

COVENANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP

KINGDOM 101

Welcome to Kingdom 101. This course is designed as a basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who we are what our church is all about. In addition, you will begin to discover the spiritual gifts that God has given you so that you can minister effectively. This course is divided into five sessions and is partially adapted from a curriculum that was written by Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is _____.
2. God expects you to be _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is _____.

The Goal of this Class:

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to the _____

WHAT MAKES COVENANT LIFE A FAMILY?

Four things that unite us as a family:

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done to bring us into the family)
- **Our Uniqueness** (The specific priorities & purpose of our church family)
- **Our Structure** (How we are affiliated and how we function as a family)
- **Our Ordinances** (How water baptism & the Lord's Supper are an expression of family)

PASTOR'S TESTIMONY

Session 1: Our Salvation

"For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ." - Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing *"WHY?"* They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, *"What is the meaning of life?"*

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my
_____.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. GOD MADE ME TO _____ ME!

God says, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love!"* Jer. 31:3

*"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...**because of His love.** God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God's pleasure and purpose." Eph. 1:4-5 (GN)*

2. WE WERE CREATED TO _____ A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO _____ ALL OF THE REST OF GOD'S CREATION! THIS MAKES US SPECIAL!

"So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said,...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge." Gen. 1:27-28 (LB)

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Tim. 6:17

Jesus said, *"I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!"* John 10:10

3. WHEN WE KNOW AND LOVE GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT

PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS IN OUR LIVES:

Clear Conscience

Rom. 8:1

Life & Peace

Rom. 8:6

Help with Weakness

Rom. 8:26

Purpose

Rom. 8:28

Confidence

Rom. 8:31

Security

Rom. 8:39

Power & Strength

Phil. 4:13

Fulfillment

Phil. 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32,36

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for #1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life and I'll do what I want!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: _____

"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way."
Isaiah 53:6

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth."
1 John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal." Romans 3:23

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives — marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.

"There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death." Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- "My mother was a Christian so..."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."

- “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”
- “I’ll be religious and go to church.”

III. WHAT’S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, *“I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!”* John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

“The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:8

“God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.” 1 Tim. 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ THAT GOD HAS NOT BEEN FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

*“If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.”* 1 John 1:9

2. _____ THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN AND IS ALIVE TODAY.

*“If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

3. _____ GOD’S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON’T TRY TO EARN IT.

*“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** — not by works, so that no one can boast.”* Ephesians 2:8,9

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. _____ JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AND BE THE DIRECTOR (“LORD”) OF YOUR LIFE.

*“To all who **receive** Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who **believe** this are reborn! — not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God!” John 1:12-13*

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

“Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I’ve ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I’m sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.”

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13

V. THE POWER OF POSITIONAL TRUTH.

One of the most important parts of the Christian life is to grow in our understanding of our new _____ in Christ Jesus.

It is impossible to grow as a Christian if our life is _____ by anything else.

Who I am is not determined by:

- My Past life. (experiences, failures, successes, family, career, friends, etc.)
- What other people say that I am or expect me to be.
- The life circumstances that I find myself in today.

My life is now defined by who God says I am in His _____.

Following is a brief synopsis of who you really are according to the Bible. The level of maturity and victory that you experience in your future will be determined by how you grasp these truths.

- **I am justified in God’s sight – completely forgiven and made righteous. (Rom.5:1)**
- **I died with Christ and to the power of sin’s rule in my life. (Rom.6:1-6)**
- **I am forever free from condemnation. (Rom.8:1)**
- **I am “In Christ” and Christ is “In Me.” (Col.1:27 / 1 Cor.1:30)**
- **I have received the Spirit of God into my life so that I can know the things freely given to me by God. (1 Cor.2:12)**
- **I have been given the mind of Christ. (1 Cor.2:16)**
- **I have been bought with a price; I belong to God. (1 Cor.6:19-20)**
- **I am anointed and sealed by the Holy Spirit as a pledge that guarantees my inheritance to come. (2 Cor.1:21 / Eph.1:13-14)**
- **I have died to my past and no longer live for myself, but for Christ. (1**

Cor.5:14-15)

- **I have been made righteous. (2 Cor.5:21)**
- **Because I was crucified with Christ, it is not long I who live, but Christ who is living in me. (Gal.2:20)**
- **I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. (Eph.1:3)**
- **I was chosen in Christ before the world was created to be holy and without blame before God. (Eph.1:4)**
- **I was predestined by God to be adopted as His son. (Eph.1:5)**
- **I have been made alive with Christ. (Eph.2:5)**
- **I have been raised up and seated with Christ in heaven. (Eph.2:6)**
- **I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. (Eph.2:18)**
- **I may approach God with boldness, freedom and confidence. (Eph.3:12)**
- **I have been rescued from the domain of Satan's rule and transferred to the Kingdom of Christ. (Col.1:13)**
- **I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. The debt against me has been cancelled. (Col.1:14)**
- **I am firmly rooted in Christ and am now being built in Him. (Col.2:7)**
- **I have been made complete in Christ. (Col.2:10)**
- **I have been buried, raised and made alive with Christ. (Col.2:12-13)**
- **I died with Christ and I have been raised up with Christ. My life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life. (Col.3:1-4)**
- **I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)**
- **I have been saved and set apart by God's work. (2 Tim.1:9 / Titus 3:5)**
- **Because I am one with Christ, He is not ashamed to call me brother. (Heb.2:11)**
- **I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to find mercy and grace in time of need. (Heb.4:16)**
- **I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I am a partaker of God's divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)**