



CONNECTION CLASS

WELCOME TO CONNECTING WITH BOONES CHAPEL

We are glad that you have chosen to learn more about Boones Chapel! The following is a basic introduction to our church family. It is designed to clearly explain who, and of what, our church is comprised.

THE BASIS FOR THIS INFORMATION

...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Ephesians 2:19

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:

...to commit myself to and to the

.

WHAT MAKES BOONES CHAPEL A FAMILY?

1. Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
2. Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
3. Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
4. Our Structure (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

SESSION ONE

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.”

WHAT’S THE SOLUTION TO OUR SIN PROBLEM?

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 Christ said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

John 14:6

The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Jesus has already taken care of our sin problem.

God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

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

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 Timothy 2:5

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

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

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

1. You **ADMIT** that God has not been first place in your life, and ask Him to forgive your sins.
2. You **BELIEVE** that Jesus died to pay for your sins, that He rose again on Easter 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

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 Timothy 2:5

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

3. You ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

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

4. You INVITE Jesus Christ to come into your life to become the "director" and Lord of your life.

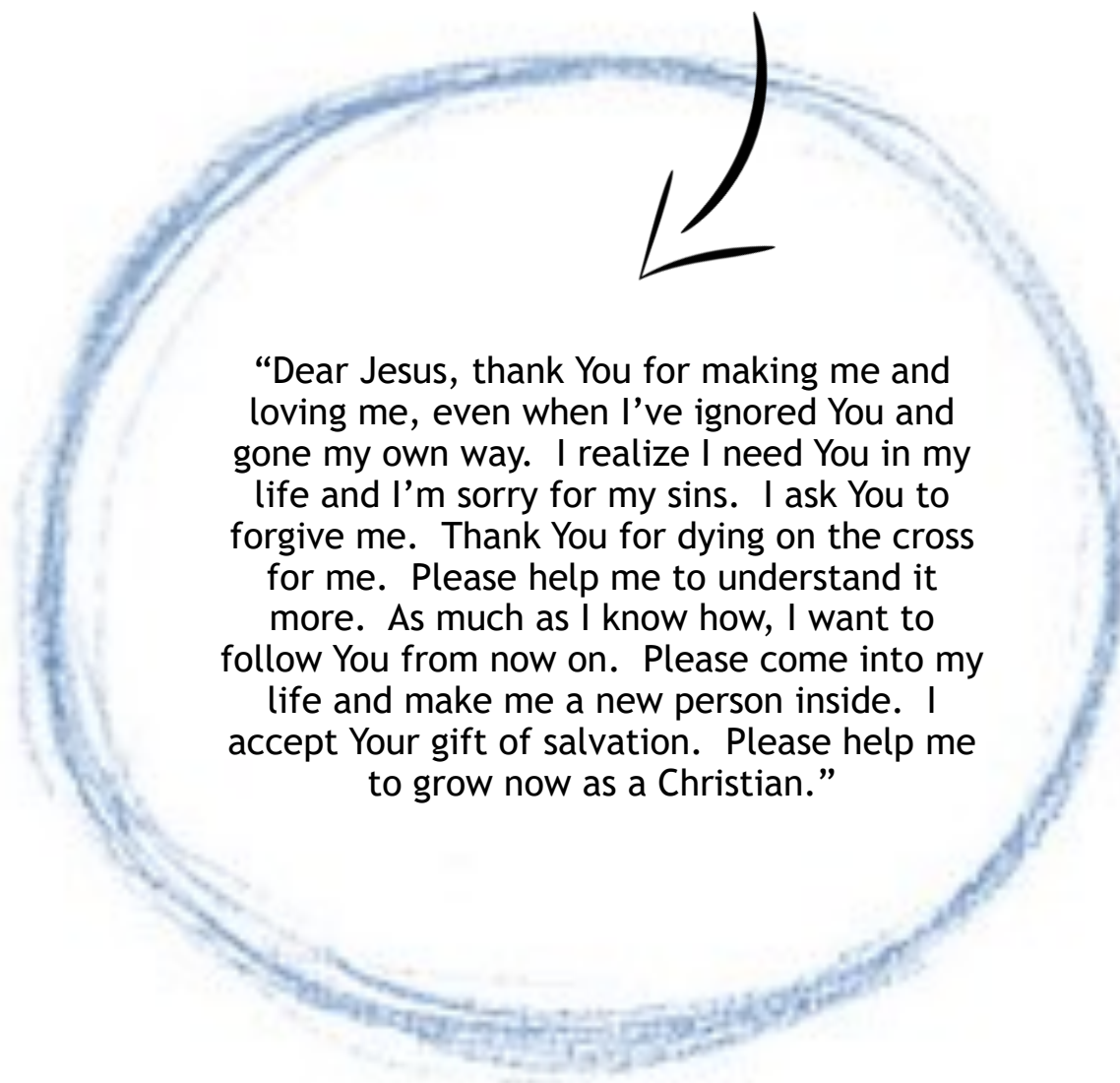
To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! - not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God.

John 1:12-13

Jesus says, Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...

Revelation 3:20

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God like this:



“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

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED - WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.

Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ it.

Jesus said, Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

3. It declares that I really am a

...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.

Acts 18:8

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.

1 John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's and resurrection.

Christ died for our sins... He was buried...
And He rose again.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For when you were baptized, you were buried
with Christ, and in baptism you were also
raised with Christ.

Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my as a Christian.

When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a
brand new person inside. The old life has passed
away and the new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer - it shows that you already believe.
Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism
is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you
made in your heart.

For by grace have you been saved, through
faith...it is the gift of God-not by works, so that
no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

Because was baptized that way.

Every baptism in the was by immersion.

...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...

Acts 8:38-39

The word baptize means “to water.”

The Greek word “baptizo” means “to immerse or dip under water.”

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

Martin Luther: “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin: “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley: “Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has in Christ.

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...

Acts 2:41

Simon himself believed and was baptized...

Acts 8:13

But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:12

At Boones Chapel, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise the child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

At the first opportunity after you've believed.

Acts 2:41

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you will never feel "good enough"!

***If you have any questions or concerns about baptism, please let us know.*

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are : Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Both are an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

1. It is a simple act: not an

The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...

(vs. 23)

2. It is a

...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, This is my body, which is broken for you; eat it in remembrance of Me.

(vs. 24)

3. It is a

In the same way, He took the cup, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.

(vs. 25)

4. It is a

For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back.

(vs. 26)

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already

(Mark 14:22-26)

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgement upon himself.

1 Corinthians 11:29

HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:27-28

Self Examination

1 Corinthians 11:27

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:9

Recommitment

Romans 12:1

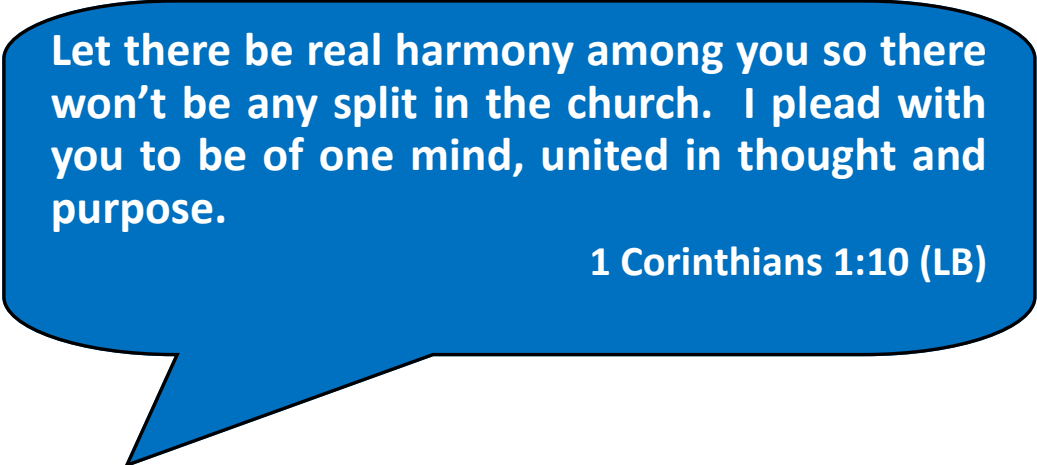
Restoring of Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. At Boones Chapel we observe The Lord's Supper as the Lord so leads the pastoral staff.

SESSION TWO



Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR VISION

Boones Chapel exists to help the whole world find and follow Jesus.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

To love God, love others and to serve the world so that they may find and follow Jesus.

OUR STRATEGY

The following statement of strategy serves to further clarify this purpose statement: Boones Chapel exists to create environments where people are encouraged and equipped to take the next step in their relationship with Christ, and to be able to reach, teach and minister to others.

We believe that healthy churches are built on three fundamental pillars:

Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:36-40

The Great Commandment

Jesus said, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

The Great Commission

Then the King will say to those on the right, ...For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me...And the King will tell them, I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!

Matthew 25:34-40

The Great Compassion

Worship

To love God with all your heart.



Service

To “Love your neighbor as yourself.”



Outreach

To go and make disciples.



Community

To baptize.



Growth

To teach them...all things.



OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

In essential beliefs

- we have unity

There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...

Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs

- we have liberty

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters ...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs

- we show love

If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.

1 Corinthians 13:2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

ABOUT GOD...

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

**Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22 // Psalm 90:2 // Matthew 28:19
1 Peter 1:2 // 2 Corinthians 13:14**

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST...

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. After three days He rose from the dead to demonstrate His power over sin and death. This accomplished salvation for all who received grace by trusting in Him alone. He is the only mediator between God and us. He seals believers with the Holy Spirit and will return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Matthew 1:22-23 // Isaiah 9:6 // John 1:1-5, 14:10-30
Hebrews 4:14-15 // 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 // Romans 1:3-4
Acts 1:9-11 // 1 Timothy 6:14-15 // Titus 2:13**

ABOUT HOLY SPIRIT...

Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

**2 Corinthians 3:17 // John 16:7-13, 14:16-17 // Acts 1:8
1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16 // Ephesians 1:13 // Galatians 5:25
Ephesians 5:18**

ABOUT THE BIBLE...

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of the truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

**2 Timothy 3:16 // 2 Peter 1:20-21 // 2 Timothy 1:13
Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6 // Proverbs 30:5**

ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS...

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

**Genesis 1:27 // Psalm 8:3-6 // Isaiah 53:6
Romans 3:23 // Isaiah 59:1-2**

ABOUT SALVATION...

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his/her life by faith.

**Romans 6:23 // Ephesians 2:8-9 // John 14:6; 1:12
Titus 3:5 // Galatians 3:26 // Romans 5:1**

(Paul) I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

...Yes whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

Boones Chapel is a balanced church seeking to become all things to all people.

1 Corinthians 9:22

We are committed to being a multi-generational church.

STRATEGY

The strategy of Boones Chapel is to create relevant environments where people are encouraged and equipped to take the next step in their relationship with Christ through making five commitments.

ENVIRONMENT

- Appropriate environments are necessary for people to grow.
- Environments are different for different age groups.

We believe that God has created us to fulfill and balance these 5 purposes:

Worship

To love God with all your heart.



Service

To "Love your neighbor as yourself."



Outreach

To go and make disciples.



Community

To baptize.



Growth

To teach them...all things.



THE BOONES CHAPEL COMMITMENTS

1. The Community Commitment...

... is a commitment to and

Romans 12:4-5

2. The Spiritual Growth Commitment...

... is a commitment to the necessary for Spiritual growth.

Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.

1 Timothy 4:7

3. The Service Commitment...

... is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in God and others.

God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other.

2 Peter 4:10

4. The Outreach Commitment...

... is a commitment to the Good News with others.

You will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

5. The Worship Commitment...

... is a commitment to become an worshipper.

...for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Why do we have these commitments?

We become what we are

We ask you to participate in three things:

ATTEND REGULARLY

PERSONAL HABITS

SMALL GROUPS

EVERY BELIEVER HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST WITH THOSE FAR FROM GOD

HOW TO WIN PEOPLE TO CHRIST:

1. Accept the personal
2. Build a personal
3. Share your personal
4. Give a personal

POINTS OF PASSION - OUR MISSION FIELD

You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

1. Jerusalem - My City

“Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight...”

James 1:27 Message

2. Judea and Samaria - My Nation

Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

3. The ends of the earth - My World

Jesus said to His followers, “Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.”

Mark 16:15 (NCV)

SESSION THREE

For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

1 Corinthians 14:33-40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

Culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions should not determine the structure of the church.

The nature of the church determines its structure.

1. The Church is a

They continued steadily, learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...

Acts 2:42

A top priority in a fellowship is

and

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

Romans 14:19

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Colossians 3:15 // 1 Corinthians 1:10 // 2 Timothy 2:14
Proverbs 17:14 // 2 Corinthians 13:11 // Philippians 1:27; 2:1-3
Colossians 2:2 // Philippians 4:2 // 1 Peter 3:8 // 1 Corinthians 14:33
John 13:34-35 // 2 Timothy 2:23 // Romans 15:5-6 // Romans 12:16-18
Colossians 3:13-14 // Psalms 133:1

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays

2. The Church is a

You should be like one big happy family,
full of sympathy toward each other,
loving one another with tender hearts
and humble minds.

1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

3. The Church is a

1 Corinthians 12:27 // Ephesians 5:23; 1:22-23 // Colossians 1:18; 2:19

We are a body—not a business! We are an organism—not an organization;
therefore, we function on the basis of not

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

Romans 12:4-6

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus, but in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

At Boones Chapel, we have a simple structure so we can maximize

and minimize

God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Ephesians 4:11-12

The People are the



The Pastors are the



4. The Church is a

John 10:1-30 // Matthew 26:31; 25:33

Therefore it is cared for and led by

Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Do you really love me?" "Yes Lord," said Peter. "Then take care of my sheep."

John 21:16-17

1 Peter 5:1-2 // Acts 20:17-18, 28 // Titus 1:5-7 // 1 Timothy 5:17

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

The difference between "attenders" and "members" at Boones Chapel can be summed up in one word: .

Attenders are

Members are

At Boones Chapel we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

1. A - Christ is committed to the church.

Christ loved the church and He gave Himself for it.

Ephesians 5:25

2. A -It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A -It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

4. A -It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family.

Proverbs 27:17

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Boones Chapel we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Commitment.

THE BOONES CHAPEL MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Boones Chapel’s statements, structure, and strategy. I now feel led by Holy Spirit to unite with the Boones Chapel Family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the of my church.

By acting in love toward other members
By refusing to gossip
By following the leaders

So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.

Romans 15:19

Ephesians 4:29 // Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the of my church.

By praying for its growth
By inviting the unchurched to attend
By warmly welcoming those who visit

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 // Luke 14:23 // Romans 15:7

3. I will serve the of my church.

By discovering and using my gifts and talents
By being equipped to serve alongside my Pastors
By developing a servant's heart

Ephesians 4:11-12 // Philippians 2:3-4, 7

Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others.

1 Peter 4:10

4. I will support the of my church.

By attending faithfully
By getting in a small group
By serving cheerfully
By living a Godly life
By giving regularly

Hebrews 10:25 // Philippians 1:27 // 1 Corinthians 16:2
Malachi 3:10 // Leviticus 27:30 // Acts 2:42

RETURNING THE TITHE

At Boones Chapel we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that returning at least 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of tithing.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by organizations to which they give. Therefore, there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders.

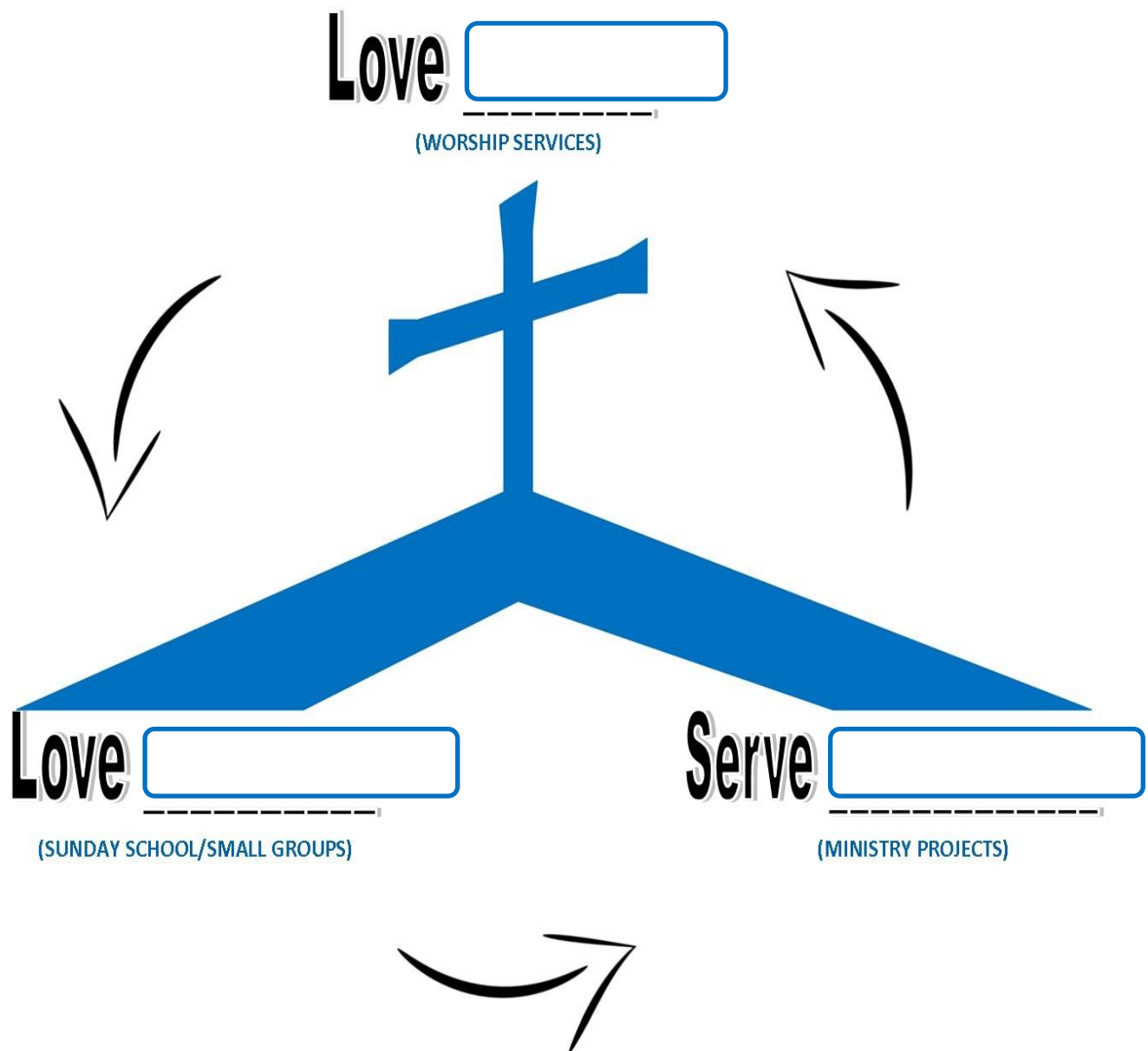
The returning of tithes and giving of offerings is worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the love relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Tithes and offerings are worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

WAYS TO GIVE

By envelope during worship services
By online giving, text-to-give, mobile giving or the kiosk
By Estate Planning

NOW, ARE YOU READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

Are you ready to see your life change the world for Jesus Christ? Here is how: **LOVE GOD** by attending worship services regularly, **LOVE OTHERS** by growing in a small group, **SERVE THE WORLD** by joining a ministry team that matches your giftedness and passion.



Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

What Tools do I have to be successful as a Christian?

We have the Holy Bible, prayer and the church. It is critical that I understand each one of them and what they mean to me.

1 - Holy Bible

Believers must know these basic facts about the Bible:

“Bible” derives from the Greek term “books” and refers to the Old and New Testaments. God’s Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible, was written by men divinely inspired by God and it records God’s revelation of Himself to humans. It has God, the Holy Spirit for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error for its matter. The Bible above all talks about God and His relationship to the world. The Bible is a rule or standard of authority for Christians.

The Bible is divided into two parts. The Old Testament which was primarily written in Hebrew, with some portions of Ezra-Nehemiah and Daniel in Aramaic, consist of thirty-nine books. The New Testament which was written in Greek, consists of twenty-seven books. Combined, there are sixty-six books in the entire Bible.

What is the Bible?

- A book telling the story of Creation and God’s relationship to his creation.
- The record of the story of redemption, in which the Word became flesh and dwelt among us to show us God.
- Our guide for spiritual growth and maturity, which also tells us of the last days and eternal life.

Why Study the Bible?

- To Know God - II Timothy 3:16
- To Know Christ - Matthew 11:28
- To Find Eternal Life - John 5:39/John 20:30 -31
- To Profit From Doctrine, Reproof, Correction and Instruction in Righteousness - II Timothy 3: 16, 17
- To Pray With Results - John 15:7

2 - Prayer

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:5-15

For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Hebrews 10:19-22

What Tools do I have to be successful as a Christian?

2 - Prayer

Why do we pray?

- Jesus prayed to the Father setting an example for us
- Jesus asks us to pray
- Jesus gives us a model for prayer - The Lord's Prayer
- Prayer expresses our dependence upon God

3 - The Church

- God calls believers into fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Believers are told to assemble together to encourage each other

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

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