

CLASS OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION..... Pg.3

SESSION ONE

Our Strategy Pg.5

SESSION TWO

Our Structure Pg.17

SESSION THREE

Our Salvation Pg.25

SESSION FOUR

Our Statement..... Pg.39

Welcome To **COMMITTING TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about New Beginnings! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

Committing to Church Membership is divided into four sessions of an hour each.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19

Key Truths:

1. The church is a FAMILY.
2. God expects you to be a MEMBER of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an ORPHAN.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I will commit myself to CHRIST and to the NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FAMILY.

WHAT MAKES NEW BEGINNINGS A FAMILY

Four things unite us:

- **Our Strategy** (Our purpose and how we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (What we believe and practice)

SEMINAR OUTLINE

SESSION ONE: OUR STRATEGY

- Our Purpose Statement
- Circles of commitment/Four commitments
- New Beginnings Mission
- New Beginnings Vision

SESSION TWO: OUR STRUCTURE

- How our church is structured
- Our affiliation
- What it means to be a member

SESSION THREE: OUR SALVATION

- What it means to be a Christian
- The symbols of salvation: Baptism and Communion

SESSION FOUR: OUR STATEMENTS

- Our Faith Statement
- The New Beginnings Membership Agreement
- Steps to becoming a member at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship

Session One

The New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Strategy

(Paul) *“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”* 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As A Church

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

“WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT COMMANDMENT AND THE GREAT COMMISSION WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!”

The Great Commandment: *“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.”* Matt. 22:36-40

The Great Commission: *“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 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* Matt. 28:19-20

- To “Love God with all your heart” is **“WORSHIP”**.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is **“MINISTRY”**.
- To “Go...make disciples” is **“EVANGELISM”**.
- To “Baptize...” is to **“INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP”**.
- To “Teach them...all things” is **“DISCIPLESHIP”**.

NEW BEGINNINGS EXISTS:

1. To CELEBRATE God’s Presence (Worship)
2. To DEMONSTRATE God’s Love (Ministry)
3. To COMMUNICATE God’s Word (Evangelism)
4. To INCORPORATE God’s Family (Fellowship)
5. To EDUCATE God’s People (Discipleship)

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." Matthew 4:10

"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth."
John 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

- **Singing** (Eph. 5:19) (Col. 3:16) (Ps. 7:17) *"I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High."*
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2) **1** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
- **Praying** (I Thess. 5:17) *"Pray without ceasing."*
- **Hearing the Word** (Rom. 10:17) *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
- **Giving** (Mal. 3:10,11) **10** *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts;"*
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4) **3** *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*
- **Meditating** (Ps. 63:6) **6** *"When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches (Ps. 104:34) 34 May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord."*
- **Lord's Supper** (1 Cor. 11:23-26) **23** *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*

- **Instruments** (Ps. 33:2, Ps. 150) 3 *“Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! 4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!”*
- **Shouting** (Ps. 47:1) *“ Shout to God with the voice of triumph! “*
- **Clapping** (Ps. 47:1) *“Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!”*
- **Dancing** Ps. 149:3 *“Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.”*
- **Lifting Hands** (Ps. 28:2) *“Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary”*
Ps. 63:4 *“Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.”*
- **Kneeling** (Ps. 95: 6) *“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”*
- **Standing** (Ps.134: 1 A Song of Ascents. *“Behold, bless the Lord, All you servants of the Lord, Who by night stand in the house of the Lord”*

II. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." Eph. 3:10

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:13-14

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because GOD LOVES PEOPLE

*"The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9, 2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 9:12-13*

2. Because GOD COMMANDS US TO REACH OUT

*"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full.**'" Luke 14:23*

"...you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

3. Because GROWTH IS GOD'S WILL

*"Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow.**" Col. 2:19 (GN)*

"(Jesus) I will build my church." Matt. 16:18

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal"

We believe our church must grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

*"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come." Matt. 24:14*

III. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP:

“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity...**” Heb. 6:1

“Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

“(God has given)...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 until we all...become mature...like Christ.” Eph. 4:11-13

IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

MINISTRY:

*“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples — **that you have love for one another.**”* John 13:35
1 John 3:16-17, Matt. 25:34-40 , Rom. 12:13

*“But do not forget to **do good and to share**, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”* Heb. 13:16

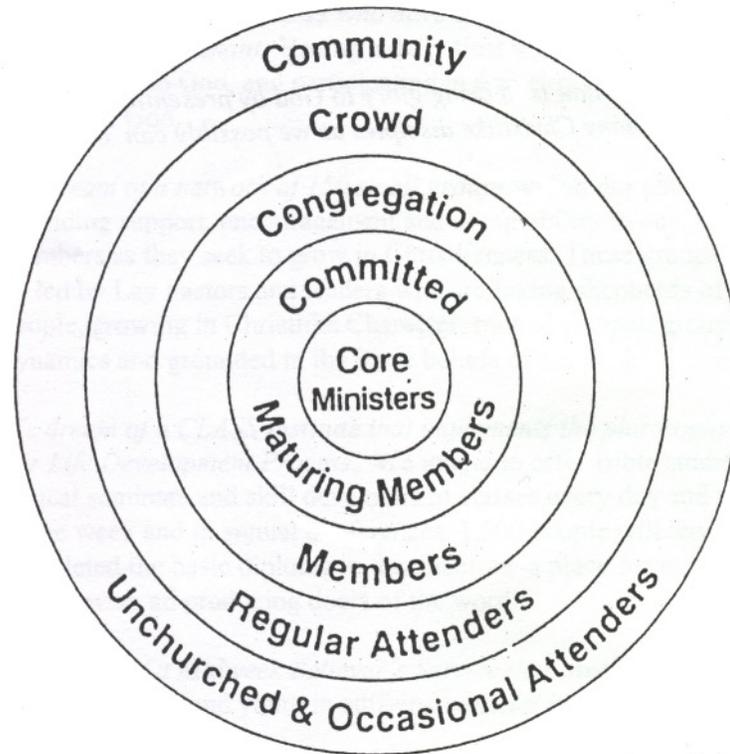
The heartbeat of body ministry at New Beginnings will take place in our **SMALL GROUPS**.
Every member needs to be a part of one.

*“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... **All of you** together form the one Body of Christ and **each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**”*
1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

At NEW BEGINNINGS...

- Every member is a: MINISTER
- Every task is: IMPORTANT
- Every member is a “10” in: SOMETHING

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



New Beginnings' objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

THE FOUR NEW BEGINNINGS COMMITMENTS

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT...

is a commitment to CHRIST and THE NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FAMILY.

*“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but **fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.**” Eph. 2:19*

*“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.**” Rom. 12:4-5*

2. THE MATURITY COMMITMENT...

is a commitment to the HABITS necessary for spiritual growth.

*“**Continue to grow** in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18*

*“Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly.**” 1 Tim. 4:7*

3. THE MINISTRY COMMITMENT...

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

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others**, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Pet. 4:10*

*“There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and **each one of you is a necessary part of it.**” 1 Cor. 12:5,27*

4. THE MISSIONS COMMITMENT...

is a commitment to sharing the Good News with others.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

*“Always **be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15*

WHY DO WE HAVE THESE COMMITMENTS?

We Become What We Are COMMITTED TO BECOME.

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

OUR MISSION

A Mission is designed to explain why the church exists. As noted previously, it should be biblically based and essentially the same for every church.

MISSION

Why we exist . . .

EQUIP – WORK – BUILD REWARD

With the Bible as our authority and the Holy Spirit as our guide, the family of God at New Beginnings exists to fulfill the purpose of the Church, as established by Jesus Christ, to **change lives** by **living** the Great Commandment and **fulfilling** the Great Commission:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

“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.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Eph.4:11 *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—“*

2 Cor. 5:10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

1 Cor. 3:13 *“each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”*

A Vision describes a picture of the vision to which God is calling us. Unlike our Beliefs and our Mission, our Vision may change over the years as we continue to seek God's will for New Beginnings.

VISION

It is the Vision of a place where the hurting, the depressed, the sick, the confused, can find love, help, healing, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.

It is the Vision of a place where children of God will be disciplined and equipped to become active, fulfilling the gifts and callings given to them to complete the purpose of God, evangelizing the lost and encouraging the saints to magnify God.

It is the Vision of a place where the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ and His grace is proclaimed to those who would believe, and freely given to those who would receive.

It is the Vision of a place where the children of God understand the father-child relationship, and the peace and acceptance that is ours, if we will see ourselves as Sons and Daughters, the way God created us in His image and likeness.

It is the Vision of this ministry to understand that it belongs to God, not man, and our efforts are as unto the lord and will not burn on the day of the believer's judgment, but will produce crowns to be laid at the feet of Jesus Christ. We will then receive our rewards that will last throughout eternity.

It is the Vision of a Church to grow and reach many people, through evangelism locally and abroad, through global missions, through media ministries, and through the local body with the expression of the Holy Spirit, daily living through us.

It is the Vision of this ministry to Forever understand that it is the anointing power of the Holy Spirit that breaks the yoke of bondage, and we can, and will be set free from the captivity, that keeps us from achieving the predestined will of God for our lives.

It is the Vision of this ministry to always seek the TRUTH and walk in it.

Session Two

The New Beginnings' Structure

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

1 Cor. 14:33,40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
Acts 2:42

A top priority in a fellowship is UNITY and HARMONY

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.” 1 Corinthians 1:10

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph. 4:3

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Rom. 14:19

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11,
Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33,
John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18,
Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES

*“(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...**”* 1 Cor. 11:17-18

II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY

“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)

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY

1 Cor. 12:27 *Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

We are a body — not a business!
We are an organism — not an organization!

**THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS
NOT ELECTED OFFICES.**

*“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 each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.”* Rom. 12:4-6

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

AT NEW BEGINNINGS WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN
MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

*“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...”* Eph. 4:11-12

OUR STRUCTURE

- **THE PEOPLE ARE THE “ _____ MINISTERS _____ ”.**
- **THE APOSTLES/PROPHETS/EVANGELIST/PASTORS/TEACHERS ARE THE “ _____ EQUIPPERS _____ ”.**

Eph 4:11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the **work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

IV. THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK

(Jesus' favorite description of the church)

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10:14-15

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS.

*“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then **take care** of my sheep.’”* John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- *“POIMEN”* - Pastor
- *PRESBUTEROS”*- Elder
- *EPISCOPOS”*- Overseer

*“To the **elders** I say...**Be shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers**...”* 1 Pet. 5:1-2

*“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God...”* Acts 20:17-18, 28

See also Titus 1:5-7, 1 Tim. 5:1

We are an Elder care fellowship -

“PASTOR LED, ELDER SECURED”

NEW BEGINNINGS is an affiliate church of New Life Christian Fellowship (NLCF) in Jacksonville, Florida. We are part of a voluntary cooperative fellowship of sovereign churches. This means that we function autonomously and yet voluntarily cooperate with NLCF and Bishop Paul Zink.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “*attenders*” and “*members*” can be summed up in one word;
COMMITMENT.

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

I. A BIBLICAL REASON: CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

..... “*...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.*” Eph. 5:25

II. A CULTURAL REASON: 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.

III. PRACTICAL REASON: 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.

IV. A PERSONAL REASON: 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’re not committed to any specific church family

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At NEW BEGINNINGS 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 Agreement.

Session Three

Our Salvation

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26-28

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 in knowing _____ **JESUS** _____.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. GOD MADE ME TO _____ **LOVE** _____ **HIM AND MYSELF!**

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

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” Ephesians 1:4-5

2. WE WERE CREATED TO _____ **ENJOY** _____ **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 BE THE BOSS 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 please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: SIN.

"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 in 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. **BE SORRY FOR YOUR SINS.**

9 "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death" 2 COR. 7

2. **REPENT AND TURN TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS**

*"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

3. **BELIEVE 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

4. 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 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!

5. INVITE 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

"Jesus says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...'" Rev. 3:30

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

V. How Can I Know That I Am a Christian?

1. Ask yourself "Who or what Runs my Life?"

Job/Business	Family
Hobbies	Sports
Friends	Problems
Alcohol/Drugs	Jesus

Application: The person or thing that runs my life is _____.

2. Ask yourself "What Is my Heart Attitude Toward God?"

- A. Unconcerned: You may know a great deal about Jesus and salvation, or very little. The important point is you do not really care
- B. Concerned: You are aware of your inner and spiritual needs and would like to find answers to them.
- C. Conviction: Strong spiritual discomfort and guilt caused by Holy Spirit showing you your sin and emptiness.
- D. Repentance: Deep change of mind and heart and choose to reject and forsake all known sin and the right to run your own life, independent of God.
- E. Saving Faith: Total commitment of all you are and have to the total rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Application: My heart attitude toward God is _____.

3. Five Reasons You Can Know You Are Saved.

- A. You were and are SORRY for your sins
- B. You have obeyed God's commands to REPENT and BELIEVE, and He is faithful in keeping His word. 1John 5:13
- C. You have CONFIDENCE in the blood of Christ shed on the cross. Eph. 1:7
- D. You have RENOUNCED all claims to run your life and given Jesus Christ that supreme right. Col. 2:6
- E. God has PUT His Holy Spirit right inside you – in your very spirit and gives you assurance you are His. Rom. 8:16

4. Beginning Evidences of Lordship Salvation

- A. A desire to _____ **KNOW** _____ the Bible. 1 Peter 2:2
- B. A desire to _____ **OBEY** _____ Jesus Christ. John 14:15
- C. Distress over _____ **SIN** _____, 2Tim 2:19
- D. Concern for the _____ **LOST** _____. 2 Peter 3:9

Application: Do I have these evidences of salvation in my life?

Lordship Salvation is the Only _____ **SALVATION** _____.

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. BECAUSE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *“...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

3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO IMMERSE IN WATER”.

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

4. IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

The founders of denominations agree:

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, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED 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

WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

At NEW BEGINNINGS, 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 their 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.

At NEW BEGINNINGS, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

*“Those who believed...were baptized...**that day!**”* Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

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’ll never feel “good enough”!

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Children’s Pastor for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

- Please come fully dressed in the clothes you will be baptized in, and wear dark clothing that will not be clingy or sheer when wet.
- Bring a complete change of clothes (under and outer garments) to dress in after being baptized, and a bag to place your wet clothes in.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. Not if you don't want to. At the beginning of the service, Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. Pastor will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will be given a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

SPECIAL NEEDS?

All of our Pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion was instituted at his last Passover meal with his disciples. Here He told His disciples to make this an ordinance in a remembrance of Him (also called the Lord's Supper).

It was not by coincidence that Jesus initiated Communion during the Passover meal. God instituted the Passover when He delivered Israel from 400 years of bondage in Egypt. The meal celebrated the death angel's passing over the houses where, by faith the doorpost and lintels had been smeared with lamb's blood. (Exodus 12:12-13).

The Passover celebrated a temporary, physical deliverance. Jesus now establishes the celebration of a permanent and spiritual deliverance in a ceremony reminding us of His cross.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 COR. 11:23-26)

1. IT IS A SIMPLE ACT .

*"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, **took bread...**" (vs. 23)*

2. IT IS A REMINDER .

*"...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; eat it **in remembrance** of me.'" (vs. 24)*

3. IT IS A SYMBOL OF RELATIONSHIP .

*"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 STATEMENT OF FAITH .

*"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** until He comes back." (vs. 26)*

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already BELIEVERS .

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take it; this is my body." Mark 14:22

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself." 2 Cor. 11:29

III. 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 blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” 1 Cor. 11:27-28

By...

1. Self-Examination

1 Cor. 11:27

2. Confessing My Sins

1 John 1:9

3. Recommitment

Rom. 12:1

4. Restoring Relationships

Matt. 5:23-24

IV. 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. We at New Beginnings observe communion on the first weekend of the month. Since our services are designed so you can bring your guest and non-believing friends, we seek to use it as a witness to the nonbeliever as well as a means of renewing our commitment and communion with our Father.

“We need to ask ourselves these questions:

1. Have we surrendered our life to the Lordship of Christ?
2. Are we willing to obey God even while growing in our understanding?
3. Have we been baptized since we believed?
4. Are we participating regularly in communion?

Session Four

The New Beginnings'

Statements

“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

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

1 Corinthians 1:10

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Note: The word "catholic" in the Apostles Creed means "universal" as opposed to the name "Roman Catholic Church" which designates a particular denomination. We therefore understand the word "catholic" to refer to all believers everywhere who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and are a part of His body.)

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

Statement Of Faith

1. The Holy Bible -- We believe in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
2. God -- We believe in one God revealed in three Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16,17; John 17)
3. Man -- We believe that man, in his natural state, is a sinner, lost, undone, without hope, and without God. (Romans 3:19-23; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1,2,12)
4. Divinity And Humanity Of Christ Jesus -- We believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is God come in the flesh and that He is both divine and human. (Luke 1:26-38; John 14:1-3; Acts 2:36; Acts 3:14,15; Philippians 2:5-12; Ephesians 1:3-15)
5. Blood Atonement -- We believe in the saving power of the Blood of Jesus Christ and His imputed righteousness to all who believe on Him with faith. (Acts 4:12; Romans 4:1-9, 5:1-11; Ephesians 1:3-15)
6. Bodily Resurrection -- We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Luke 24:39-43; John 20:24-29)
7. Ascension -- We believe that Jesus Christ ascended to the Father and is presently seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. (John 14:1-6; Romans 8:34)
8. Second Coming -- We believe in the visible, bodily return of Jesus Christ to this earth to gather His Church (Bride) and judge the world. (Acts 1:10,11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; James 5:8; Revelation 1:7) (Note: It is not necessary that we all believe alike concerning whether He is coming before, during or after the Great Tribulation.)
9. Salvation -- We believe that the terms of salvation are repentance toward God for sin, and a personal, heartfelt faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which results in regeneration of the person. This salvation is entirely by grace of our Lord and not of works. Works are excluded except as fruit of salvation. (Acts 3:19,20; Romans 4:1-5, 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-10)

10. Local Church -- We believe that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local expression of a Body of Believers who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who are under recognized, delegated authorities; and who assemble to worship, carry forth the Great Commission and minister as the Holy Spirit leads. (Matthew 16:18, 28:19-20; Acts 2:40-47, 20-28; Ephesians 5:22-32; I Timothy 3:15)
11. Ordinances -- We believe that the two ordinances of the church are water baptism and communion (The Lord's Supper). (Matthew 3:15,16, 28:19-20; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:1-4; Luke 22:13-20)
12. Separated Life -- We believe that believers should seek, as the early disciples did, to practice the separated life from the world and unto Jesus Christ and to set standards of conduct which shall exalt our Lord and His church. (Romans 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Galatians 6:14; Ephesians 5:11; Colossians 3:17)
13. Heaven And Hell -- We believe the Holy Scriptures clearly set forth the doctrines of eternal punishment for the lost and eternal bliss and salvation for the saved -- Hell for the unsaved and Heaven for the saved. (Matthew 25:34,41,46; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3; Revelation 20:11-15)
14. Holy Spirit -- We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity whose purpose in the redemption is to convict him of sin, regenerate the repentant believer, guide the believer into understanding the Holy Scriptures, indwell and give gifts to believers as He wills, that they may minister as Christ would to men. We believe that the manifestations of the Holy Spirit recorded in I Corinthians 12:8-11 shall operate in the churches today which yield to the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe a believer can be baptized in the Holy Spirit during the time Jesus is regenerating him, or anytime subsequent to his regeneration (new birth) experience.

We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, is for all believers as promised by John the Baptist, was witnessed by the early disciples of Christ, and is evidenced in the lives of many present-day believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39, 14:16,17; Acts 2:39-47; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4,5,8; Acts 10:44-47, 19:1-6)

15. Divine Healing -- We believe that God does use doctors, medicines and other material means for healing. However, we believe that divine healing has been provided for us in the Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. Divine healing may be received through the laying on of hands by Elders, laying on of hands by believers, by the prayer of an anointed person gifted for healing the sick, by the anointing with oil and the prayer of faith, or by a direct act of faith where the believer receives healing from the Lord Jesus Christ without ministry from anyone else. (Isaiah 53:5; James 5:14-16; Mark 16:18; I Corinthians 12:9; Mark 11:23)

16. Priesthood Of Believers -- We believe that each believer is a priest of the Lord Jesus Christ and has direct access to the Father through the Lord Jesus. Each person must believe for himself, be baptized for himself, obey for himself, and answer to his Creator for himself. (Revelation 1:6; 1 Peter 2:9)
17. The Millennial Reign of Christ - The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of all Christians followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for 1000 years. (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27)
18. The New Heavens and the New Earth - “According to God’s promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell and reign forever”
2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21,22
19. Government Of The Church -- We believe that the New Testament Church should be apostolic in nature and governed by delegated authorities. Those authorities at *NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP* are the Pastors and Elders. When it is deemed best for the life of the church and testimony of the Lord, the Pastors and Elders may discipline, in the spirit of love, any member who departs from the Statement of Faith of this Body of Believers.
20. Tithes And Offerings -- We believe that God's plan of finance for His work is by tithes and offerings and that it is a joy for His children to acknowledge His Lordship in this manner. (Malachi 3:6-12; Genesis 14: 17-20; Hebrews 7:1-10; Matthew 23:23; 2 Corinthians 8 and 9; Acts 20:35)

THE NEW BEGINNINGS MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

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

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY 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.” Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.” Romans 15:5

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 1 Peter 1:22

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” Eph. 4:29

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Heb. 13:17

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

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thess. 1:2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.” Luke 14:23 (LB)

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Rom. 15:7 (LB)

III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents**
- ...By being equipped to serve**
- ...By developing a servant's heart**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

"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..." Eph. 4:11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Phil 2:3-4, 7

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving regularly**

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Heb. 10:25

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel." Phil. 1:27

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Cor. 16:2

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Lev. 27:30

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES AND PROCESS OF NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

POLICIES:

- I All participants in a ministry of New Beginnings need to be active members of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. Upon completion of Equipping 101 and commitment to membership, individuals involved in ministry will have one year to complete the remaining Equipping 201, 301, and 401 classes. If there is a failure to complete these requirements in the one-year time frame, they are subject to removal from all ministry positions at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.

- II. We encourage all membership applicants to conform to the requirements of the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Constitution and Bylaws. This is fulfilled by attending all sessions of the Equipping 101 class, affirming your commitment to abide by New Beginnings membership regulations, and filling out your application for membership.

- III. As we have the expectation that current members maintain their commitment to the following areas of church life, we encourage all new members to commit to and fulfill the Christian growth discipleship process, which, in summary, follows;
 - Be a regular and consistent attendee of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship or one of its affiliates.
 - Have experienced salvation by believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
 - Have experienced water baptism after your salvation experience.
 - Be regular and consistent in the giving of tithes to New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.
 - Be active in a church ministry.
 - Attend and complete the Disciple Makers Classes within a one year period. These consist of; 101-Commitment to Membership, 201-Commitment to Maturity, 301-Commitment to Ministry, and 401-Commitment to Mission.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS;

The following is the process and requirements to obtain active membership at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in full;

1. Attend and complete Equipping Base Class 101; Membership.
 - a. Complete membership application. Submission of this application will begin the tracking of your compliance in all of the stated membership requirements.
 - b. Fulfill water baptism requirement if not met at this time.
 - c. Make a commitment to attend the remaining Equipping Classes within a one year period.
2. Attend and complete Equipping 201; Maturity
3. Attend and complete Equipping 301; Ministry
 - a. Complete the S.H.A.P.E. profile to aid in your placement into a ministry of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.
 - b. A member of our "Small Groups" team will talk with you to further define your ministry desires and aid in the placement into a ministry by communicating with the ministry leader, your intent to serve with them.
 - c. No further consideration for ministry placement will be made until the member demonstrates ongoing, consistent, active participation in Church life.
4. Attend and complete Equipping 401; Missions. Make a commitment to participate in ministry outreach opportunities.

A new member may enter a ministry during the compliance process, which will permit them to complete the process as stated above in a maximum time frame of one year from the month they become an active member. Rejection of these requirements or failure to complete the Equipping process in the allotted year may subject the individual to removal from their ministry position(s).

RUNNING TO WIN

Congratulations! You have completed Class 101—Commitment to Membership. Now don't stop here—make your hit a “double” by committing to Class 201--Commitment to Maturity.

In class 201, you will discover how to grow up in Christ by developing habits in your life. These four habits of a growing disciple include:

- God's Word—How to hear, read, study, memorize, meditate, and apply it in your life
- Prayer—How to begin a daily quiet time, and how to pray using the Lord's Prayer
- Tithing—Discover the 7 benefits of giving, and 8 reasons why God wants us to tithe
- Small groups-How is being connected to a Small Group a must for spiritual growth.

Imagine actually reading your Bible consistently for the first time in your life. Or having an idea of what to do when you sit down to pray. Sometimes the basic spiritual disciplines don't happen in our lives because we simply don't know what to do. We want to give you a practical PLAN.

Don't miss out on this incredibly, practical class that will produce supernatural results in your life.

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Membership Application

Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Gender (M/F) _____ Date of Birth _____

Single Married Widowed Divorced Separated Remarried

Spouse's Name _____ Date of birth _____ Attends New Beginnings? _____

Children's Names	Children's Birthdates	Living at home	Attends New Beginnings
_____	_____	Yes/No	Yes/ No
_____	_____	Yes/No	Yes/No
_____	_____	Yes/No	Yes/No

• What is your current occupation and who is your employer? _____

• How long have you attended New Beginnings Christian Fellowship? _____

• Name the last church you attended prior to New Beginnings _____
Reason for leaving former Church _____
Reason for coming to New Beginnings _____

• In what churches have you been active in the past? Include the location, years of involvement, and what ministries you were involved in?

<u>Church</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Ministries Involved In</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

• How would you describe your relationship to Christ?
 Investigating New Believer in Jesus Committed Believer in Jesus
 I've been a Christian for a while, but need to grow I'm not sure

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted him for salvation?

Yes, How many years: _____

No, but I would like to know more about it.

- Have you been baptized by immersion after you committed your life to Christ?

Yes, Date of Baptism: _____ Location: _____

No, but I'm signed up to be baptized on: _____

No, but I would like to know more about it.

- On what date did you complete Equipping Class 101? _____

- Do you regularly and consistently attend a worship service?

No Yes [which one?] _____

- Do you currently attend a New Beginnings Small Group

No Yes [which one?] _____

- Are you currently serving in an area of ministry?

No Yes [which?] _____

- Do you give regularly through tithes and offerings?

Yes No I'm not sure

TO BE COMPLETED AT THE DISCIPLE MAKERS 101 CLASS:

- Do you commit to abide by the New Beginnings Membership Commitment and to complete the remaining Equipping Classes 201, 301, and 401 within one year from this date?

Yes, I do! _____

Please sign your name and date