.

And He offers forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life.

Of more immediate concern is that we are not on right terms with the coming king.

To summarize, you need to follow Jesus because there is no one else who has a legitimate offer of eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and a right standing with God. He is “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

3. How do you begin to follow Jesus?

The Wrong Way to Start Following Jesus

One of the greatest misconceptions about becoming a Christian is that you have to begin by doing good works or keeping the commandments or being a good person. But the Bible specifically says that is not the case:

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law** but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Furthermore, you cannot *begin* to follow Jesus by good works because *before* you are in a relationship with Jesus, you are disqualified from doing truly God-honoring, faith-filled works for Him (Titus 1:16). Things done out of love for God and faithful obedience to God are the only deeds that are truly “good.” Otherwise, they are tainted in some way that is dissatisfying to God.

The Right Way to Start Following Jesus

The offer of eternal life, righteousness, and forgiveness is open to every person who repents and believes in Him.

Repentance is a change of mind that includes a decisive turning from sin to God. Perfection is not required, as that is impossible. Rather, it is a hatred of sin and a turning away from it, being determined to forsake it by God’s grace.

Faith is more than mere knowledge. To believe in Jesus means to **know** about who He is and what He did. It further means that you are **convinced** that information is true. Then there is a third aspect of real faith, namely that you personally **trust** Jesus alone for salvation.

Remember, the demons believe in the first two ways—they know about Jesus and they are convinced that it is true (James 2:19). But they have not repented of their sin and personally trusted Jesus alone for their salvation.

Justification is not a process. If you repent by turning from sin and believe in Jesus, you are justified instantly. You are “saved” and “born from above.”

4. Review of Christian Faith

1. Who did Jesus claim to be? _____

2. Why did Jesus die on a cross? _____

3. What are four titles or offices that Jesus holds? _____

4. Do you agree with the Bible’s assertion that you are a sinner? Why or why not? _____

5. What is God's penalty for sin? _____

6. Look up in a Bible Hebrews 9:27. Copy out what it says: _____

7. Have you repented of your sin and believed in Jesus? _____

If you have begun to follow Jesus, you are now ready to move to the next step! If you have not believed in Him, then you are stuck here. I would encourage you to review the above information again, and ask yourself what you do not understand or believe about it. Ask a Christian friend or a pastor for help. But do NOT give up on this critical topic. It is vital for your soul.

Step 2: Christian Baptism: Identifying Publicly with Jesus

Welcome to Step 2 with Fellowship Bible Church! Jesus commands water baptism for all Christian believers. Baptism is a outward symbol of our identification and union with Him by means of immersion in water. It is done in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

1. Who should be baptized? All True Christians and Only True Christians.

1. Who can be baptized? All who have true saving faith in Jesus Christ, and only those who have such faith. Is baptism optional for a Christian? No! It is commanded. The following verses show the order: first repentant faith, then baptism.
 - a. Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly **received his word** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
 - b. Acts 8:12 But when they **believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
 - c. Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” ... 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he [Philip] baptized him [the Ethiopian].” ➔ The Ethiopian believed what Philip was telling him and then was baptized.
 - d. Acts 9:6, 18 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “**Lord**, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.
 - e. Acts 10:47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who **have received the Holy Spirit** just as we have?” ➔ They received the Spirit because they believed Peter’s preaching!
 - f. Acts 18:8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed** on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, **believed** and were baptized.
 - g. Acts 19:4-5 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should **believe** on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - h. Acts 16:14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord **opened her heart to heed** the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.
 - i. Acts 16:31-33 So they said, “**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

2. Conclusion – All who were baptized first heard the message and believed in Christ. Therefore, the New Testament teaches baptism is for those who first believe in Jesus.
3. How can I believe in Jesus to be saved?
 - a. **Admit** you are a sinner. You have not lived like God tells you to. You must turn away from sin in your heart instead of loving your sin.
 - b. **Believe** that Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Son of God, and that He came to earth and died on the cross. Believe that He rose again from the dead. Believe that He died because of and to pay for your sins (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
 - c. **Call** on the Lord to save you. You can do this by praying. Tell Jesus you admit you are a sinner and you believe in Him, and that without Him there is nothing you can do to be saved.
 - d. When you are saved, you become a new person. Your sins are forgiven and you begin a new life with God. Becoming a Christian is not just about going to heaven. It is about living with God *right now* and loving Him and about being delivered from sin in the present.
4. Can you know for sure that you are saved? Answer: If you have believed and fruit is evident in your life, God's Word says "Yes." See 1 John 5:11-13 and all of 1 John.

2. Why should I be baptized? The Purpose of Water Baptism.

1. To obey Jesus – Matthew 28:18–20
2. To give a public testimony of my faith – that you identify yourself with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and that you are a part of His family, the church.
3. There are some wrong reasons that people get baptized.
 - a. The purpose of water baptism is NOT to get saved. You do not become a Christian by water baptism. 1 Peter 3:21 teaches that water cannot remove sin; rather baptism is the outward expression of the conscience being renewed through Christ's work of redemption and resurrection.
 - b. No work is required to be saved from sin because Christ has done all the work necessary (Ephesians 2:8–9, Titus 3:5–7). "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works..." (Ephesians 2:8–9).

3. When should I be baptized? The Timing of Water Baptism.

1. You should be baptized soon after you become a Christian but only when you understand what baptism means. There is no fixed or specific time.
2. Are you a child or young person? We wait to make sure that you truly understand the gospel. Sound Christian parents are best able to gauge their child's readiness and understanding of salvation and baptism.
3. Very young children are generally not candidates for baptism because they are not as self-aware of what they are doing in baptism.
4. Are you an adult? Adults who come to faith generally require less time between faith and baptism. They should be more "self-aware" and understand what is at stake.

4. How should I be baptized?

This section is about what is called the *mode* of baptism. The Bible teaches immersion.¹

1. The New Testament uses two words in relation to baptism: *bapto* and *baptizo*. These words mean to immerse, dip, dunk, or sink (John 13:26, Revelation 19:13). This is why John the Baptist baptized people in the Jordan River, where there was a lot of water (Matthew 3:6, John 3:23).
2. The New Testament does use words for *sprinkle* and *pour* but never in connection with baptism.
3. The context of Bible passages shows that full immersion was the method used. For example, baptism happened in rivers and where there was much water (John 3:23); the Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip came “up out of the water” (Acts 8:39).
4. This method is the best way to symbolize the believer’s death with Christ and resurrection to new life.

5. What happens when I am baptized? Practical Steps of Water Baptism.

You get wet!

1. What to bring when you are going to be baptized.
 - a. Your written testimony, unless you are going to share from memory.
 - b. Change of clothing – the clothing in which you will be baptized should be washable and need not be good clothes. Any clean washable outfit will do. Both men and women candidates should be careful to dress modestly and remember that the clothing will be soaked. A couple of layers will be necessary. We may have a robe or large towel to cover you when you come out of the water.
 - c. A woman in the church will help and give instructions to the ladies/girls. Pastor or one of the deacons or other men in the church will help the men/boys.
 - d. A towel to dry yourself.
 - e. Optional: comb, socks, and washcloth to cover your nose and mouth.
 - f. You will be baptized in your stocking feet—don’t forget a dry pair for afterwards.
2. What to do during the actual ceremony.
 - a. When pastor calls you to come forward, come up. Usually, we have the baptism candidate stand at the podium and share his/her testimony through the microphone so everyone can hear. Then you enter the water.
 - b. When you share your salvation testimony, you can do so either from memory or by reading it from a paper or card.
 - c. Pastor will say a few words and then ask you, “(Your name), have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?” You can then answer “Yes, I have.”
 - d. Then the Pastor will say, “In obedience to the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I therefore baptize you (your name) in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

¹ Baptists, most Bible churches, Pentecostal churches, and Christian Missionary Alliance churches believe the same way. Some Presbyterian churches baptize by immersion (for adults who come to Jesus) *and* by sprinkling (babies).

- e. Hold Pastor's left wrist with both hands. He will lower you backwards into the water. You may cover your nose with the handkerchief or washcloth if you want. It is helpful to bend your knees slightly to make sure your feet do not go up out of the water.
- f. Often Pastor has an assistant helping him. Both will lift you immediately back out of the water. You will then be free to return to the dressing room and get changed. The church will be happy to see you baptized!

6. Where should I be baptized?

1. The physical location could be a lake, river, church baptismal tank, a swimming pool, or even a horse trough!
2. The physical location is not as important as this: baptism should normally be done where a church family is gathered to observe and rejoice. Like the Lord's Table, baptism is a command of the Lord Jesus for the church to participate in. The church where you are baptized should have true Biblical teaching about the gospel and baptism.

7. What is the Meaning of Baptism? The Theology of Baptism.

There are three different baptisms in the New Testament.

1. **John's Baptism** – A baptism in water connected with repentance for sin (Matthew 3:11, Acts 19:3). It was done by/to those who were concerned about their relationship with God, whether Jews or Gentiles (in Luke 3:7-14 the soldiers were probably Gentiles). John's baptism is not done today, simply because John the Baptist is not alive.

Jesus was baptized by John, but his baptism was to "fulfill all righteousness." It was not connected with repentance for sin in this special case, because Jesus had no sin. See Matthew 3:13-17. But it did demonstrate that Jesus was connected with John's message. When someone asks you, then, whether you should follow Jesus' example and be baptized, you should stop to think. "Did Jesus have sin? Did he need to identify with his own death, burial, and resurrection like I do?" Since you would answer "no" to those questions, you would respond to your questioner this way: "No, I don't exactly follow His example. Rather, I follow His Great Commission command to be baptized."

2. **Spirit Baptism** – The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5; Romans 6:3, 4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:4, 5). This is when the Spirit of God connects you to Jesus Christ and His church. The moment one receives Jesus Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit places him into the spiritual body of Christ, the Church, and identifies him/her with the death, burial, and the resurrection of Christ. This is not something which we experience or "feel" but it is nevertheless a true spiritual baptism.

Furthermore, at the time of salvation, we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and thus become *spiritual*. Of course, we can speak about being more or less spiritual in terms of our

maturity level, but we receive the gift of the indwelling Spirit in a complete way when we are saved. Water baptism does not make us more or less spiritual in that sense. When we are saved, we get the *whole* Spirit, not *some* of Him.

3. **Water Baptism** – That is, getting dunked into water! Water baptism is an outward and visible symbol or picture of an inward and spiritual truth, that we have been baptized by the Spirit into Christ and into the body of Christ, the church. It is also a public testimony to the world that you now identify yourself with the death, the burial, and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Just as He was put to death, buried, and raised again, so in baptism you testify that in Christ you have died to the old life of sin, you have been buried with Christ, you now are raised again to walk a new life in, with, and for Jesus Christ. (In the other ordinance of the church, the Lord's Table, Christ is the true bread and the ritual of taking of the bread at the Communion is a symbol of true belief, denoting the person as a follower of Christ.)
4. Conclusion: The ordinance of water baptism is a symbol of a spiritual reality. The reality for the Christian is that he has been **united to Jesus Christ by faith** and **united to the church**, the "body" of Christ, by the Spirit of God. Water baptism is a visible symbol of those spiritual truths. Baptism is an outward symbol of our identification and union with Jesus and His church by means of immersion in water.

8. Wrong Beliefs about Water Baptism

1. Most wrong belief about baptism comes about because of a misunderstanding about baptism as a *symbol* of salvation. Baptism is *not* salvation, nor is it washing away sin.
 - a. Roman Catholics teach *baptismal regeneration* (baptism as a means of new birth and washing away sin). The example of the thief on the cross shows that baptism is not necessary to be saved (Luke 23:43). Furthermore, no OT believer was baptized, yet they were saved. The clear teaching of Scripture is that salvation is not at all obtained by works (Ephesians 2:8–10).
 - b. Lutherans teach that baptism is a means of obtaining grace.
 - c. Mormons believe that baptism is effective for the salvation of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:29).
 - d. Disciples of Christ believe baptism is necessary for salvation. They explain their view as *baptismal remission* of sins.
 - e. Believers in *closed baptism* accept water baptism only in their churches.
 - f. Some Salvation Army followers ignore both baptism and the Lord's Supper.
 - g. Ultra-dispensationalists claim that baptism is not for this period of history.
2. Wrong candidates (to whom it is done). In Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, and Presbyterian practice, infants are baptized. But infants have not exercised saving faith. The reason they baptize babies is because of how they believe the Old Testament is connected to the New Testament, or that they think baptism washes away original sin. These beliefs do not understand that salvation by faith is required *prior to* baptism.

3. Wrong method of water baptism. These beliefs demonstrate a misunderstanding of the symbolism of baptism connected to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
 1. Sprinkling – Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, etc.
 2. Pouring – Some Methodist and Presbyterian.
 3. Trine Immersion – Grace Brethren practice baptism three times forward.

9. What do I do now? After you are baptized.

1. Read and listen to the Bible. I encourage you to begin now, if you have not done so already, to set aside a time every day to read the Bible, even just a single chapter, think about it, and pray to the Lord. In the early morning or at night is often best when it is quiet.
2. Join the church. Believers must serve the Lord, and this is naturally done in the context of church life. Think about what you can do in the ministry of your local church and in your day-to-day living that will be of service to God.
3. Share your faith. You have identified yourself as a follower Lord in public, and now you ought to practice sharing that faith with friends, neighbors, and strangers who are not yet saved. You know the way of eternal life and can help other people!

10. Review of Christian Baptism

1. Who should be baptized? _____
2. Why should you be baptized?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. When should you be baptized? _____

4. How should you be baptized? _____
5. What should you bring to your baptism service?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
6. Where should you be baptized? _____
7. Which comes first in the life of a Christian: Spirit baptism or water baptism? _____
8. Complete this sentence from the notes: The ordinance of water baptism is a

_____ of a spiritual _____. (section 7)

9. If someone says that they were baptized so they could be saved (so they could go to heaven), would they be right or wrong? Why? (section 8)

10. What does the word *baptize* mean (section 4)? _____

11. What should you do after being baptized? (section 9)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

11. How to Prepare a Personal Testimony

Your personal salvation testimony can be presented more effectively by careful organization. The following guidelines will help you in preparing a testimony that will communicate effectively what Christ has done for you.

1. Before you begin, ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you work on your testimony.
2. Make brief notes on three separate sheets of paper labeled:
 - a. BEFORE = a short sketch of what your life was like before you became a Christian
 - b. HOW = the details of how, specifically, you took the step of receiving Christ
 - c. AFTER = relating the changes in your life after you became a Christian
 - d. Using your notes from the three sheets of paper, prepare a draft of your testimony, applying the guidelines below.
3. Things to Avoid
 - a. Avoid giving a travelogue dealing with externals and missing the spiritual matters.
 - b. Avoid unnecessary details.
 - c. Avoid mentioning specific churches, denominations, or groups (such as to criticize).
4. Identify with those who will be hearing your testimony.
 - a. Use word pictures to increase interest. Don't just say, "I grew up on a farm." You might briefly describe the farm so a person listening can visualize it.

- b. Remember that this is a testimony, not a “preachamony.” Say “I” and “me” instead of “you.” Keep your testimony warm and personal.
 - c. Include some humor and human interest if you can.
 - d. Write so that others can identify with your story. You could say, “For fifteen years I didn't miss a single service at church but never heard how I could have eternal life.”
- 5. In the BEFORE, include both good and bad aspects of your life. Examples of good aspects might be a desire to excel, a concern for others, hard-working. Bad aspects might include an inferiority complex, temper, greed for finances. But do not spend lots of time talking about the details of how bad you were.
- 6. In the HOW...
 - a. Communicate the gospel clearly from your first-person perspective.
 - b. Start with God, that He wants us to honor, love, and serve Him.
 - c. Tell about the fact and penalty of sin.
 - d. Say how Christ died to pay sin's penalty and rose from the dead.
 - e. Explain the need to repent from sin/rebellion and believe in Christ.
 - f. Convey how God promises eternal life and how you can be assured of salvation.
 - g. Someone else should be able to trust the Lord through your testimony.
 - h. Use Bible verses to back up what you say. You should quote at least one to show that you really believe it. The Bible is the authority. Don't say, “Bill shared with me that I had sinned and needed forgiveness.” Say, “Bill shared with me that the Bible says....”
- 7. In the AFTER, give some personal benefits of becoming a Christian. Emphasize the difference in your life after beginning to following Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- 8. Try to outline your presentation on a 3x5 card so that you can give your testimony from this outline. If you do not feel like that is possible, that is OK!



Christian Baptism Application

This form is due 1 week before your baptism date.

Name	_____	Date	_____
Address	_____	Birthday	_____
	_____	Age	_____
Email	_____	Phone	_____

The purpose of these questions is to ascertain your understanding of the subject of Christian baptism. Please fill in the answers to the best of your ability. These questions will enable us to help you in your Christian life.

1. Have you repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior? Are you sure?
2. When were you saved? Please relate briefly your testimony. Include your age at the time when you were saved, any particular person that led you to the Lord, one or two relevant Bible verses which are especially meaningful to you, and characterize if you can your level of commitment to Christ.

You may attach a separate page containing a written or typewritten copy of your testimony. See the section "How to Prepare a Personal Testimony." This will be helpful not only for this application but for the sharing of your testimony with the church board before the membership process is completed.

3. Why do you want to be baptized?

4. Is there any saving merit in water baptism?
5. Define the meaning of Christian baptism.
6. Since the Lord Jesus was baptized, are we to follow His example and be baptized too? Comment or give a reason.
7. Will being baptized make you more spiritual? What does it mean to be spiritual, in the Bible's use of that term?
8. What is meant by the term *baptismal regeneration*? Is it a true Biblical teaching?
9. Why is it that we accept immersion as the correct Biblical mode of baptism?
10. What is the *ultimate* basis of your salvation?
11. Are you willing to become a member of Fellowship Bible Church? Please explain.

If more space is needed for any of the above questions, please use another page.

Step 3: Membership: Becoming Part of the Church

Welcome to Step 3 with Fellowship Bible Church! Now that you have become a follower of Jesus and have been baptized to testify to that fact, we are glad that you are considering to join our local church. We trust that upon review of this material that you will be able to officially become a partner with us.

Please feel free to ask honest questions as we go through this material in the class.

Taking the membership class does not automatically mean that you have to become a member. We are not looking to fill up our membership rolls. If you have significant disagreements with our doctrine and practice, then you will not be approved to become a member. Even so, you may still fellowship with us and we hope you learn and grow in the faith.

1. Church Membership Process

1. Review these materials, as well as the constitution and doctrinal statement, and very importantly, the church covenant.
2. Meet with Pastor Postiff to go over these materials.
3. Turn in your membership application including a written copy of your personal testimony.
4. Meet with the deacons and Pastor to share your salvation testimony.
5. The church council must then recommend each person for membership.
6. Be presented before the church at a regular church meeting in which the church will be asked to vote to receive you into membership. There is no public speaking required!

2. Why Membership?

Questions frequently arise about church membership. “Why should I become a member? What is membership? Is membership in the Bible? What is in membership for me?”²

We first have to answer “member of what?” We are speaking of membership in the local church, which is a small scale-model, if you will, of the universal church of all believers in Jesus Christ. The local church’s membership is composed of regenerated, baptized believers who are organized together with a pastor, deacons, and who observe the ordinances, meet regularly to worship God, receive instruction from the Bible, fellowship together, and carry out the great commission. The church is how God has arranged to feed and guide His people.

If you are a member of the body of Christ, the universal church, that does not mean that you are automatically the member of a local church. Conversely, if you are a member of a local church, you may not be a true member of the body of Christ. In other words, you could be saved and not attached to a local church (which is wrong, but does happen), or you could be attached to a local church and not be genuinely saved (which is even worse).

Henceforth, we will be discussing the local church side of the membership idea.

² In 2025, I delivered a series of messages on the subject. They can be found at <https://www.fbcaa.org/sermons>.

3. Membership is Taught in the New Testament

Every believer was commanded to be part of and regularly gather with a local church (Heb. 10:24-25). Paul wrote to local churches and planted local churches and ministered in local churches. An individual Christian existence was never encouraged or even considered as a viable possibility in the NT. Consider the many “one another” commands in the NT as an evidence of the truth of this proposition (Romans 12:10, 12:16, 13:8, 14:13, 15:5, 15:7, 15:14, 16:16, and that is just in Romans!). Only within a body of believers can you effectively carry out these commands.

It seems that to the apostles and other early believers, to even ask the question “Should I join a church?” would be unthinkable. They assumed you would join the church if you were a real Christian. That was the natural thing to do for a born-again person.

In the NT, we see that the church kept a list of members:

1. Acts 2:41, 4:4 – the disciples knew the number of people that were part of the church.
2. 1 Timothy 5:9 – the widow list (“taken into the number”).
3. Acts 6:2-5 – the election of deacons from a known group (“seek out from among you”).
4. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 – church discipline requires us to know who is *in* and who is *out*.
5. Romans 16:2-15 – Paul greets a whole list of people in the Roman churches.

If we know who is *in* and who is *out*, then we have a membership list.

4. Meaning of the Word “Member”

A key point of Biblical data on the subject has to do with the meaning of the words used to describe someone who belongs to a church. The Bible uses two words most often to convey the idea. Ephesians 4:16 uses the word *part* or *share* and 1 Cor. 12:12 uses *member*. If you are a *member* of a church, that is the same thing as saying you are a *part* of the church.³ Now, not every time you find the word *member* in the Bible does it refer to this exact idea, but it often does.

Church members are people who have a real vital family connection in Christ. I suggest you think of it with the added biblical flavor of fellowship, and think of it therefore as **partnership**. You are a partner with others in the church, not a mere spectator or associate. You are like a **partner in a business or law firm**. You should think of yourself as a **shareholder in the firm**, but an active shareholder, not just a passive investor.

Church membership arises from the nature of the Christian’s connection to Jesus Christ. If we are united to Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection⁴ and if we are united to Him in His eternal life, then we are a part of Him, and thus part of His body. The body consists of all the members who share in these great realities, who have a close connection with Christ, and are part of God’s family.

Membership means:

1. Commitment and responsibility. Church membership signifies an individual’s commitment to participate in the church family in mutual love and discipleship.

³ See also Romans 12:4-5, 1 Cor. 6:15, 1 Cor. 12:12-27, Eph. 4:25.

⁴ Romans 6:5; John 17:3; 1 John 5:11, 5:20; 1 Cor. 6:15; Eph. 2:19, 4:25, 5:30.

2. Accountability. Church membership signifies that you are voluntarily placing yourself under the authority of the local church.⁵
3. Shared life. The potential of inter-personal difficulty is always a risk in this life; that should not hinder us from joining the body of sinners for whom Christ died.
4. Affirmation of salvation. Church membership signifies a church's corporate endorsement of a person's salvation.
5. Mutual submission.

Here is a good definition: "Church membership is (1) a covenant of union between a particular church and a Christian, a covenant that consists of (2) the church's affirmation of the Christian's gospel profession, (3) the church's promise to give oversight to the Christian, and (4) the Christian's promise to gather with the church and submit to its oversight."⁶ It is a solemn agreement in which the church affirms the Christian's profession of faith and gathers to worship and to give and receive oversight.

Another important aspect of the definition of church membership is that the church not only promises oversight, which sounds negative, but it also promises to continue a faithful gospel ministry and do the best it can to comport itself in accordance with its operating agreement (doctrine and constitution) to help the believer grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. The member promises to be faithful in supporting the ministry in all the necessary ways.

5. Requirements for Membership

In our constitution, we list the following requirements for membership. A person must be:

1. Regenerated, that is, "born again" or "born from above" and thus have spiritual life.
2. Baptized by immersion in water after becoming a Christian.
3. Conducting himself as a Christian, imperfectly, no doubt, but as a general rule.
4. Agree to abide by the constitution and doctrinal statement.

First, to the best of our discernment, we do not welcome someone into membership who does not give satisfactory evidence of conversion, since the church is, by definition, made up of regenerate people.

Second, truly regenerate people will also be baptized. In the New Testament, it would be unheard of for a person professing faith to refuse baptism. In some Baptist churches, water baptism is the immediate point of entrance to the local church, i.e. membership is more automatic than we have thought of it. We augment baptism with subsequent instruction (in this chapter of *First Steps*) so that we can pause and consciously highlight some important matters.

Third, is one's Christian conduct going to be perfect? Absolutely not. But the question is this—are you dealing properly with things when your conduct is out of line? You need to be confessing sins to God, repenting of them, making things right with your spouse, children, parents, fellow

⁵ Jonathan Leeman: "It gives structure to your life. It places an individual Christian's claim to obey and follow Jesus into a real-life setting where authority is actually exercised over us (see John 14:15; 1 John 2:19; 4:20-21). It's God's discipling program." *Church Membership* in 9Marks series on Building Healthy Churches, Page 81.

⁶ Jonathan Leeman, *The Church and the Surprising Offense of God's Love: Reintroducing the Doctrines of Church Membership and Discipline* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 217.

believers, acquaintances, etc. That's what Christian conduct looks like when momentary non-Christian actions/attitudes happen. Joining the church is one important means of overcoming sin; it also is a place of restoration when a believer goes astray (Gal 6:1).

What about the fourth item, your agreement about the constitution and doctrinal statement? We have not left any room for so-called "scruples." You do not have to fully understand all that is written in the documents, but if you become a member, you are agreeing to follow the constitution and doctrine. If you come to an impasse at some point in the future, then we urge you to immediately consult with Pastor and the deacons to see if further instruction may help you.

6. Our Aim as a Church

The church covenant does not specify all the details of what Fellowship Bible Church is all about. But here is our high level goal: **we make it our corporate aim to honor God by faithful obedience to His word.**

We are talking about obedience to God's word; not *legal* obedience but *faithful* obedience. The Word of God is our standard. Honoring God is our highest goal.

How do we accomplish this? **Firstly, we accomplish this aim by obeying the Great Commandment**, that is, to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We also accomplish our aim, **secondly, by obeying the Great Commission**, to make disciples, to baptize them, and to teach them to obey everything that has been passed down to us.

Each one of us can plug ourselves into the following question: What does the above mean for me in terms of my life and church ministry? As a pastor, teacher, servant, giver, family person, student, member-minister, etc. how exactly do I honor God by faithful obedience to the Great Commandment and Great Commission? What is my *way* of implementing that? Try that exercise in your mind and see what God might show you.

7. Membership and the Ordinances

Is membership related to the Lord's Table and baptism?

About the Lord's Table, must one be a member of the universal church, the body of Christ, to participate at the Table? Most certainly—how could you have fellowship with the Lord if you are not saved (1 Corinthians 10:16, 21)? Else your participation would be at best empty, and at worst mockery that is subject to God's judgment vis-à-vis 1 Corinthians 11:29.

Must one be a member of **the specific local church** conducting the Table of the Lord, in order to participate in the service? No—the apostle Paul, for instance, would undoubtedly have shared the Table with various local churches of which he was not then a member. Christians who are traveling can participate in the Table at another local church.

Must one be a member of **some local church** in order to participate in the Lord's Table service of another? The Scriptures indicate that the answer should be yes. If you are disobedient to the Lord's command to be an active participant in some local church, then you would have to repent of that sin (which would include changing your conduct) before taking of the Table.

The reason for this is that the Table represents our sharing together in the work of Jesus. But if we are not actually—in practice—sharing in the Christian life, then our practice of the Lord’s Table service would not mean what it is supposed to mean.

This is similar to the question about baptism. **Must one be baptized** in order to participate in the Lord’s Table service? Absolutely. I have made one exception for this—that one is willing to be baptized and has made that known, but has not undergone baptism because of a delay until the next scheduled baptism service. If the Lord’s Table service intervenes, that candidate for baptism may participate in good conscience. But if you are disobedient and refuse to be baptized, then you should NOT participate at the Lord’s Table. That is a sin for which you would need to repent before taking the Table.

The same argument is made for baptism as a requirement for membership in the local church. If you refuse to be baptized, how do we know you are a genuine, obedient Christian? The point is that we do not, so we could not allow you entrance into the church membership.

This illustrates what you “lose” if you are not a member of the church. You do not simply lose “voting privileges” if you are not a member. Refusing to join membership in a sense calls into question whether you are truly a part of Christ’s family, thus if you are qualified to participate at the Table or do other ministries. We cannot put you in influential ministries if you refuse to join the membership. Therefore, you are hindering your ability to exercise your spiritual gift(s). To put it in a positive way, when a believer does not join the church, the church is missing out on something it could use to grow together in holiness.

8. The Very Practical Matter of Leaving Church Membership

It is our hope that there will never be a cause for you to leave the membership unless you go to heaven or have to relocate due to employment or retirement.

One of the saddest things that happens in the life of a church is when someone walks away and does not share the Christian life with the church anymore. Maybe they stop attending, or cut off communication, or they have some other sin in their lives for which they have not repented. The church constitution follows a Biblically-derived procedure for removing such members.

However, note this: our goal is *not* to remove members! The goal is to restore those who have encountered a pothole in their Christian walk. Always keep this in mind. But if restoration is impossible, we are called to keep the church pure and to minister to the errant member to help him or her get back walking with the Lord once again.

9. Brief Statement of Beliefs of Fellowship Bible Church

While our doctrinal statement provides a detailed accounting of our beliefs, the following is a brief summary of our core beliefs. Please understand that not all of this is necessary for salvation, nor is it a checklist to limit fellowship with others. But a local church must have a confession around which it organizes, and we believe this system of doctrine conforms best to the Bible.

Sometimes statements of this sort can seem harsh or impersonal. To the contrary, we wish to care truly for one another, and provide a loving environment conducive to spiritual growth. We hold our convictions with compassion, understanding that not everyone is at the same place in their spiritual

life. We care for all who are a part of our assembly and endeavor to treat each person with fairness and respect.

You may have different views about some of these matters, but you are still welcome to attend Fellowship Bible Church. We are very thankful if you are a genuine believer, or if you will come and listen to the preaching of the Word and hopefully become one.

Christian

We are “Christ’s ones,” those who belong to Christ. Our focus is Him who is in the midst of the church, who is the head of the body and the chief cornerstone. We are Protestant in that we follow the reformation teaching of salvation by faith alone in Christ. We hold to the historic doctrines of the faith, such as the Trinity; the virgin birth and deity of Christ; the sinfulness of man; the substitutionary atonement in which Jesus Christ died in our place at Calvary and provides the only ground for forgiveness and justification; the bodily resurrection of Christ, the second coming of Christ, and the one way of salvation by grace through faith alone, and the eternal security of the saved. Our members are born-again believers in Jesus Christ.

There are unfortunately many (wrong) ideas about Jesus and there are many false christs. Therefore, we need to be more specific than just “Christian” by saying just what we understand this to mean. Thus the following qualifiers are helpful.

Biblical

Our authority is the Bible, all 66 books, inspired and inerrant in their original writings. The Bible is sufficient for life and godliness. We endeavor to make the Bible our rule for living in practice, not just in theory. We believe in the unqualified acceptance of and obedience to the Scriptures. We are keenly interested in Bible doctrine, for doctrine is that which is taught to us to believe, and God puts a premium on a man’s beliefs. People can believe rightly or wrongly. When one becomes a Christian, he “learns Christ” (Ephesians 4:20–24) and wants to please the Lord by believing the same things that the Lord believes. To believe otherwise is to believe a lie.

Thus, we emphasize systematic teaching of the Bible. The medium that God has ordained in the church is the preaching of His word expositionally—verse by verse and book by book. We do this not only by conviction, but also because there is a Bible famine today in many churches and we feel we can fill this niche.

As to Bible version, many of us use various translations including the KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV, LSB, and others. We are *not* King-James Only.

Baptist

In short, we are essentially a Baptist church. We are not a Presbyterian church, nor a Congregational church, nor a Methodist church. Our government and practice is basically Baptist, though we do not believe the Baptist label is all-important. It is the beliefs that count, namely beliefs in Biblical authority, autonomy of the local church, priesthood of the believer, two ordinances (baptism by immersion and the Lord’s supper as a memorial), individual soul liberty, saved church membership, two officers (pastor and deacons), and separation of church and state.

Our church is a stand-alone entity. It is not governed by an outside denomination. It can join into voluntary association with other churches of like faith, but cannot give up its authority over its

physical properties, doctrine, appointment of officers, etc. The church is privileged and responsible to govern itself.

Dispensational

This means that we believe in applying a consistently literal approach to interpreting the Bible. We interpret it according to the plain, grammatical, historical meaning of the text in its context. We could say the same thing different way by saying that we believe the right way to interpret Scripture is according to its original intent, that is, we follow the *originalist hermeneutic*. The text means now what it meant when it was written—the meaning has not changed. Out of this key plank of dispensationalism comes our belief in the distinction between Israel and the church and the focus of all history and eternity upon the glory of God and his Son. We believe that God parcels out his revelation progressively over time.

We also believe that the Lord will return before the millennial kingdom in order to establish that kingdom. We believe that world conditions are degrading, and will continue to do so until the Lord comes. We also believe that the church will be raptured before the tribulation described in Revelation 6–19.

Local Church Oriented

Participation and membership in a local church is important, as it indicates a commitment to the beliefs of the group of believers and a willingness to come into accountability with the church. God's program in this age is centered around the church rather than around a nation or the family, and as such our focus should be in the church as well. Assembling together is important in God's eyes (Hebrews 10:24–25). It is the place where new believers are baptized, taught and brought to maturity, where the ordinances are practiced, where spiritual gifts are exercised, where the Word is preached, and where believers are equipped to do the work of the ministry, etc.

We emphasize outreach to neighbors, co-workers, students, etc. so that they can become believers and the church can grow. The church is not the *primary* place where evangelism occurs, though it happens there too, particularly among the children and visitors of the church. Evangelism primarily occurs outside of the church, which is where unbelievers live. Services of the church are not designed around the unbeliever but around the believer, since the church's membership and majority of its attendance should be saved. We also believe the emphasis in missions must be on local church planting through evangelism and training of ministers of the gospel. The Great Commission does not concern social improvement or support of para-church organizations.

Traditional

This label has to do with our style of worship. We sing hymn-style songs with a piano, organ, and other accompanying instruments played in a reverent way. We do not support the contemporary Christian music genre (including "Christian rock" and worship teams). This does not mean that all recently-written Christian music is off limits. We do not endorse seeker-driven or market-driven tactics.

Separated

Because we believe strongly in God's holiness and his desire for us to be holy, we believe in separation from ecclesiastical organizations (churches, missions and para-church groups) that do not hold the same gospel beliefs that we do. We also believe in separating ourselves from worldly

practices. This is easier said than done, of course, and so we ask the Lord's help, the Spirit's guidance, and the encouragement of one another to live for the Lord.



Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Birthday _____

_____ Phone _____

Email _____

The purpose of these questions is to ascertain your qualifications for church membership. Please fill in the answers to the best of your ability. If you answered any question on the baptism application form, you may circle "See baptism form."

1. Have you repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior? Are you sure? (See baptism form.)
2. When were you saved? Please relate briefly your testimony. Include your age at the time when you were saved, any particular person that led you to the Lord, and one or two Bible verses which are meaningful for you in terms of your salvation. (See baptism form.)

You may attach a separate page containing a written or typewritten copy of your testimony. This will be helpful not only for this application but for the sharing of your testimony with the church board before the membership process is completed.

3. Have you been baptized by immersion after you believed in Christ? When and at what church?
4. When you were baptized what did you understand baptism to signify?
5. Why do you want to join the church?

6. Describe your present spiritual life, such as church attendance, Bible reading, prayer, Christian growth, etc. Are there sins in your life that would prevent you from becoming a member in good conscience or that might give the church leadership pause in considering you for membership?
7. Do you agree to live as written in the church covenant (Article III of the Constitution)?
8. Do you accept and fully subscribe to the Constitution and Doctrinal Statement? If no, what are your specific reservations? Why do you think these reservations should not prevent you from becoming a member of the church?
9. Are you currently a member of a church? If yes, what is the name of the church and its location (city, State)?
10. Have you ever been removed from a church's membership other than by transfer? Please explain.

If more space is needed for any of the above questions, please use another page.

By signing, you indicate your desire to join the membership of Fellowship Bible Church, and that you agree to conduct yourself according to the privileges and responsibilities that come with membership.

Signature

Printed NameStep

Step 4: Christian Life: Serving the Lord and One Another

Welcome to Step 4 with Fellowship Bible Church! So you have joined the church. Now what? We believe that church membership is an active, meaningful thing, not a mere status symbol. It means that you are engaged in the life of the church with one another, that you are entrusting yourself into the care and accountability of Christ's body and the leadership of the church, and that you help the church to achieve its mission of loving one another and bringing other people to the faith.

If you wonder what you should be doing as a member of Fellowship Bible Church, reviewing the church covenant would be a good place to start. Following are some things that are part of active membership.

1. Your "Private" Life

Your private life is not really private, because it has a big effect on other people, on your testimony, and on the reputation of Christians generally in the world. But for sake of simplicity, we will speak about that "compartment" of your life.

1. Walk in holiness by God's grace with His word and prayer.
2. Read the Bible very regularly, daily if at all possible. I did a survey once that indicated that half of Christians have no time of Bible reading and prayer with the Lord on a daily basis. A third may have some Bible or devotional reading, and only 1/6 have a regular daily habit of reading the Bible and praying. Your growth will be proportional to your intake of Scripture, so ask God's help to be at the top of the class!
3. Pray for yourself, your family, the lost, the church, missionaries, your country and its leadership.
4. Maintain "family religion" in the home, in an explicit way. Don't let the spiritual development of yourself, your spouse, or your children just "happen." Be intentional about it. Read the Bible at regular intervals, or listen to Bible teaching on the radio or a podcast, etc.
5. Make every effort to share the gospel with lost family, friends, and co-workers.
6. Review the constitution and doctrine at regular intervals to review them and make sure you and the church are still on target.

2. Your Church Life

1. Regularly participate in the church's services. Here you will worship God with others, receive instruction from the Bible, observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Table, share in the fellowship and community meals and events, and reach out to tell others about Jesus. Regular attendance means more than showing up for Sunday morning worship and going home.
2. Strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the church.
3. Give regularly, cheerfully, and proportionally of your finances to support the church's ministry. Offering envelopes are in placed in the bulletin every Sunday and others are available in the back of the auditorium or by request.

4. Encourage the other church members.
5. Find a service and/or gifted ministry in the church that you can do, and do it with all your strength. One way you can do this is to look around and see what needs to be done and inquire of the leadership of the church if anyone else is already filling that need.

If you see the need, perhaps the Lord has given you an ability not only to see that thing but to do something about it, an ability which the church does not presently have! It can be as simple as volunteering to beautify the outside of the building; to help with cleaning bathrooms or vacuuming; to help fold bulletins on Sunday mornings; to be active in wiping down tables and chairs after a meal; to help set up or take down tables and chairs; to volunteer to take out the trash on Tuesdays; to help with landscaping; to volunteer in the library; visit with shut-ins; offer hospitality; house missionaries; make hospital visits; to go to campus to pass out tracts and engage students in conversation; to shadow a teacher in a Sunday school class because that teacher will sometimes need a substitute or eventually a replacement. Think of other things you could help the church to do to accomplish its mission of the Great Commission.

6. Attend members' meetings consistently. While some of the business is financial, the membership is entrusted with spiritual decisions that help us corporately fulfill our purpose as a church, such as adding and removing members and deciding on projects that the church will undertake, missionaries to support, ordinations, etc.

3. The One Another Commands

God's word instructs us about many important wants that we can interact with one another in the church, and in life generally. Here are some positive one-another commands.

1. Pray for one another ([James 5:16](#))
2. Confess to one another ([James 5:16](#))
3. Love one another ([John 13:34](#) (2x), [John 13:35](#), [15:12](#), [15:17](#); [Rom. 12:10](#); [13:8](#); [1 John 3:11](#), [3:23](#); [4:7](#), [4:11-12](#), [2 John 5](#); [1 Peter 1:22](#), [4:8](#); [2 Thess. 1:3](#), [4:9](#))
4. Show preference to one another ([Rom. 12:10](#))
5. Share fellowship with one another ([1 John 1:7](#))
6. Be humble toward one another ([1 Peter 5:5](#))
7. Serve one another ([1 Peter 4:10](#))
8. Be hospitable toward one another ([1 Peter 4:9](#))
9. Spur one another on toward love and good works ([Heb. 10:24](#))
10. Exhort/encourage one another ([Heb. 3:13](#), [10:25](#))
11. Pursue good for one another ([1 Thess 5:15](#))
12. Be at peace with one another ([1 Thess 5:13](#))
13. Encourage and build up one another ([1 Thess. 5:11](#))
14. Comfort one another ([1 Thess. 4:18](#))
15. Teach and admonish one another in songs based on the word of Christ ([Col. 3:16](#))

16. Bear with one another and forgive one another ([Col. 3:13](#), [Eph. 4:2](#))
17. Regard others as more important than yourself ([Col. 2:3](#))
18. Submit to one another ([Eph. 5:21](#), [22ff](#) show how)
19. Speak to one another in song ([Eph. 5:19](#))
20. Be kind to one another and forgiving each other ([Eph. 4:32](#))
21. Recognize that we are members of one another ([Eph. 4:25](#))
22. Through love serve one another ([Gal. 5:13](#))
23. Greet one another ([Rom. 16:16](#), [1 Cor. 16:20](#), [2 Cor. 13:12](#), [1 Peter 5:14](#))
24. Exercise mutual care one for another ([1 Cor. 12:25](#))
25. Wait for one another ([1 Cor. 11:33](#))
26. Admonish one another ([Rom 15:14](#))
27. Accept/receive one another ([Rom. 15:7](#))
28. Be of the same mind with one another ([Rom. 12:16](#), [15:5](#))
29. Pursue peace and building up of one another ([Rom. 14:19](#))
30. Be at peace with one another ([Mark 9:50](#))
31. Speak truth to one another ([Zechariah 8:16](#))
32. Have compassion for one another ([1 Peter 3:8](#))

By God's grace these things will be a significant part of your life as a Christian church member.

There are also some negative one-another commands that we do *not* want to be part of our family or church.

1. Do not lie to one another ([Col. 3:9](#), [Eph. 4:25](#))
2. Do not provoke or envy one another ([Gal. 5:26](#))
3. Caution: do not devour/consume one another ([Gal. 5:15](#))
4. Do not deprive one another (spouses, [1 Cor. 7:5](#))
5. Do not go to law against one another ([1 Cor. 6:7](#))
6. Do not judge one another or put a stumbling block in one another's way ([Rom. 14:13](#))
7. Do not burn in lust toward one another (principle of [Rom. 1:27](#), particularly of homosexuality, but generally true also)
8. Do not plot evil against one another ([Zech. 7:10](#))
9. Do not hate one another ([Titus 3:3](#))
10. Do not speak against one another ([James 4:11](#))
11. Do not grumble/complain against one another ([James 5:9](#))

4. Other Areas You Should Work On

The sky is the limit, because God is so infinite, His word so rich, and your future so eternal, that there is no end of things to learn and practice in your walk with God. You need to:

1. Grow in your faith.
2. Learn how to live with others, how to apologize, how to restore relationships.

3. Know what doctrines to believe.
4. Understand what the big picture of the Bible is all about.
5. Develop your Christian character.
6. Be more involved in the church as a learner and as an active participant in ministry.
7. Learn more about what it means to live under Christ's headship.
8. Learn about suffering and persecution.
9. Make sure you know how to lead another person to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus?
Give several steps and verses of Scripture.