

THE DISCOVERY CLASS

OF

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
DELTA, COLORADO**

CALVARY'S DISCOVERY CLASS

(new member or prospective member orientation overview)

WHO WE ARE

A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY

We are a local, Protestant, Evangelical church congregation. We are a local church family that seeks to love God, love one another, and love those around us with God's Love and Truth. We are seeking to become a relevant church with exciting praise & worship, a commitment to the authority of God's Word, and seeking to promote an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

There is much confusion about the role of the church in today's society. Churches have struggled for centuries to remain accessible to the world without being bogged down in its excess. Often this struggle has led to powerless churches serving only themselves or the traditions they have been handed. This is a far cry from what God intended the church to be. We, as a local church family, are dedicated to promoting the never-changing biblical message in a world that necessitates ever-changing methods. We want to impact the people in our surrounding community with God's Love and His Good News found only in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

We simply focus on helping people find **New Life** in Jesus Christ, helping them grow in their relationship with God, helping them grow in their relationship with each other, and helping them with understanding and applying God's Word to their lives. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 3:1-20)

As people, though, we are imperfect. We are "under construction". We like to view ourselves as being under construction by God. God is not finished with us, yet. Each one of us is at varying stages of growth in our relationship with God, our knowledge of God's Word (i.e. the Bible), and in our serving of God for His glory.

What binds us together is the LOVE and TRUTH of God based upon His Holy Word (i.e. the Bible). God sent His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, to die upon a cruel cross for our sins. Because of this great Love God has for us, we seek to know, love, and serve Him better, together, and we seek to grow in loving and serving one another in the process. (1 John 4:7-19; Romans 5:8).

AUTONOMOUS

That means that we are a church family that is self-supporting, self-governing, and self-reproducing. We do not have any denominational governing body over us telling us what to do or how to do it. We are a local church family that has organized ourselves to carry on our own affairs of ministry under the direction and guidance of God based upon His Word, being led by His Spirit. We do not have to answer to any other religious or ecclesiastical governing body for who we are or for what we do. We are not independent, though, but we are inter-dependent, a mutually sharing church in fellowship with other churches of like mind and doctrine within the rest of the body of Christ.

We willingly associate and participate with other associations of churches, ministries, and mission agencies that we feel fit us and we them. We are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Colorado Baptist General Convention of Southern Baptists, and the Uncompahgre Baptist Association. We willingly support Southern Baptist Convention Missions of the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board through the "Cooperative Program" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

WHO WE ARE (CONT...)

LEADERSHIP

Our church family's leadership team has been organized based upon certain Biblical patterns of servant-shepherding leadership. We wanted to make sure we were following the New Testament pattern and mandates regarding leadership, according to God's Holy Word. Our leadership team consists of a group of men whom oversee the people and ministries of this church family in a loving, caring, and shepherding way (1 Peter 5:1-5). We call this leadership team "**elders**".

The elders are a leadership team who care mostly for those spiritual areas of the church family, such as doctrine, ministries, ministry leadership and direction, and other related areas. They are not in charge of everything, but do oversee the overall ministry of the church to make sure it is all going the way God wants it to. They are to lovingly give direction to the overall ministry of the church family and provide ministry opportunities that help with the spiritual growth of the church family. Elders are pastoral in nature and, according to scripture, must be able to teach God's word for the equipping of the people of God, so that the people of God will do the work of the ministry of the local church more effectively and fruitfully.

(Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:1-6; Philippians 1:1)

The elders also oversee the **deacons**. The deacons, according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6, are men who are to care for the local church family regarding more material & physical needs within the local church family. In Acts 6:1-6, we see that those deacons served tables. The deacons work under the authority of the elders in carrying out many ministry tasks that help with the overall health of the local church family.

To SUM IT UP...

We are followers of Christ, who are saved by God's undeserved loving kindness, who are seeking to be more in love with Him as time goes by. It is true, that there are some who attend our services and activities who are not truly born again followers of Jesus Christ. But for the most part, those who call Calvary Baptist Church their church home and their church family, are born again followers of Jesus Christ. We are not perfect yet, but we do want God to continue to work in our lives to make us all He wants us to be and guide us into all that He wants us to be doing, for His glory. We aim at simplicity in knowing, serving, and loving God better.

We are organized in a simple way. We have elders and deacons for our leadership team so that we can serve God better as a local church family. Our leadership team is ultimately under the authority and leadership of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ... who is the Head of this church. Having humble, servant-hearted leadership is the key for any organization, and this includes a local church family that has organized herself for ministry. In all of this, we are all accountable to God and to one another in our local church family, and this includes our leadership team.

Questions:

1. What type of church family are you looking for?
2. Do you think that there is a "perfect" church on planet earth, right now?
3. Do you have any questions regarding the way we are organized as a church family?
4. Do you have any questions regarding the way we have leadership structured?

WHAT WE BELIEVE

This is the core of who we are and in many cases determines what we do in ministry. Our beliefs shape us and they dictate our values and worldview. At Calvary, we believe some essentials (non-negotiables) that we hold to. The following is a brief summary of some of these important beliefs:

I. The Holy Bible, The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter*. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

* based upon the original documents of the original 66 books of the Holy Bible

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. He has identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... the God of Israel... the God of creation and of the universe.

A. God, the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God, the Son, Jesus Christ (the *Living Word of God* [John 1:1-3,14])

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present LORD.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

C. God, the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17.

(WHAT WE BELIEVE... cont...)

III. Man, Humankind (*male and female*)

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. God created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The **sacredness** of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

IV. Salvation

We believe that Salvation is by God's **Loving** and **Free Grace** and is received through faith in Jesus Christ, **alone**. We further believe that this salvation is **eternally secure**, and was purchased by Christ upon the cross, and is received by humans through repentant and trusting faith, apart from any human merit, works or ritual. We believe that Christ's full redemptive work, which is His suffering/torture, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection, is enough for our salvation, forgiveness of sins, justification before God, and everlasting life. A person trusting in Christ and His full redemptive work is "born again", and at that same moment God's Spirit takes up residence in the heart of that person, he/she is baptized in the Holy Spirit by Christ (*1 Cor. 12:13*), and is placed within the Body of Christ. We, also, believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

Matthew 25:34; John 3:1-20, 36; Rom. 3:23,24; 6:23; 6:1-14; 10:8-13; 1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 5:13-26; Gal. 5:13-26; Eph. 1:3-14; 2:4-10,14; 4:1-32; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:19-23, Heb. 12:1-2; Titus 3:4-7

V. The Church

A New Testament church of the LORD Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of **baptized believers**, associated by **covenant** in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and **seeking to extend** the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the LORDship of Christ. In such a congregation each member is **responsible** and **accountable** to Christ as LORD. Its scriptural officers are pastoral-elders and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastoral-elder is **limited to men** as qualified by Scripture (*1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9*).

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

The New Testament speaks also of the "**Priesthood**" of the believer, meaning **every** believer is a "**minister**" of the gospel; of God's Word and of His Love. This does not mean, however, that every believer is a pastor, elder, or deacon (*i.e. leadership within the local church - see 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-16 for more on this subject*).

Matt. 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philip. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Heb. 11:39-40; 1 Peter 2:9; 5:1-4; Rev. 2-3; 21:2-3.

VI. Baptism and the LORD's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the **Name** of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his/her faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the LORD's Supper. [We do not believe that "water baptism" is essential in the salvation process; we do not believe that "water baptism" saves anyone. Jesus Christ saves sinners!]

The LORD's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

VII. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of **every** follower of Christ and of **every** church of the LORD Jesus Christ to **endeavor** to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The LORD Jesus Christ has **commanded** the preaching of the gospel to **all nations**. It is the **duty** of **every** child of God to **seek constantly** to **win the lost** to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Is. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30,37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Rom. 10:13-15; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; Eph. 3:1-11; 1 Thes. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17.

(WHAT WE BELIEVE... cont...)

VIII. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the LORD.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

X. The Family

God has ordained the **family** as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the **man** and the **woman** in **marriage** the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The **husband** and **wife** are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the **servant leadership** of her **husband** even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, **from the moment of conception**, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to **demonstrate** to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to **teach** their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through **consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline**, to make choices based on **biblical truth**. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

This brief overview of the tenets of our faith, is just that, a brief overview. We view these as essentials and are non-negotiable of being a part of this local church family.

You will receive the "Baptist Faith and Message 2000" produced by the Southern Baptist Convention, of which we are affiliated with. The "Baptist Faith and Message 2000" booklet covers, in more detail, what we use as a guideline for our beliefs. The Holy Bible is the final authority regarding doctrine within this church family, but having such a "faith" guideline helps us to focus on essentials that are non-negotiable and helps us all, as a local church family, to be on the "same page", doctrinally.

Discussion:

1. Are there any points of our "essentials" that you have questions about or that you might disagree with?
2. Are these "essentials" compatible with your personal "statement of faith" in Christ?
3. Could you see yourself (and family) fitting in with these "essentials" within this local church family?

Body-LIFE Ministry (what we do together in ministry)

Simple Ministry Process:

Our Ministry Process motto and Missions Statement motto is:

“Reach Seekers, Build Believers, Release Leaders”.

This encapsulates the overall mandates of the church from Jesus Christ directly and indirectly through His apostles. This motto is based on the following Scriptures: Matthew 22:37-40; 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2. This motto helps us see which “ministries” fit and don’t fit within our simple, overall ministry process. We can use this as a simple filter for considering new ministries or church activities. We can ask the question, “Will this new ministry or activity ‘Reach Seekers’ and/or ‘Build Believers’ and/or ‘Release Leaders’ or will it be a waste of our time?”

So as a local church family we look at our simple ministry process in the following way:

We must **Reach Seekers**. We have been commanded by our LORD and Savior to love our neighbors as ourselves and to make, grow, and multiply reproducing disciples for Him. So, we as church family need to continually work toward this end. We must design and redesign various ministries so that we can properly, effectively, and fruitfully do this. We do not want to put stumbling blocks in the way of those responding to God’s call of salvation. We must be ready and prepared to reap a harvest... to make, grow, and multiply reproducing disciples for Jesus Christ our LORD and Savior.

We must **Build Believers**. This relates to the discipleship and sanctification process of growth of the believer. This involves corporate worship and equipping times. It involves medium and small group teaching and fellowship settings, as well. The discipling, edification, equipping, training, and nurturing process of the believer is so very important and crucial. We must continually design and redesign ministries so that we can effectively participate in this area of Body-Life ministry, together.

We must **Release Leaders**. One of the most important objectives a local church family can accomplish is the preparation for the future ministry of that fellowship. In order to accomplish this, 2 Timothy 2:2 comes into play. We must continually train and equip new leaders for various areas of ministry within the church... in fact, work our way out of job by replacing ourselves, many times. While we are still here on earth, we really are not working our way out of a job, but when we have gone home to be with the LORD, we want to make sure that there are leaders in place to carry on the local church ministry and beyond. Beyond... meaning planting and daughtering new churches, missions, and other ministry opportunities that do not exist now, but will in the future. Why? Because we have spent the time necessary investing in the next generation of potential leadership. **“Leadership is everything”**, has been quoted by various people. But this adage is absolutely true. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did with His disciples. Although it was a small group... it was a small group *with a purpose*. Unleashing His church, with effective leadership, all over the earth. Leadership is what God uses to advance the gospel. We must release these equipped and trained leaders into the ministry leadership God has called them into (please read Eph. 4:11-16 for more on this subject).

This brings the process into **full circle**. It shows us how we can take a new believer → disciple, equip, nurture, and train that believer toward leadership, so that he/she can lead others to Christ... and then he/she can disciple, equip, nurture, and train them toward leadership... and so on and so on and so on... etc... until Jesus comes back. Let’s make sure that the **“Circle is not broken”**. The goal is multiplication of disciples **AND** leaders.

Currently we have a number of avenues of ministry opportunities of Body-Life Ministry available to all of us (this is fluid, as ministry opportunities may change as time goes by):

WORSHIP

Worship can be done privately, or in small, medium, or large group settings. As a church family, we normally gather together, corporately on Sunday mornings for our Worship Celebration at 10:30 AM. We have various commands for us to Worship God, and in particular, Hebrew 10:24-25 explains that we need to gather together on a regular and consistent basis. Others scriptures that seem to point to this are Acts 2:42-47 & Ephesians 4:11-16.

(This area of ministry covers all 3 components of the Ministry Process: Reach Seekers, Build Believers, and Release Leaders)

Ministry opportunities may include: the Worship Team, the Technical Team (media room), Ushers, Greeters, and the Welcome Center.

(Body-LIFE Ministry cont...)

BIBLE STUDY / DISCIPLESHIP / TRAINING / EQUIPPING

We normally have our “Bible Study Hour” (or traditionally known as “*Sunday School*”) on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am. We view this time as one of our best opportunities to Disciple, Train, and Equip believers in God’s Holy Word, the Bible. This time is spent with rich teaching from God’s Word in an interactive approach that moves toward application of God’s Word into the lives of believers. We have Bible Study for all ages (ages that can understand and learn) covering many subjects and topics from God’s Word. We tend to normally use a curricula from LifeWay or our study guides.

We also “put on” various periodic, short-term classes and short-term specialized training classes covering various topics and subjects related to parenting, marriage enrichment, leadership training, theological and doctrinal subjects and many other areas of life and Christian interests, based on God’s Word.

These settings are *didactic* in nature, that is... teaching oriented, with subject/topic materials, using the Bible and other Christian-based media – in which the “student” is highly encouraged to “master” the content of the class. These are **not** typically relational-based classes, but topic/subject/concept driven and oriented.

(This area of ministry tends to cover only 2 components of the Ministry Process: Build Believers, and Release Leaders)

Ministry opportunities may include: Adult Sunday School Teachers and assistants, Youth Group teachers and leaders, Children’s ministry Sunday School Teachers and assistants, special trainers for various areas of ministry, and other kinds of teachers, trainers, and equippers in God’s Word for the Body of Christ.

LIFE GROUPS

We believe a LIFE Group is one of the best environments for growth and life change. A LIFE Group consists of around 4-12 people who practice the “one anothers” of the Bible on a regular basis. The LIFE Group atmosphere is a comfortable setting where you can tackle the tough questions and challenges of life. It is also where we pray and care for one another and are missed when we are not there.

These are relational-based in-home small groups of 4-12 people who meet in various members’ homes throughout the week at various times in various locations. Although these groups will utilize some brief Bible Study during their gatherings, we would not consider them “Home Bible Studies”, since the focus is not on learning/mastering the concepts/subject/topics in a cognitive way only, as our “Sunday School” classes are designed to be. But the focus in these in-home groups is on applying God’s Word within the context of relationships, mutual accountability, fellowship, love, and caring for one another, together. These groups also might become great ministry opportunities that one can use to invite unchurched neighbors or friends who might come into a home but might not step foot in a church building.

(This area of ministry covers all 3 components of the Ministry Process: Reach Seekers, Build Believers, and Release Leaders)

Ministry opportunities may include: LIFE Group Leaders, LIFE Group Leader apprentices, Host Families, LIFE Group participants/members (that can be anyone), LIFE Group Coaches, LIFE Group Leader Trainers, LIFE Group Coach’s Coach (or District or Regional Leader), and other areas as this ministry grows.

SERVICE / MINISTRY / MISSIONS / “HELPING PEOPLE” TEAMS

These are teams of ministry within the Body of Christ at Calvary, that focus on using our gifts, talents, abilities, possessions, treasure, etc... for helping other people within and outside our local church family.

(This area of ministry covers all 3 components of the Ministry Process: Reach Seekers, Build Believers, and Release Leaders)

There are various opportunities which may include some of the following:

The Worship Team, LIFE Group participation and leadership, Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Greeters, Ushers, Welcome Center, the Technical Team (media room), visiting nursing homes, helping out with seniors/elderly in need, visitation/follow-up teams, visiting the sick and/or home-bound, witnessing teams, **AND** New and Creative ministry opportunities that God is leading you into through this local church family to help people find new life in Christ, minister to their physical, material, financial, or other needs..., etc.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES:

Briefly, here are some of the benefits and privileges of becoming a member of Calvary:

1. **You will have pastoral covering from your new church family.** Since we have **covenanted** together for caring for each other, the church family with you and you with the church family, we can **count** on each other, in an “accountable” way. If a person is a “*church-hopper*”, for instance, he/she could not be counted on to attend or be a part of the overall church family life... also, where would his/her loyalties be... to which local church body? In that kind of situation, how could we know how to care for that person? So, being a part of this church family, as your only Home Church, allows this church family and her leadership team to be able to work with you and care for you in a more effective and fruitful way. Thus, we all know where our loyalties stand.
2. **You can be involved in a ministry.** And, as God leads you in the future, you may even be able to help out with leading a ministry team in some way. This church family only allows those who are members, who have covenanted to be an active, supportive, and participatory part of this church family, to help out with any church ministry or to be a part of any leadership role or function. Since you are a “*born again*” follower of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, we **assume** you have come here to minister and serve in our church family, in some way, based upon the Spiritual Gifts God has supplied you with, for the edification of this local church family. In essence, we assume that you have come here to “*put your hand to the plow and to not look back*” (Luke 9:62). We hope that you have not come here to just sit in the “pew” on Sunday mornings, to just be ministered to (*i.e.: a “pew” potato*). God wants us to be ministers to one another, with one another, and to minister to the lost (*i.e.: 1 Peter 2:9 → “the priesthood of the believer”... all believers are ministers*).
3. **You are able to vote** in all church-wide business meetings and assemblies, as long as you are at least 18 years of age (please see our “By-Laws” for more details).

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

How you can become an ACTIVE, COMMITTED, VITAL, and SUPPORTIVE member of this church family

1. **You must be a saved, born again follower of Jesus Christ, the Messiah of the God of the Bible.** (the Son of God; the Living Word of God; God in the flesh; the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob; the one and only Creator, Sustainer, Judge, Ruler, and Redeemer of the Universe).

In order to be “*born again*” or saved, Biblically, the following must apply to your life:

- a. You must admit that you are a sinner, that you have broken God’s Holy Laws, and that you cannot save yourself from God’s just and holy wrath and judgment (i.e.: the penalty of sin). (Acts 20:21; Romans 3:9-20,23; 6:23)
- b. You must trust in God and repent of your sins, personally:
God sent His One and Only unique Son, to suffer and die upon a cross for your sin, He was buried in a tomb (*He was really physically dead*), and He rose from the grave 3 days and nights later, bodily. You must believe that God punished Jesus Christ for your sin, in your place, and that His shed blood was and still is enough to save you from your sin.
(1 Cor. 15:1-8; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7-8; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- c. You must personally believe, trust, and have faith in what God did in Christ Jesus in His crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection, that this was enough to secure your eternal redemption, your forever forgiveness of sins, your forever justification before a Holy and Righteous God, your everlasting life of a personal relationship with God forever. You must personally believe this, surrender to Him and trust in Him, and turn away from sin, selfishness, and from following the world... and turn toward God and follow Him alone for your life and salvation. (Romans 3:19-26; Romans 5:1-8; 6:23; 10:8-13; Ephesians 2:8-9)

If this is true in your life, that you are trusting in God alone, through Christ and His completed work of redemption (crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection) for your salvation... you are born again (John 3:1-20, 36).

If this is not true about you, then we can help you take this most important step of your whole life and help you trust in God for your salvation as we have explained above.

2. **Believer’s Baptism.** As we have stated before, although we do not believe a person is saved during water baptism or that water baptism saves anyone, we do practice this rite as a part of our obedience to our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ according to the pattern we see in the New Testament documents. We see in the pages of the New Testament that when people trusted in Christ for their salvation, those who became “*born again*” followers of Jesus Christ, they were baptized in water very soon after their salvation. Therefore, we too, follow this Biblical pattern. And, we also, have a mandate within the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) that is very clear regarding baptizing disciples of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in order to be considered as a candidate for membership within this local church family (i.e.: *Calvary Baptist Church*), you will need to be a “*born again*” follower of Jesus Christ who has been water baptized in full immersion in **the NAME** of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

If you have not been scripturally baptized in water by full immersion, we need to schedule that as soon as we can, since you must be baptized in water by full immersion before you can be considered for membership.

If you are a baptized, “*born again*” follower of Jesus Christ, you have fulfilled the requirements for being a candidate for membership of Calvary Baptist Church.

(Also, during this class, you will receive our current church By-Laws and any other related documents)

MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS:

What is expected of you as you become an ACTIVE, COMMITTED, VITAL, and SUPPORTIVE member of this church family?

- 1. Active, participatory, worshipful, expectant and consistent attendance in our Worship Celebrations.** Our weekend worship gatherings are extremely important, biblically, according to Hebrews 10:24-25... we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves as is the habit of some... but we need to gather even more and more as we see the DAY (*the day of Christ's return*) approaching (*paraphrase*). Therefore, we are commanded by God to gather together in larger, public settings where we can worship, praise, thank, pray to, and glorify God. We, also, gather in these larger settings to learn from God's Word as God speaks through pastoral-teaching leaders for the equipping of God's people, so that God's people can become more effective and fruitful in doing the work of ministry in and through this local church family. Therefore, we feel that participation in at least 3 weekend worship gatherings per month would be the minimum expectation.
- 2. Consistent participation in a small group.** In order for you to grow in the LORD, biblically, you need to be involved in mutually accountable relationships in fellowship with other believers. You need to be in a small enough setting where you can get to know others and you can give and receive mutual love, care, support, edification, equipping, fellowship, prayer, and accountability in Christ according to God's Word (i.e.: the "one anothers"). LIFE Groups provide the best setting for the "one anothers" to be fulfilled in a more relational way. Likewise, an adult Sunday School class is one of the best settings for cognitively learning of the content of the class, more than it is a relational-based setting of "doing" the Word of God. We believe that you will grow and be nurtured in the LORD in the context of relationships in a more effective way within a LIFE Group. We, also, highly recommend your participation in an adult Sunday School class that fits you.
- 3. Prayerful Support... consistent prayerful support of this church family's leadership, members and her ministries.** Prayer on behalf of the leadership, fellow members, and the ministries of this church family is so vitally important. It has been said that it is the life's blood of any church. Your prayers are so very important and needed.
- 4. Consistent, prayerful, joyful, generous, and cheerful financial support of this church's ministry.** God wants you to financially support this ministry as your first financial support of any Christian ministry. This supports the staff, keeps the lights on, helps to maintain the property we own, helps to support missionaries and other mission outreaches we are involved in, and so on. Your financial support is obedience to God and helps to further God's Kingdom around the world. (Matt. 6:1-4; 19-20; 24-34; 1 Cor. 9:14; 2 Cor. 8:7-12; 9:6-15; Gal. 6:6-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- 5. Join a ministry team.** You need to join a current ministry team and/or actively participate in an ongoing ministry of this church family that fits your gifts, talents, and abilities God has given you. But, if your gift-set is such that there needs to be a new team developed, please let the elders know and we will work with you as God leads us to see if we need to develop a new type of ministry that fits our Ministry Process model, is God-directed, and is God-provided. We ask that you wait at least 6 months before pursuing any leadership roles within any of the ministry teams after becoming a member.

Discussion:

1. Do you have any questions regarding these expectations of membership?
2. Are these expectations compatible with you (and your family)?
3. Would you see any problem with fulfilling any of these expectations?

Current Ministry Teams that you might join:

<p>WORSHIP TEAM Elders/Pastor 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>	<p>LIFE GROUPS Pastor Andy Thomas 874-9497 luvjcnw@yahoo.com</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY (i.e.: Sunday School) Elders/Pastor 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>
<p>YOUTH MINISTRY Elders/Pastor 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>	<p>USHERS/DEACONS Carl Dunkin 874-4088 cdunkin2@yahoo.com</p>	<p>YOUNG @ HEART Bill & Wanda Kendrick 874-5138</p>
<p>HOSPITALITY Call Church Office 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>	<p>MISSIONS Brad Kolman 679-7864 b.Kolman@bresnan.net</p>	<p>AUDIO Elders/Pastor 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATION Elders/Pastor 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>	<p>CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Elders/Pastor 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>	<p>GREETING/WELCOME CENTER Call Church Office 874-9497 contact_us@cbdelta.com</p>

Membership Covenant between me and the Calvary Baptist Church family:

Having received Christ as my LORD and Savior and been baptized biblically, and in **AGREEMENT** with Calvary Baptist Church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Calvary Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. Being an **ACTIVE, COMMITTED, VITAL, and SUPPORTIVE PARTICIPATING** member of the Calvary Baptist Church family.
2. Seeking to fulfill the ***Expectations of Membership***, as stated above, by the Grace of God.
3. **I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By acting in love toward other members
 - By refusing to gossip
 - By following the leadership team
4. **I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By praying for its growth on a regular, faithful, and consistent basis
 - By inviting the unchurched to attend
 - By warmly welcoming those who visit
5. **I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By being equipped to serve by my pastoral leadership team
 - By developing a servant's heart
 - By discovering my gifts and talents and using them to the glory of God
6. **I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By attending the weekly worship service faithfully, regularly, and consistently
 - By living a godly life, as an "ambassador" for Jesus Christ and of my church family
 - By giving regularly

Date: _____

Printed Name of Membership Candidate

Signature of Membership Candidate

(Do **NOT** sign this copy – keep this for your records)

Current Ministry Teams that you might join:

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Date: _____

Printed Name of Membership Candidate

Signature of Membership Candidate

(please sign this copy & hand it in to a leader)