

CONNECTION POINT



NEW MEMBER CLASS BOOKLET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON #1.....THE BIBLE

LESSON #2.....THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

LESSON #3.....THE WORK OF CHRIST AND SALVATION

LESSON #4.....THE CHURCH

LESSON #5.....SPIRITUAL GIFTS

LESSON #6.....WORSHIP

LESSON #7.....DISCIPLESHIP

LESSON #8.....EVANGELISM

SECTION #9.....PERSONAL TESTIMONY FORM

SECTION #10.....MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

LESSON #1: THE BIBLE

The Bible is the foundational document of the Christian faith, but it is even more than that. In reality it is God's passionate love letter to His children. The Bible is the revealed Word of God that contains everything necessary for salvation and living the Christian life. In reality this Word is the source of spiritual sustenance for the Christian and the beacon of light for the person who is lost in the stormy sea of life. This lesson will focus on the basic truths about Scripture. It is our goal to make you aware of the position of Grace Fellowship on the Word of God, and to also share with you practical steps to studying and living out the truth of the Bible. The following is an outline of the material to be discussed in this lesson.

- I. Survey of the Old and New Testament*
- II. Why is the Bible Foundational to the Faith?*
 - A. II Timothy 3:15-17*
 - B. Hebrew 4:12*
 - C. Psalm 19:7-8*
- III. How has the Bible been Preserved and Passed Down?*
 - A. Canonization*
 - B. Translation and Modern Versions of the Bible*
- IV. Grace Fellowship on the Bible*
 - A. Doctrinal Stance of the church on the Bible*
 - B. Application of Doctrine to the life of the church*

SURVEY OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

It is very important that we understand that the Bible is a book written by men as the Holy Spirit moved them. Here are some quick facts to think about before our study begins in earnest:

- Over 40 different men wrote the Bible.
- These men lived in several different countries.
- The writers lived at different times from 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90.
- Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek were used to record the Bible.

The fact is that with all of this diversity the Bible contains one major theme with one powerful character. The theme of Scripture is God's purpose and plan in man's redemption. The one powerful character is Jesus Christ. With all of that said it is time to move into the study of Scripture.

WHY IS THE BIBLE FOUNDATIONAL TO THE FAITH?

- A. What does II Timothy 3:16 say about the Bible?
- B. How do the following verses show the importance of God's Word?

1. II Timothy 3:15:

2. Hebrews 4:12:

C. What four things does God's Word do?

1. Psalm 19:7a _____
2. Psalm 19:7b _____
3. Psalm 19:8a _____
4. Psalm 19:8b _____

HOW HAS THE BIBLE BEEN PRESERVED AND PASSED DOWN?

A. The Canon

Definition: The canon of Scripture is the list of all the books that belong in the Bible.

1. The Old Testament canon was begun by _____ when He wrote the _____.
2. Both the Biblical and historical evidence teaches that the Old Testament canon was closed when _____ was written around 435 B.C.

CONNECTION POINT

3. The New Testament canon was opened when _____ wrote his record of the gospel in A.D. _____.
4. John closes the New Testament canon around A.D. _____ when he finishes the Revelation.
 - Why are the books of the Apocrypha not included in the canon of Scripture?
 - Jesus and the New Testament writers never quote the Apocrypha as authoritative documents on the same level as Scripture.

Josephus on the Apocrypha: "From Artaxerxes to our own time a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets." (Against Apion 1.41)

Jerome on the Apocrypha: "These books are not to be considered as part of the books of the canon, but rather should be seen as books of the church. They are not Scripture but are better suited for helping the believer in practical life."

The Bottom Line: We have the God given Scripture contained in the 39 Old Testament books and the 27 New Testament books of the Bible. All of the other historical documents should be seen as secondary to the inspired Word of God.

TRANSLATIONS AND MODERN VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

The following is a list of how the Scripture was passed down and translated into the modern Bible that we now use for reading and study.

1. Original Manuscripts (1400 B.C. to A.D. 100) – These original autographs are no longer in the possession of mankind.
2. Manuscripts in original language – There are more manuscripts in the original language for the Bible than for any other book in the history of the ancient world.
3. Translation into other languages and quotations:
 - a. A.D. 385-404 – The Vulgate, Jerome's Latin translation.
 - b. A.D. 700-1000 – Various Anglo-Saxon partial translations
 - c. A.D. 1382 – John Wycliffe finishes complete translation
 - d. A.D. 1525-1535 – William Tyndale prints first translation
 - e. 1535 Coverdale's translation; 1537 Matthew's translation; 1539 Taverner's and Great Bible translation; 1560 Geneva Bible; 1568 Bishop's Bible; 1610 Rheims-Douai
 - f. A.D. 1611 – The King James Version

- g. More discoveries of manuscripts
- h. 1885 – English Revised Version
- i. 1901 – American Standard Version
- j. 1947 – Dead Sea Scrolls
- k. 1952 Revised Standard Version; 1960 New American Standard Version; 1966 The Jerusalem Bible; 1971 Living Bible (Paraphrase); 1973 The Common Bible and the New International Bible; 1982 New King James Version

GRACE FELLOWSHIP'S DOCTRINAL STANCE OF THE CHURCH ON THE BIBLE

"We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation of God. These Holy Scriptures are perfect as originally given by and from God (God-breathed), and are the eternal, inspired, inerrant, infallible, verbal and plenary very Word of God for man. They are the sole authority and truth for all men for all times for all matters of faith and practice. Properly interpreted, they support or supercede all that follows." *(Grace Fellowship Church Outline)*

What does this statement mean? To better understand what makes Grace Fellowship distinctive from other churches in our community on the issue of the Scripture it is necessary to define and relate some of the terms that relate to God's Word.

1. Inspiration - The doctrine that the Bible was written by the influence of God. It is, therefore, without error. It is accurate and authoritatively represents God's teachings (II Timothy 3:16). As such it is a revelation from God, which implies direct knowledge about God, creation, man, salvation, the future, etc. It is an illumination in that it shows us what we could not know apart from it.

One of the ways to prove that the Bible is inspired is to examine the O.T. prophecies fulfilled in the N.T. concerning Jesus (Luke 24:27-45). Because the Bible is inspired, its words are unbreakable (John 10:34-36), eternal (Matthew 24:35), trustworthy (Psalm 119:160), and able to pierce the heart of man (Hebrews 4:12). Additionally, the inspired Word of God will not go forth without accomplishing what God wishes it to (Isaiah 55:11).

CONNECTION POINT

2. Inerrancy - Without error, non-errant. In Christianity, inerrancy states that the Bible, in its original documents, is without error regarding facts, names, dates, and any other revealed information. Inerrancy does not extend to the copies of the biblical manuscripts.
3. Infallible – This simply states that the Bible cannot be proven wrong at any point in history. It is also true that when interpreting Scripture it is best to use other Scripture so that the best understanding can be reached.
4. Verbal and Plenary – Verbal means that the Bible was not dictated to the authors by God but was breathed into them so that it can be said that He spoke to them. God did not at any time violate the personality or writing style of the men who wrote down the Scripture, but He rather spoke to the men so that both the Holy Spirit and the writer author every word of Scripture. Plenary is a term used to state that the Word of God is enough for all people of all time to know the gospel and the revealed will of God.
5. Authority – all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.
6. Clarity – Scripture is written in such a way that all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it can understand its teachings.
7. Necessity – the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God’s will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God’s character and moral law.

We here at Grace Fellowship also agree with the London Baptist Confession of 1689 which states in its article on the Holy Bible:

The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterward for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing; which maketh the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary, those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased. *2 Timothy 3:15-17; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31; Ephesians 2:20; Romans 1:19-21; Romans 2:14,15; Psalms 19:1-3; Hebrews 1:1; Proverbs 22:19-21; Romans 15:4; 2 Peter 1:19,20*

- ❖ Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which are these:

OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY, JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, I SAMUEL, II SAMUEL, I KINGS, II KINGS, I CHRONICLES, II CHRONICLES, EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER, JOB, PSALMS, PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, THE SONG OF SOLOMON, ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS, EZEKIEL, DANIEL, HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, OBADIAH, JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH, HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI

OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS, I CORINTHIANS, II CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, I THESSALONIANS, II THESSALONIANS, I TIMOTHY, II TIMOTHY, TO TITUS, TO PHILEMON, THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, EPISTLE OF JAMES, THE FIRST AND SECOND EPISTLES OF PETER, THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD EPISTLES OF JOHN, THE EPISTLE OF JUDE, THE REVELATION

All of which are given by the inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life.

II Timothy 3:16

- ❖ The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the canon or rule of the Scripture, and, therefore, are of no authority to the church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved or made use of than other human writings. *Luke 24:27, 44; Romans 3:2*
- ❖ The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God (who is truth itself), the author thereof; therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God. *2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:9*
- ❖ We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church of God to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, and the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, and many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfections thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts. *John 16:13,14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 1 John 2:20, 27*
- ❖ The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which

CONNECTION POINT

nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed. *2 Timothy 3:15-17; Galatians 1:8,9; John 6:45; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12; 1 Corinthians 11:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 14:26,40*

- ❖ All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them. *2 Peter 3:16; Psalms 19:7; Psalms 119:130*
- ❖ The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them. But because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have a right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded in the fear of God to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come, that the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope. *Romans 3:2; Isaiah 8:20; Acts 15:15; John 5:39; 1 Corinthians 14:6, 9, 11, 12, 24, 28; Colossians 3:16*
- ❖ The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched by other places that speak more clearly. *2 Peter 1:20, 21; Acts 15:15, 16*
- ❖ The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit, into which Scripture so delivered, our faith is finally resolved. *Matthew 22:29, 31, 32; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 28:23*

APPLICATION OF THIS DOCTRINE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

How does this doctrine change the way we do church?

1. We are bound by the Scripture as our sole authority

2. We must take every aspect of church life to the Scripture to ensure that it is Biblical or at least not against Scripture.
3. Our guide in all matters will be the Bible alone not the traditions of man.
4. We will sacrifice everything to be known as a church passionately following the Scripture.

HOMEWORK

- ❖ Investigate the following verses so that you can gain a Godly perspective on the Scripture
 - II Timothy 3:15-17
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - II Peter 1:19-21
- ❖ Write your personal testimony of salvation using the Scripture to give your testimony power. When writing this testimony it will be helpful to write about your life before Christ, how you came to know Christ, and your life since coming to Christ.
- ❖ Get a Grip on Scripture: If you do not know how to study God's word here is a simple way to go about your study. 1. Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) 2. Read the Word (Revelation 1:3) 3. Study the Word (Acts 17:11) 4. Memorize the Word (Psalm 119:9-11) 5. Meditate on the Word (Psalm 1:2-3)
- ❖ Put on the SPECS: Here is a helpful tool when you are studying the Bible to make sure you are digging out the truth in every passage of Scripture.
- ❖ Sin to forsake?
- ❖ Promise to claim?
- ❖ Example to follow?
- ❖ Command to obey?
- ❖ Stumbling blocks to avoid?
- ❖ Ask the Simple Questions: Yet another easy way to study the Bible is to ask questions of the passage that you are studying. It is always good to use these questions to get started: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Keep a journal as you study so that you can reference the answers to these questions and others that you ask in the future.

Memory Verse for the Week: II Timothy 3:16

LESSON #2 – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

In this session we will explore the names, attributes, character, and persons of the Godhead. The concept of the trinity is beyond our human reasoning, but it is impossible to study the Scripture and not relate to God as one in essence yet distinguished in three persons. How we view God will affect every part of ministry at Grace Fellowship. This is why it is important for each member to have a proper view of the Trinity. Our theology will shape our “people-ology” so let’s search the Bible together and understand more fully the Doctrine of God. Here is a short outline of the topics that will be discussed in this lesson.

I. THE TRINITY

A. God the Father

B. God the Son

C. God the Holy Spirit

II. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

A. Communicable Attributes

B. Incommunicable Attributes

III. GRACE FELLOWSHIP ON THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

A. Doctrinal Stance of the Church on the Doctrine of God

B. Application of Doctrine to the Life of the Church

In the preface to his little book [The Attributes of God](#), Arthur W. Pink writes, “A spiritual and saving knowledge of God is the greatest need of every human creature. The foundation of all true knowledge of God must be a clear mental apprehension of His perfections as revealed in Holy Scripture. An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshipped.” What a powerful statement. It should never be questioned why this pursuit of God is a lifelong journey. We are the finite trying to grasp the infinite, but by His power we can know Him. Grace Fellowship desires for this lesson to inspire you to know God in a real and true way. Let’s open our minds and hearts to God as we study together.

THE TRINITY

Definition: God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.

1. The concept of the Trinity in the Old Testament.
 - a. The word _____ is never written in the Bible although the concept is present.
 - b. Genesis 1:26, God says, "Let _____ make man in _____ image, after _____ likeness."
 - c. Genesis 3:22, God says, "Behold, the man has become like one of _____ knowing good and evil."
 - d. Genesis 11:7, God says, "Come, let _____ go down, and there confuse their languages."
 - e. Isaiah 6:8, "Whom shall _____ send and who will go for _____?"
 - f. Psalm 110:1, David says, "The Lord says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

2. The concept of the Trinity in the New Testament.
 - a. Matthew 3:16-17, "the heavens were opened and he saw the _____ of _____ descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a _____ from heaven saying, 'This is _____ beloved _____, with whom I am well pleased.'"
 - b. Matthew 28:19, "and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the _____, and of the _____, and of the _____."
 - c. I Corinthians 12:4-6, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same _____; and there are varieties of service, but the same _____; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same _____ who inspires all in every one."
 - d. II Corinthians 13:14, "The grace of the _____ and the love of _____ and the fellowship of the _____ be with you all"
 - e. Ephesians 4:4-6, "There is one body and one _____, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one _____, one faith, one baptism, one _____ and _____ of us all, who is above all and through all and in all."
 - f. I Peter 1:2, "According to the foreknowledge of _____ the _____, by the sanctifying work of the _____, that you may obey _____ and be sprinkled with his blood."

***THREE SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF THE TRINITY:**

1. **God is three persons** (John 1:1-2; John 17:24; I John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25; John 14:26; Romans 8:27; John 16:7; I Corinthians 2:10).
2. **Each Person is fully God** (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-4; John 20:28; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:10; Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; Psalm 139:7-8; I Corinthians 2:10-11; John 3:5-7; I John 3:9).
3. **There is One God** (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; I Kings 8:60; Isaiah 45:5-6; I Timothy 2:5; I Corinthians 8:6; James 2:19).

***WHY IS THIS DOCTRINE SO IMPORTANT TO THE CHURCH AND TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?**

CONNECTION POINT

1. The atonement is at stake.
2. Justification by faith alone is threatened if we deny the full deity of the Son.
3. If Jesus is not infinite God, we should not pray to Him or worship Him.
4. If someone teaches that Christ was a created being but nonetheless one who saved us, then this teaching wrongly begins to attribute credit for salvation to a creature and not to God Himself.
5. The independence and personal nature of God are at stake: If there is no Trinity, then there were no interpersonal relationships with in the being of God before creation, and without personal relationships, it is difficult to see how God could be genuinely personal or be without need for a creation to relate to.
6. The unity of the universe is at stake: If there is no perfect plurality and perfect unity in God Himself, then we have no basis for thinking there can be any ultimate unity among the diverse elements of the universe either. (*Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem*)

GOD THE FATHER

"A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well ... I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thought about God." – A. W. Tozer

1. According to Deuteronomy 6:4-6 what is true about God?

2. What things should the people of God do because they are in relationship with the living God according to Deuteronomy 6:4-6?

In the Old Testament God is most often called by His Hebrew name _____. This name is a more impersonal name than _____ or _____, which are also used by the people of God. The Hebrew people respected and feared God so much that they would not right the proper name of God in the Holy Scripture.

*THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT GOD THE FATHER:

1. God can be seen in creation (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20-22)
2. God is the only God (Isaiah 45:22; Isaiah 43:10)
3. God the Father is in heaven (Matthew 6:9; Matthew 16:17)
4. God is spirit (John 4:24)
5. God's glory can be seen (Exodus 24:16-17; Ezekiel 1:26-28)
6. God is incomprehensible (Romans 11:33-34)
7. God has no boundaries (Job 11:7)

GOD THE SON

"Fairest Lord Jesus"
Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be thine.
(Munster Gesangbuch, 1677)

CONNECTION POINT

What a wonderful hymn about the Lord Jesus. When we look at the person of Jesus Christ there are several things that stand out in the study.

1. He is fully God and fully man.
2. He was born of a virgin.
3. He lived a sinless life.
4. He died a willing sacrificial death.
5. He was raised from the dead by the glory of God.
6. He is now at the right hand of the Father making intercession for the elect.

1. GOD BECAME FLESH (JOHN 1:1-14)

❖ *Incarnation – God becoming flesh; God becoming a human man*

- ❖ Jesus was the God-man ... _____ God and _____ man (Luke 1:26-35).
- ❖ Jesus had to be God so that He could be the _____ sacrifice.
- ❖ Jesus had to be man so that He could _____ in the place of men.

What does Philippians 2:6 say about Jesus before He was born?

According to Philippians 2:7, what did Jesus do?

2. JESUS AS GOD, SAVIOR, AND KING

Jesus took the titles of God:

1. Matthew 1:23 (God with Us)
2. _____ (Sovereign)
3. _____ (Title reserved for God, Exodus 3:14)

Jesus took the titles of Savior:

1. _____ John 1:29;
2. _____ John 6:35;
3. _____ John 14:6

Jesus is clearly the King of Kings:

- ❖ What did Jesus tell His followers in Matthew 25:31-32?

- ❖ When Christ ascended into heaven forty days after the resurrection, what were the apostles told (Acts 1:11)?

- ❖ Describe the return of Jesus Christ (II Thessalonians 1:7b-10).

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most Christians often see the Holy Spirit as something other than a person. John 14:16-17 is a passage that uses the pronouns “He” or “Him” in reference to the Holy Spirit. Read the passage and count the number of times the personal pronouns are used when speaking of the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ Attributes of Personality (Romans 8:27; I Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 12:7, 11; Acts 13:2; Acts 15:28-29)
- ❖ Statements of Deity (II Corinthians 3:17; Acts 5:3-4)
- ❖ The Work of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 104:30; II Peter 1:20-21; John 15:26; John 16:7-8; John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5-6; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 2:12-13)
- ❖ The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a Believer (Ephesians 4:30; I Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16; Galatians 5:22-23)

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

THE INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- 1) **Independence or Solitariness of God** – God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify him and bring him joy. (Acts 17:24-25; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:10-12; John 17:5, 24; Revelation 4:11; John 1:3; Romans 11:35-36; I Corinthians 8:6; Psalm 90:2; Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 62:3-5)

CONNECTION POINT

- 2) **Unchangeableness (Immutability) of God** – God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations. (Psalm 102:25-27; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Psalm 33:11; Matthew 13:35; 25:34; Ephesians 1:4, 11; 3:9, 11; II Timothy 2:19; I Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; Isaiah 46:9-11; Numbers 23:19; I Samuel 15:29)
- 3) **Eternity** – God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time. (Psalm 90:2; Job 36:26; Revelation 1:8; 4:8; John 8:58; Exodus 3:14; Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; I Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; II Peter 3:8; Isaiah 46:9-10; Galatians 4:4-5; Acts 17:30-31)
- 4) **Omnipresence** – God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places. (Deuteronomy 10:14; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-10; Acts 17:28; Colossians 1:17; I Kings 8:27; Isaiah 66:1-2; Acts 7:48; Amos 9:1-4; Psalm 16:11)
- 5) **Unity** – God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times. (I John 1:5; I John 4:8; Exodus 34:6-7)

THE COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- 1) **Spirituality** – God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence. (John 4:24; I Corinthians 14:14; Philippians 3:3; I Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:16; Luke 23:46; Eccl. 12:7; Hebrews 12:23; Philippians 1:23-24)
- 2) **Invisibility** – God's total essence, all of his spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by us, yet God still shows himself to us through visible, created things. (John 1:8; John 6:46; I Timothy 1:17; I Timothy 6:16; I John 4:12; Exodus 33:11-23)
- 3) **Omniscience** – God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act. (I John 3:20; I Corinthians 2:10-11; I John 1:5; Psalm 139)
- 4) **Wisdom** – God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals. (Romans 16:27; Job 9:4; Psalm 104:24)
- 5) **Truthfulness (Faithfulness)** – God is the true God and all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standards of truth. (Jeremiah 10:10-11; John 17:3; I John 5:20; Numbers 23:19)
- 6) **Goodness** – God is the final standard of good and all that God is and does is worthy of approval. (Psalm 100:5; Luke 18:19; Psalm 34:8; Romans 12:2; I Thessalonians 5:18; II Timothy 3:17)
- 7) **Love** – God eternally gives of himself to others. (I John 4:8; John 17:24; Romans 5:8)
- 8) **Mercy, Grace, and Patience** – mercy means God's goodness toward those in misery and distress; grace means God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment; patience means God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time. (Exodus 34:6; II Samuel 24:14; Matthew 9:27; II Corinthians 1:3-4; Romans 3:23-24; James 1:19)
- 9) **Holiness** – God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor. (Exodus 26:33; Psalm 24:3; Hebrews 12:14)
- 10) **Peace (Order)** – God's being and in his actions he is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions. (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 14:17; Proverbs 3:17)

- 11) **Righteousness (Justice)** – God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Genesis 18:25; Psalm 19:8; Isaiah 45:19; Romans 3:25-26; Romans 9:20-21; Job 40:2, 8)
- 12) **Jealousy** – God continually seeks to protect his own honor. (I Corinthians 4:7; Revelation 4:11)
- 13) **Wrath** – God intensely hates all sin. (Exodus 32:9-10; Deuteronomy 9:7-8; II Kings 22:13; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; 5:9; 9:22; Colossians 3:6; I Thessalonians 1:10; 2:16; 5:9; Hebrews 3:11; Revelation 6:16-17; 19:15; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:10; Romans 2:4; II Peter 3:9-10)
- 14) **Will** – God’s will is that attribute of God whereby he approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of himself and all creation. (Ephesians 1:11; I Peter 3:17; 4:19; Romans 9:18; Acts 4:28; Acts 2:23)
- 15) **Freedom** – is that attribute of God whereby he does whatever he pleases. (Psalm 115; Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 4:35)
- 16) **Omnipotence (Sovereignty)** – God is able to do all his holy will. (Psalm 24:8 Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:27; Jeremiah 32:17; II Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 1:8; Luke 1:37; Exodus 32:10; II Timothy 2:13)
- 17) **Perfection** – God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him. (Matthew 5:48; Psalm 18:30)
- 18) **Blessedness** – God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character. (Genesis 1:31; Isaiah 62:5; Proverbs 8:30-31; Zephaniah 3:17; James 1:17; I Corinthians 4:7; Romans 11:36)
- 19) **Beauty** – is that attribute of God whereby he is the sum of all desirable qualities. (Psalm 27:4; Psalm 73:25; Revelation 22:4; I Peter 3:4; Titus 2:10; Ephesians 5:27)
- 20) **Glory** – God’s glory is the created brightness that surrounds God’s revelation of himself. (Isaiah 43:7; Romans 3:23; John 17:5; Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 24:10; Psalm 104:1-2; Luke 2:9; Revelation 21:23; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 2:15; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43)

GRACE FELLOWSHIP ON THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

“We believe that there is but one living and true God, perfect in all His attributes and character, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is the Creator, Sustainer, Controller, Judge and Ruler of all things and beings. He rules and reigns in absolute sovereignty for His Divine purposes and glory alone.” (Grace Fellowship Church Outline)

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF GOD ON THE LIFE OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH:

1. We serve a God who is immeasurable, and this fact should drive us to serve Him with passion, fervor, and zeal in our community.
2. We are called by God to be holy as He is and this requires us to be set apart from the methods and motives of the world. As a church we must strive to help our church members’ live holy lives (Church Discipline).

CONNECTION POINT

3. Grace Fellowship will always teach the Doctrine of God to our children, youth, singles, and adults in a way that will inspire them to live a life becoming of our great God.
4. Grace Fellowship will never cease to take the gospel of God to the lost world because a God that is this awesome must be shared with the world.
5. Grace Fellowship will always measure any success we have as a church according to the standards of our enormous God not the world around us.
6. Grace Fellowship will exist to bring glory to God's name!

HOMEWORK: Review this lesson and especially focus on the attributes of God. Look back over each verse so that you can grasp a personal understanding of the vastness and the glory of our God.

MEMORY VERSE: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

LESSON #3 – THE WORK OF CHRIST AND SALVATION

Was it necessary for Christ to die? In this session we will answer this question along with explaining the process of salvation from a Biblical perspective. During this study it will be necessary for all of us to submit to the authority of Scripture and resist the temptation to reject new ideas or concepts. When dealing with the mystery of saving grace it is helpful to remember that no human can fully understand the Infinite God. All of us will have to believe in faith that salvation is of the Lord. The following is a short outline that will help you get an overall view of the material to be covered in this lesson.

I. THE NATURAL STATE OF MAN

- A. *The sinful nature of man*
- B. *The consequences of sin*

II. THE WORK OF CHRIST

- A. *The sacrifice on the cross*
- B. *The death and burial of Christ*
- C. *The resurrection and ascent ion*
- D. *The continuing work of Christ*

III. SALVATION: GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE

- A. *The process of salvation*
- B. *The defining of terms*

IV. SALVATION: MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD

- A. *God's call to the world*
- B. *Man's responsibility*
- C. *How do man's responsibility and God's sovereignty work together?*

V. GRACE FELLOWSHIP OF THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION AND WORK OF CHRIST

- A. *What we believe*
- B. *Application*

THE NATURAL STATE OF MAN

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned – (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment, which came from one offense, resulted in

CONNECTION POINT

condemnation, but the free gift, which came from, many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through the one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But were sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:12-21

*LET'S ANSWER SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PASSAGE TOGETHER.

1. How did sin enter the world? _____ (12)
2. What is the consequence of sin for the human? _____ (12)
3. How many people have inherited the sin of Adam? _____ (12)
4. Who is the second Adam according to these verses? _____ (15)
5. Have all been affected by the gift of grace through Christ? _____ (15)
6. Have all been saved through the gift of grace? _____ (19)

Conclusion of this passage:

"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all gone out of the way; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open grave; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all

who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ..." Romans 3:10-23

1. Are there any humans who are naturally good or who deserve God's mercy and grace?

2. How is the condition of the natural man described in verses 11-18?

3. Is it possible to be saved through the law?

4. What is the purpose of the Law as stated in verse 20?

5. How common is the disease of sin in the human race according to verse 23?

***WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN? (ROMANS 6:23)**

After looking at the facts in regard to the common plague of sin on the human race it is impossible to believe that the human race is anything but totally depraved. This is sometimes a misunderstood fact because of the common myths that surround this statement. Total Depravity means that there is absolutely nothing that would merit salvation inside the natural man. Man in his natural state is unable to save himself, and he is unwilling to submit to God through faith. The fact is man is lost and in need of a savior! So let's look at the awesome Savior that God offered on our behalf.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

What happened to Jesus on earth according to Isaiah 53?

CONNECTION POINT

Forgiveness of sins requires what (Hebrews 9:22)?

What price did Christ pay to redeem us (I Peter 1:18-19)?

What did Jesus cry out on the cross? Why (Matthew 27:46)?

What did God do to Christ on the cross (Isaiah 53:6)?

JESUS' DEATH ACCOMPLISHED THESE THINGS:

1. I Peter 3:18, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might _____ us to _____, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,"
2. Romans 5:10, "For if when we were enemies we were _____ to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been _____, we shall be saved by His life."
3. II Corinthians 5:21, "For He made Him who knew no sin to know sin for us, that we might become the _____ of God in Him."
4. Galatians 1:4, "who gave Himself for our sins, that He might _____ us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,"
5. Ephesians 1:7, "In Him we have _____ through His blood, the _____ of our sins, according to the riches of His grace."
6. Romans 6:6-7, "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be _____, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been _____ from sin."

Matthew 27:26-66 gives the complete account of Jesus' death and burial. Let's read this together as we seek to better understand the price that Christ paid for our sin.

THE NATURE OF THE DEATH ON THE CROSS:

1. Active Obedience – by living a perfect life of obedience to the Father Christ earned the righteousness that the believer receives through salvation. (Obedience to the Law)
2. Passive Obedience – by suffering in our place on the cross Christ paid the penalty for our sins.
 - a. physical pain and death – *Journal of the American Medical Association* (1986), “Adequate exhalation required lifting the body by pushing up on the feet and by flexing the elbows ... However, this maneuver would place the entire weight of the body on the tarsal and would produce searing pain. Furthermore, flexion of the elbows would cause rotation of the wrists about the iron nails and cause fiery pain along the damaged median nerves ... Muscle cramps and paresthesias of the outstretched and uplifted arms would add to the discomfort. As a result, each respiratory effort would become agonizing and tiring and lead eventually to asphyxia.” (Grudem, 573)
 - b. pain of bearing our sin – Isaiah 53:6
 - c. pain of abandonment – Matthew 26:56; Matthew 27:46
 - d. pain of bearing the wrath of God – Romans 3:25-26; Hebrews 2:17

Jesus death on the cross was **inflicted** by God the Father, a **once and for all** payment, **penal substitution sacrifice**, for the sins of **those who believe in His Name**.

Matthew 28 gives the victory account of Jesus over sin, death, and the grave. Let’s read this together as we rejoice over the power of God.

How was Christ exalted after His death, burial, and resurrection (Hebrews 1:3)?

What benefit does the Christian gain through the resurrection of Jesus (I Corinthians 15:21-22)?

Now that we have been drawn to God through Christ, what is He able to do (Hebrews 7:25)?

CONNECTION POINT

What did Jesus promise to do for the believer in John 14:3?

SALVATION: GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE

The process of salvation can be outlined as follows:

1. **Election** (God's choice of people to be saved) Ephesians 1:4-6; Acts 13:48; Romans 11:7; Ephesians 1:12; I Thessalonians 1:4-5; II Thessalonians 2:13; I Timothy 5:21; II Timothy 1:9; I Peter 1:1; I Peter 2:9; Revelation 13:7-8; Revelation 17:8)
2. **The gospel call** (proclaiming the message of the gospel) – Romans 10:14-15; John 6:43-45
3. **Regeneration** (being born again) – John 3:3-8; James 1:18; I Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:1; II Corinthians 5:17
4. **Conversion** (faith and repentance) – John 1:12; John 6:37; John 7:37; Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 7:25
5. **Justification** (right and legal standing) – Romans 3:20, 26, 28; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:30; Romans 10:4, 10; Galatians 2:16; Galatians 3:24; Romans 4:6-8; Romans 5:17; I Corinthians 1:30; Romans 3:23-24
6. **Adoption** (membership in God's Family) – Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; I John 3:1-2; John 20:17; Romans 8:23
7. **Sanctification** (growth in likeness to Christ) – Romans 6:11-18; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:13-14; Colossians 3:10; Hebrews 12:14; James 1:22; I Peter 1:15; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 21:27; II Corinthians 7:1
8. **Perseverance of The Saints** (remaining a Christian) – John 6:38-40; John 10:27-29; John 3:36; Ephesians 1:13-14
9. **Glorification** (being made perfect after death) – I Corinthians 15:54-55; II Timothy 4:6-7

DEFINING THE TERMS:

1. Election – an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure.
2. Predestination – to destine the course of all things before hand
3. Regeneration – the act of the Holy Spirit whereby the dead state of man is reversed by grace and faith is given to the believer so that belief and conversion are possible
4. Perseverance of the Saints – God's children can never be lost; This is not to say that everyone who prays a simple prayer is saved. It is better to view this truth as God preserving the Saints through the power of the Holy Spirit. (this is a rejection of once saved always saved)

ROMANS 8:28-39

*The point of this doctrine is to: 1. comfort (Romans 8:28-30) 2. Leads to the praise of God (Ephesians 1:5-6, 12; II Thessalonians 2:13) 3. It is an encouragement to evangelism (II Timothy 2:10)

SALVATION: MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD

- ❖ God's will of desire (God wishes that none perish but that all come to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ) I Timothy 2:3-4; II Peter 3:9
- ❖ God offers an open call to the world – John 3:16; Romans 10:13
- ❖ Man is unwilling to respond to the call – Matthew 23:37; John 5:39-40
- ❖ Man is held responsible for his belief in, or rejection of, Christ – John 3:18; II Thessalonians 1:8-9
- ❖ God's sovereignty and man's responsibility side by side – John 6:37

If God is totally sovereign (which He is) and man is totally responsible for his response to God (and he is), then how are the two positions reconciled? Romans 9:13-24

"We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God and God the Son, both fully God and Man, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, crucified, dead, buried, bodily resurrected and ascended into heaven, and is now seated at God the Father's right hand. He is literally coming again to gather His prepared church to be with Him forever, to judge the world, lost men, Satan and his demons, and to finally and completely establish His kingdom." (Grace Fellowship Purpose Statement)

"We believe that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Man lost his original innocence and freedom in Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and Word of God, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, became subject to the wrath of God, and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from Divine grace. Sinful in our natures, depraved and corrupt in all our parts as a result of the original sin and our natural beings, mankind is hopelessly lost apart from God's Divine grace. The purpose, happiness, and success of all men are ultimately found only in God's plan and design, for His Glory alone." (Grace Fellowship Purpose Statement)

"We believe that salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His works and shed blood, and not on the basis of any human merit or works. This salvation of man from deserved, spiritual and eternal death and wrath is by God's grace alone, through His gift of faith alone, and because of the Person and work of Jesus Christ alone. The ongoing process of sanctification and the future state of glorification are likewise provided and received by grace through faith." (Grace Fellowship Purpose Statement)

APPLICATION:

1. If you do not know Jesus Christ, then you must repent of your sin and be saved.
2. As God's children we are charged with the awesome responsibility of evangelizing the lost world.
3. Grace Fellowship will always fight to hold God's sovereign offer of salvation before the world so that those who are called by God can be saved.
4. Grace Fellowship will seek to keep God's glory and His purpose for salvation in the center of all activities and ministries that we undertake.
5. Grace Fellowship will support and be personally involved in cross-cultural and home missions so that the message of the gospel is carried to all men.

LESSON #4 – THE CHURCH

“The Church is not a physical building, but a group of believers, not a denomination, but a communion, a fellowship that includes all believers.” - John F. MacArthur, Jr.

Many times when people think of the church they turn their mind to a building, a denomination, or even an organization that promotes itself through planned programs. Although this is a common error in our day, God has never intended His church to be known by any of these symbols. The New Testament teaches Christians that the church should be viewed as all believers who have been united to God the Father through the sacrifice of God the Son. In this study we will be looking at several aspects of both the Church (universal) and the church (local). Here is an outline that will serve as a road map during this study.

- I. *THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL*
 - A. *DEFINITION*
 - B. *THE BELIEVER’S RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST AND OTHER BELIEVERS*
- II. *THE LOCAL CHURCH*
 - A. *THE SPIRITUAL DUTIES OF THE CHURCH*
 - B. *THE STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH*
- III. *THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH*
 - A. *ONE OVERARCHING PURPOSE*
 - B. *THE ONE PURPOSE PUT INTO ACTION*
- IV. *GRACE FELLOWSHIP: DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH*
 - A. *WHAT WE BELIEVE*
 - B. *HOW THAT APPLIES*

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL

Definition: the Church are those people who have believed in Christ and confessed Him with their mouth throughout the history of the world. It is otherwise known as the Bride of Christ, Body of Christ, and the Family of God. The Greek word used to speak of the church in the New Testament is “ekklisia.”

“... just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:25 – 27

CONNECTION POINT

"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." Colossians 1:18

1. According to the verses above what is Christ place in the church?

2. How is the church described in Ephesians 5:25-27?

Acts 20:28, "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you elders, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own _____."

*What did it cost Christ to establish His church on this earth? _____

WHAT THE CHURCH IS

A living organism

A fellowship that includes all believers

Focused on individual growth

Focused on Ministry

Focused on the Glory of God

Focused on Transformed Lives

Focused on rooting out sin

WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT

An organization

A building

Focused on Programs

Focused on Administration

Focused on personal recognition

Focused on Nickels and Noses

Focused on tolerance

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHURCH TO CHRIST

Family (John 1:12; I Corinthians 7:15; Hebrews 2:11; Romans 8:14-15)

Flock of Sheep (John 10:11; John 10:16)

Vineyard (John 15:5)

Bride (Mark 2:19-20; Revelation 19:9; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27)

Body (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Romans 12:4-6; I Corinthians 12:12-27)

***It is important that we remember that man created the denominational divisions that now exist in the church. God has called us to be equally in fellowship with all true churches that are working to spread the glory of God around the world. It should never be more important to be a part of a**

denomination than it is to be known as a Bible believing and Christ honoring church. (Colossians 3:15; I Corinthians 12:13)

THE LOCAL CHURCH

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
Acts 2:42-47

SPIRITUAL DUTIES OF THE CHURCH

What are the six things that the first church was involved in?

How often were they involved in these activities?

Where did the believers meet before they had church buildings (Romans 16:5; I Corinthians 16:19; Acts 2:46)?

CONNECTION POINT

On what day of the week did they meet (Acts 20:7)?

What is church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5)?

What is the primary purpose of church discipline?

Is it possible to not practice New Testament Church discipline and be a true New Testament Church?

THE STRUCTURE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

***Is there really freedom in the area of church government, or have we just given ourselves freedom in this area because we do not want to submit to the witness of Scripture? There is only one form of church structure (government) presented to us in the New Testament. Without further examples given in the inspired Word of God, why should we stray from the pattern given in the Bible?**

ELDERS

- ❖ Acts 14:23 "And when they had appointed _____ for them in _____, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."
- ❖ How many churches did Paul and Barnabas appoint elders in? _____
(Notice that there was more than one elder in every church)
- ❖ Titus 1:5, "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint _____ in every city as I directed you."

- ❖ Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? _____
- ❖ Qualification of Elders (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)
- ❖ Responsibilities of the Elders
 - Elders are to rule – I Timothy 5:17
 - Elders are to shepherd the flock and give oversight – I Peter 5:1-2
- ❖ Church member’s responsibilities to the elders
 - Hebrews 13:17, _____ your leaders, and _____ to them; for they keep watch over your _____, as those who will give an _____ . Let them do this with _____ and not with _____, for this would be profitable to you.”
- ❖ Why is it important that we submit to the leaders of our church? _____

DEACONS

- ❖ Qualifications (I Timothy 3:8-13)
- ❖ Responsibilities (Acts 6:2-4)

MEMBERS

Hebrews 10:25, “not _____ our own _____ together, as is the habit of some, but _____ one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”

What two things are we told to do in this passage? _____

*The unity of the church can be defined as follows: the degree of freedom from divisions among true Christians. It is also necessary that the church be as pure as possible. The following is a list of signs that should be present in a pure church.

1. Biblical doctrine (right teaching of the Word)
2. Proper use of the ordinances (Baptism and Lord’s Supper)
3. Right use of church discipline
4. Genuine worship
5. Effective prayer
6. Effective witness
7. Effective fellowship
8. Biblical church government

CONNECTION POINT

9. Spiritual power in ministry
10. Personal holiness of life among members
11. Care for the poor
12. Love for Christ

Grace Fellowship will always seek to fulfill these standards of pure church!

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

ONE OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

The one overarching purpose of the church is to bring glory to God. Because it is often difficult to put this purpose into practical use, it is helpful to think about the purposeful actions of the church.

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH PUT INTO ACTION

1. **Ministry of Worship** (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 1:12) – to worship is to literally ascribe value to the person being worshiped (worthship) “Worship in the church is not merely a preparation for something else: it is in itself fulfilling the major purpose of the church with reference to its Lord.” (Wayne Grudem) John 4:21-24
2. **Ministry of Nurture** (Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:12-13; Matthew 28:18-20) – to nurture the body of Christ it is necessary for the church members to disciple, fellowship, and pray for one another.
3. **Ministry to the World** (Matthew 28:19; Luke 6:35-36; Acts 11:29; II Corinthians 8:4; I John 3:17) – the church should always remain focused on reaching out to the lost world through evangelism and mercy ministry.

*It is important to note that the church must strive to remain balanced in its approach to fulfilling the purpose of the church, but the members of the church must focus in on the strengths that they have been given by the Holy Spirit. No one should neglect any Godly action. But it is impossible for everyone to be involved in every ministry of the church. (I Corinthians 12:12-27)

GRACE FELLOWSHIP: THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689

Chapter 26: Of the Church

1. The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or

shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all. (Hebrews 12:23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:10, 22, 23; Ephesians 5:23, 27, 32)

2. All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, not destroying their own profession by any errors everting the foundation, or unholiness of conversation, are and may be called visible saints; and of such ought all particular congregations to be constituted. (1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 11:26; Romans 1:7; Ephesians 1:20-22)

3. The purest churches under heaven are subject to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan; nevertheless Christ always hath had, and ever shall have a kingdom in this world, to the end thereof, of such as believe in him, and make profession of his name. (1 Corinthians 5; Revelation 2; Revelation 3; Revelation 18:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12; Matthew 16:18; Psalms 72:17; Psalms 102:28; Revelation 12:17)

4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner; neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. (Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:2-9)

5. In the execution of this power wherewith he is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calleth out of the world unto himself, through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit, those that are given unto him by his Father, that they may walk before him in all the ways of obedience, which he prescribeth to them in his word. Those thus called, he commandeth to walk together in particular societies, or churches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which he requireth of them in the world. (John 10:16; John 12:32; Matthew 28:20; Matthew 18:15-20)

6. The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly manifesting and evidencing (in and by their profession and walking) their obedience unto that call of Christ; and do willingly consent to walk together, according to the appointment of Christ; giving up themselves to the Lord, and one to another, by the will of God, in professed subjection to the ordinances of the Gospel. (Romans. 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:41, 42; Acts 5:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 9:13)

7. To each of these churches thus gathered, according to his mind declared in his word, he hath given all that power and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in worship and discipline, which he hath instituted for them to observe; with commands and rules for the due and right exerting, and executing of that power. (Matthew 18:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 5:13; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8)

8. A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members; and the officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the church (so called and gathered), for the peculiar administration of ordinances, and execution of power or duty, which he intrusts them with, or calls them to, to be continued to the end of the world, are bishops or elders, and deacons. (Acts 20:17, 28; Philippians 1:1)

CONNECTION POINT

9. The way appointed by Christ for the calling of any person, fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit, unto the office of bishop or elder in a church, is, that he be chosen thereunto by the common suffrage of the church itself; and solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, with imposition of hands of the eldership of the church, if there be any before constituted therein; and of a deacon that he be chosen by the like suffrage, and set apart by prayer, and the like imposition of hands. (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 6:3, 5, 6)

10. The work of pastors being constantly to attend the service of Christ, in his churches, in the ministry of the word and prayer, with watching for their souls, as they that must give an account to Him; it is incumbent on the churches to whom they minister, not only to give them all due respect, but also to communicate to them of all their good things according to their ability, so as they may have a comfortable supply, without being themselves entangled in secular affairs; and may also be capable of exercising hospitality towards others; and this is required by the law of nature, and by the express order of our Lord Jesus, who hath ordained that they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel. (Acts 6:4; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17, 18; Galatians 6:6, 7; 2 Timothy 2:4; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Corinthians 9:6-14)

11. Although it be incumbent on the bishops or pastors of the churches, to be instant in preaching the word, by way of office, yet the work of preaching the word is not so peculiarly confined to them but that others also gifted and fitted by the Holy Spirit for it, and approved and called by the church, may and ought to perform it. (Acts 11:19-21; 1 Peter 4:10, 11)

12. As all believers are bound to join themselves to particular churches, when and where they have opportunity so to do; so all that are admitted unto the privileges of a church, are also under the censures and government thereof, according to the rule of Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15)

13. No church members, upon any offence taken by them, having performed their duty required of them towards the person they are offended at, ought to disturb any church-order, or absent themselves from the assemblies of the church, or administration of any ordinances, upon the account of such offence at any of their fellow members, but to wait upon Christ, in the further proceeding of the church. (Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:2, 3)

14. As each church, and all the members of it, are bound to pray continually for the good and prosperity of all the churches of Christ, in all places, and upon all occasions to further every one within the bounds of their places and callings, in the exercise of their gifts and graces, so the churches, when planted by the providence of God, so as they may enjoy opportunity and advantage for it, ought to hold communion among themselves, for their peace, increase of love, and mutual edification. (Ephesians 6:18; Psalms 122:6; Romans 16:1, 2; 3 John 8-10)

15. In cases of difficulties or differences, either in point of doctrine or administration, wherein either the churches in general are concerned, or any one church, in their peace, union, and edification; or any member or members of any church are injured, in or by any proceedings in censures not agreeable to truth and order: it is according to the mind of Christ, that many churches holding communion together, do, by their messengers, meet to consider, and give their advice in or about that matter in difference, to be reported to all the churches concerned; howbeit these messengers assembled, are not entrusted with any church-power properly so called; or with any jurisdiction

over the churches themselves, to exercise any censures either over any churches or persons; or to impose their determination on the churches or officers. (Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 25; 2 Corinthians 1:24; 1 John 4:1)

WHAT WE BELIEVE APPLIED

1. Grace Fellowship will be a pure church before the Lord, exercising all functions of the New Testament Church.
2. Grace Fellowship will be responsible for the spiritual edification of all of its members.
3. Grace Fellowship will be organized according to the New Testament: Elders and Deacons as its two offices so that God's work can be done properly and in order.
4. Grace Fellowship's members will be expected and held accountable to use their spiritual gifts to glorify God and edify His church.
5. Grace Fellowship's members will renew their membership on a yearly basis at which time each member will be expected to pledge their continued support of the mission of the church.
6. Grace Fellowship will seek to be in fellowship with the entire Body of Christ, and we will seek to be in fellowship with the churches in this area that are New Testament in their doctrine and in their practice.
7. Grace Fellowship's members will be expected to be faithful to the ministry of the church in attendance, service, prayer, financial support, and conduct in the world.
8. Grace Fellowship will always pray for the restoration of an erring brother or sister, but if the member will not repent of open sin, then they will be treated as an unbeliever.
9. Grace Fellowship will shepherd the members of its flock through correct Bible teaching, prayer, ministry of mercy, fellowship, and authentic worship of God.
10. Grace Fellowship will support the work of God in our community, nation, and the world through missions.

LESSON # 5: SPIRITUAL GIFTS

One of the most discussed and debated topics among believers is the role of spiritual gifts in the life of the individual and the church as a body. The views on this subject vary from the belief that spiritual gifts are nothing more than natural abilities used by a believer to honor God to the belief that each believer manifest miraculous gifts as they grow in their faith. At Grace Fellowship we do not want to get caught up on the titles that are used in this debate (charismatic, full gospel, holiness, Pentecostal, cessationist). We want to focus on being a church that affirms the Biblical position on spiritual gifts, and we want to encourage each of our members to use their God given gift to the fullest within the context of our local congregation. The following is a short outline to guide you in our discussion:

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED

- A. *The definition and origin of the phrase spiritual gift*
- B. *Separation of the natural talent from the spiritual gift*

II. THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- A. *The purpose of the gifts within the local body*
- B. *The use of the gifts should always be focused on loving and serving one another*

III. SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED AND CATAGORIZED

- A. *The Biblical list of spiritual gifts*
- B. *Categories of spiritual gifts*

IV. HOW TO DISCOVER YOU SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

V. GRACE FELLOWSHIP ON THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- A. *What we Believe*
- B. *Application*

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED

Spiritual Gift Defined – a God given capacity for spiritual service, supernaturally bestowed upon all believers. These gifts are only given to believers.

- ❖ English phrase comes from two words in the Greek:
- ❖ Charismata
- ❖ Pneumatika

Spiritual gifts are sometimes confused with natural talents and abilities.

Natural Talents – God given ability that a person is born with. These abilities are given to all mankind regardless of their relationship with Christ.

Spiritual Gifts – God given ability to serve the Lord. These abilities are given to the believer after they are born into the family of God

THE GIVER OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Who is the source of all spiritual gifts?

I Corinthians 12:11 _____

I Corinthians 12:28 _____

Who possesses spiritual giftedness? (I Peter 4:10) _____

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

I Corinthians 12:4-7 _____

I Corinthians 14:12 _____

I Peter 4:10-11 _____

The spiritual gifts should always be used to do the following things within the body of Christ:

I Corinthians 12:7 _____

I Corinthians 14:12 _____

I Peter 4:10 _____

SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED AND CATEGORIZED

Spiritual gifts that are referred to in the Bible

- 1. I Corinthians 12:8-10
- 2. I Corinthians 12:28
- 3. Romans 12:6-8

The best way to categorize spiritual gifts is to look at them as special gifts and common gifts. To say that a gift is common is not to devalue it in any way, but it is an attempt to better understand and describe the importance of all gifts.

CONNECTION POINT

SPECIAL GIFTS

1. Miracles – The ability to do wonders and signs. Christ performed many miracles (recorded in Scripture). The Apostles are seen doing signs and wonders throughout the book of Acts to spread the gospel.
2. Healing – the ability to restore or to give health for the first time in an individual's life. The purpose of healing in the Scripture is always to glorify God and to spread the gospel message.
3. Tongues/Interpretation of Tongues – the gift of tongues is the ability to speak a language that is unknown to them (Pentecost). This gift was always accompanied by someone who was able to interpret the words of the person speaking in tongues (I Corinthians 14:27-28)

COMMON GIFTS

1. Prophecy – Preaching or “to tell forth or declare the Scripture.” This gift of prophecy does not always connote an ability to see the future.
2. Teaching – The ability to teach the Word of God and bless the hearers with the understanding of the Scriptures that the Author intended.
3. Faith – an ability to believe in God no matter what circumstances are surrounding the person. This gift is usually displayed through prayer.
4. Wisdom – the ability to know what is right or wrong (knowledge) and apply it to life (wisdom).
5. Knowledge – understanding the facts of Scripture; often seen with academic desire or scholarship.
6. Discernment – the ability to distinguish truth from error; the ability to understand what things are from the Spirit and what things are from the flesh or the world.
7. Mercy – the ability to look at life through the eyes of another person who is experiencing physical, emotional, or spiritual pain.
8. Exhortation – the ability to motivate or encourage (counseling).
9. Giving – the ability to give food, money, clothes, and other physical provisions to those who are in need (these people are generally given the ability to give).
10. Administration/Leadership – the ability to oversee the affairs of the church (elders)
11. Helps – ability to come alongside a person in need of help and bare their burdens.
12. Service – physically serving the church through actually behind the sense work.

USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Romans 12:6-8, what principles are expressed in this passage regarding spiritual gifts?

I Corinthians 13:1-7, how can you abuse your giftedness?

List fifteen guidelines to using your spiritual giftedness to build up the church in love.

I Corinthians 12:25 states what as the attitude that should be present when you are exercising your spiritual giftedness? _____

What causes the church to grow (Ephesians 4:11-16)?

HOW DO I FIND MY SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS

The Bible does not specifically tell the believer how to discover their spiritual giftedness, but it is clear that the starting point in the journey of finding your gift is to begin to be obedient to the Lord in the common gifts that are used by every believer (faith, wisdom, knowledge, exhortation, giving, helps). As you pray and seek God’s leadership in where you should serve Him, He will clearly open and close doors of service to you. Begin today to look for opportunities to serve the Lord, and He will reveal your heart’s desire.

S _____

H _____

A _____

P _____

E _____

CONNECTION POINT

GRACE FELLOWSHIP ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Unlike several other areas of this study, Grace Fellowship does not have a particular statement drafted on spiritual gifts. Let it be sufficient for me to say that we believe:

1. Every Believer is gifted for service in the church.
2. The Holy Spirit gives every believer their gift after they are born again.
3. The purpose of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ in love.
4. Every church member should earnestly seek to realize their gift or gifts and then they should begin to use their gifts in the ministry of the church.
5. The category of spiritual gifts labeled "special" in this study are believed to be particularly for the use of the Apostles and Jesus in the early church, but we do not hold to a strict cessation of these gifts. It is entirely possible that God uses these gifts today in less established church settings.
6. It is our goal as a church to encourage every person to use their God given gifts to build up the church.

May God bless you as you use your spiritual gift in His service. There will be an opportunity for you to express your opinion on what your gift may be at our next session together. Remember that we want you to use your giftedness to build up the church so begin to seek out ways to serve the Lord. As God opens the door for you be obedient to Him and serve Him faithfully.

LESSON #6 – WORSHIP

Worship is a subject that inspires much debate in our modern churches. Sadly this debate generally centers on form, style, or type of music that is used in the Sunday service. Our focus in worship should be God. For far too long we have clamored for our favorite music done in our favorite style and all the while we have forgotten that God is the center of our worship. Truly we have lost what it means to worship at the throne of heaven. This lesson will help the people of Grace Fellowship understand what we believe worship is and what it is not. During this discussion we will look at the definition of worship, types of worship, tools of worship, and philosophy of worship.

DEFINITION OF WORSHIP

- ❖ Jesus – John 4:23-24
- ❖ John MacArthur Jr. - "Worship is the ultimate priority of man. Worship is the essential expression of service rendered unto God; it is the way of life for a true believer (*The Ultimate Priority*)."
- ❖ Wayne Grudem – "Worship is the activity of glorifying God in His presence with our voices and hearts."
- ❖ A.W. Tozer – "Our corporate worship is perfected when our personal worship is purified."

God-centeredness: A high priority of the vertical focus of our Sunday morning service. The ultimate aim is to so experience God that he is glorified in our affections.

IN WORSHIP WE SHOULD...

Fixate on the greatness of God (Psalm 145:3)

Magnify God (Psalm 34:3)

Praise or Extol (Psalm 117:1-2 and Psalm 99:3)

Exalt (Psalm 21:13)

Praise Him for His works (Psalm 105:2 and Psalm 111:2)

Praise His creating & sustaining power (Psalm 148:5, Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:17)

Declare Him as incomparable (Psalm 86:8)

Expecting the powerful presence of God: We do not just direct ourselves toward him. We earnestly seek his drawing near according to the promise of James 4:8. We believe that in worship God draws near to us in power, and makes himself know and felt for our good and for the salvation of unbelievers in the midst.

Don't neglect the role of the Spirit in our worship. Martyn Lloyd Jones says, "Here is the crucial matter. Do we individually and personally really believe that God still acts, can act and will act - in individuals, in groups of individuals, in churches, localities, perhaps even in countries? Do we believe that He is as capable of doing that today as He was in ancient times - the Old Testament, the New Testament times, the book of Acts, Protestant Reformation, Puritans, Methodist Awakening, 1859, 1904-5? Do we really believe that He can still do it? You see, it is ultimately what you believe about God. If He is the great Jehovah - I am that I am, I am that I shall be, unchanged, unchanging, unchangeable, the everlasting and eternal God - well, He can still do it."

One poignant question we could ask is this; "if the Spirit stopped empowering us would anyone even notice?"

Bible based and Bible saturated: The content of our singing and praying and welcoming and preaching and poetry will always conform to the truth of Scripture. The content of God's Word will be woven through all we do in worship and will be the ground of all our appeal to authority.

Worship requires a consistent focus on Christ and the Cross, His point of mediation is focus of worship. The whole talk with Jesus and the woman at the well (in spirit and truth thing) was *primarily* about worshiping the mediator (the Christ Himself). Look at the New Testament writers (1 Cor. 2:2, 1 Cor. 15:3, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 John 4:10 Hebrews 10:19-22). *So, worship can't bring us into God's presence. Only Christ can. His atoning work is what assures us that our worship is even acceptable to God. Worship in Heaven is cross centered. We see that in Revelation 5 (...for you were slain...).*

Head and heart: Worship that aims at kindling and carrying deep, strong, real emotions toward God, but does not manipulate people's emotions by failing to appeal to clear thinking about spiritual things based on shareable evidences outside ourselves.

- ❖ Worship is about the heart. Where is my heart? What do I love? What am I passionate about?
- ❖ Worship is about a right view of God. Every Christian is a theologian. Are we a good or bad one? Do our thoughts line up with who God really is?
 - Suggestions for deeper worship;

- Know God better.
 - Know His attributes.
 - Read the Bible ALOT.
 - Read books from good authors as much as you can (even Paul asked Timothy to not forget his books, in 2nd Timothy).
- ❖ Magnifying God may start with declaring objective truths (like the ones listed in the Psalms above) but ends with holy affection. God wants us to delight in Him (Psalm 37:4). So, don't be afraid to start with declaring some of these things about God, even if you feel like you are not sincere yet. Your heart will follow in time. Reach and cry out for God.

John Piper says, "The engagement of the heart in worship is the coming alive of the feelings and emotions and affections of the heart. Where feelings for God are dead, worship is dead."

Earnestness and intensity: Avoiding a trite, flippant, superficial, frivolous atmosphere, but instead setting an example of reverence and passion and wonder. How do we worship?

- ❖ We are commanded to respond to God in worship in the following ways...
- Rejoice (Phil. 4:4)
 - Love the Lord (Psalm 31:23)
 - Serve the Lord (Psalm 100:2, Psalm 63:4, Psalm 34:1)
 - Delight in God (Psalm 18:1, Psalm 34:8)
 - Yearn for God (Psalm 63:1, Psalm 84:2)
 - Trust even when all hell breaks loose (Psalm 62:8) -- I have actually put dates by some Psalms to remind me of when I had to trust God's words and choose to worship.

Authentic communication: The utter renunciation of all sham and deceit and hypocrisy and pretense and affectation and posturing. Not the atmosphere of artistic or oratorical performance but the atmosphere of a radically personal encounter with God truth.

The manifestation of God and the common good: We expect and hope and pray (according to 1 Cor. 12:7) that our focus on the manifesting of God is good for people and that therefore a spirit of love for each other is not incompatible with, but necessary to authentic worship.

Undistracting excellence: We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from the substance by shoddy ministry nor by excessive finesse, elegance or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through.

CONNECTION POINT

The mingling of historic and contemporary music: And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Matt. 13:52)

Sing! I have heard too many say they could take or leave singing. It seems obvious that the Psalmists assume that we should be singing (Not to mention Paul in Ephesians and Colossians). God wants us to sing. God the Father appears to be singing in Zephaniah 3:17. Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples in Matthew 26:30. The Spirit inspires songs in Ephesians 5:18-19. Bob Kauflin says, "It's a source of profound encouragement to realize that God gave us music to deepen and develop our relationship with him. The Father sings, the Son sings, and the Spirit sings. How can we keep from singing?"

Definition of Worship: "Worship is our response to God both personal and corporate for who He is and what He has done. The things we say and the way we live are central to our life of worship." (Dave Wright)

TYPES OF WORSHIP

- ❖ Lifestyle Worship
- ❖ Individual Worship
- ❖ Family Worship
- ❖ Corporate Worship

TOOLS FOR WORSHIP

- ❖ Prayer – I Timothy 2:1-8
- ❖ Bible Study
- ❖ Singing – Colossians 3:16
- ❖ Giving
- ❖ Silence and Solitude

PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP

- ❖ Role of Leadership
- ❖ Setting the Atmosphere for Public Worship
- ❖ Purposeful Services (Streamlined)
- ❖ Standards for Leadership

Much of the above information taken directly from Bob Kaughlin (Sovereign Grace)

LESSON #7 – DISCIPLESHIP

The backbone of the Christian church is the truth of God's Word. Because the truth of God is so important to the church, it is necessary that the church teaches the truth and has an approved method of passing the truth on. Discipleship is the way God has laid out for the church to grow. Grace Fellowship desires to make disciples of all men, women, and children. This lesson will cover three important aspects of discipleship: why we spend our time in this venture, the correct way to make disciples, and how important discipleship is to the heart of God. By answering these questions we will better understand the place of discipleship in the life of the church and the individuals of the church.

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

Disciple – means one who follows; the process of becoming like the teacher; way of life that requires dying to our desires and living through God's desire

Examples of Discipleship in the Scripture – Joshua 1:1-2; I Samuel 2:11; I Samuel 18:1-5; II Kings 2:9-15; Matthew 10:1-4; Acts 11:25; Acts 15:39-40; I Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; II John 1:1-2;

WHY SPEND OUR TIME BUILDING UP DISCIPLES OF CHRIST?

This is how Jesus will build His church – Matthew 16:13-20

This is the GREAT COMMAND of the Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

This is God's Great Passion for the Church – I Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28; II Timothy 2:2

Discipleship is the only plan that God has given for the
building of His Church!

HOW WILL WE MAKE DISCIPLES?

Corporate Worship every Sunday

Small Group Bible Study weekly

One on One Discipleship

Family Discipleship

WHAT IS THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP?

Discipleship cost us our lives – Mark 8:34-38

Discipleship cost us our relationships – Matthew 10:34-39

Discipleship cost us much hard work – Matthew 9:35-38

We must raise up generations behind us that will be faithful to the gospel and continue the
work of the kingdom! Discipleship is THE PLAN for growing the God's Church!

LESSON #8 – EVANGELISM

In our day when a Christian hears the word evangelism it many times strikes fear into their heart. For the most part in our modern church evangelism has either been made into a marketing scheme or a program, or other churches have relegated evangelism to an almost non-existent part of the body. Neither of these views of evangelism best represents the Biblical view of evangelism. As a matter of fact evangelism is something that every believer can be involved in. This lesson will help each person gain a correct understanding of the work of evangelism, and it will also give each person some practical tools to use as they live and work in the harvest field of the world.

I. THE CALL TO EVANGELISM

- A. Each believer is commanded to take part in evangelism*
- B. The Great Commission is focused on evangelism*
- C. The gospel message has been entrusted to Christians*

II. HINDRANCES TO WITNESSING

- A. Fear*
- B. Lack of training*

III. THE MESSAGE

- A. Christians must live the Christian life*
- B. Christians must know the message*
- C. What are the essentials of the gospel*

IV. THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WITNESSING

- A. Know the Message*
- B. Pray*
- C. The Word of God should be central*
- D. Use your testimony*
- E. You must call for a response*
- F. Important tips to Witnessing*

V. TOOLS TO USE IN EVANGELISM

- A. Personal Testimony*
- B. Bridge Diagram*

We realize that some of you may have a very negative feeling about being involved in evangelism because of bad instruction in the past or bad experiences in this area of the Christian life. Let me encourage you to keep an open heart and mind during this study, and remember that it is our responsibility to obey the Word of God even when that obedience is difficult.

THE CALL TO EVANGELISM

Have you ever thought about the fact that the world around us is dying and going to hell for eternity?
(Matthew 7:13-14)

It is equally important for us to remember that there is a literal place known as hell.
(Matt. 13:41-42; Matt. 13:49-50; Matt. 22:13; Matt. 25:30; Luke 13:28; Rev. 20:10; Rev. 21:8)

Think about the people that you know. Are they on the narrow way (Christians) or are they on the broad way (Lost)?

What can we do about the fact that there are lost people in the world around us?

EACH BELIEVER IS COMMANDED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF EVANGELISM

According to Mark 16:15, what were to disciples to do?

THE GREAT COMMISSION IS FOCUSED ON EVANGELISM

What are three aspects of making disciples recorded in Matthew 28:19-20?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

What did Jesus say should be proclaimed to all the nations (Luke 24:46-47)?

What was Paul to tell all people (Acts 22:15)?

CONNECTION POINT

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO CHRISTIANS

“But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.” 1 Thessalonians 2:4

We need to remember that the gospel is unto the glory of God. To many times we become focused on the secondary effect of evangelism, which is the fact that people are saved when they hear the message. Make no mistake. The work of evangelism is the work of glorifying God the Father!

“No one of us ... can be exempted from the work of spreading the gospel because we are engaged in some other work. Good as it is, though it may be very intimately connected with the kingdom of Christ, yet it does not exonerate us from the work of endeavoring to bring sinners to Christ ... There is nothing whatsoever in the whole compass of Scripture to excuse any mouth from speaking of Jesus when the heart is really acquainted with His salvation ... We are all called to make Jesus known if we know Him ... Let us trust in the divine energy of the Holy Ghost, and speak the truth in reliance upon His might, ...”
- Charles H. Spurgeon

HINDERANCES TO EVANGELISM

Problem	Solution
Fear	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Romans 1:16 (Gospel power)2. Acts 4:29 (Prayer)3. 1 Cor. 2:3-5 (wisdom/power from God)
Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus trained His disciples2. 1 Peter 3:15 – be ready<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Know the gospelb. Memorize Scripturec. Be a disciple

REMEMBER THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN SALVATION

THE MESSAGE

FIRST, CHRISTIANS MUST LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Blameless and above reproach – Philippians 2:14-15

Lights of the world – Matthew 5:14-16

CHRISTIANS MUST KNOW THE MESSAGE

I Corinthians 15:4-3 – Christ!

WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIALS OF EVANGELISM

We will cover the essentials of evangelism latter in this study.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WITNESSING

Know the Message

Memorize important Scripture

Learn a way to share the gospel

Know your own testimony

PRAY

Pray for the salvation of the lost (Romans 10:1)

Pray that God will open their heart (Ephesians 1:18)

Pray that God opens the door for witnessing (Colossians 4:3-4)

Pray that God will give you the words to say (Ephesians 6:19)

THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD BE CENTRAL IN WITNESSING

Scripture judges the heart (Hebrews 4:12)

Scripture leads to salvation (II Timothy 3:15)

USE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Testimonies are powerful

Testimonies are irrefutable

Your testimony with your words is only as good as your testimony with your life

YOU MUST CALL FOR A RESPONSE

Set the hook

Will the person now embrace the gospel of Christ (Romans 10:9-10)

IMPORTANT TIPS TO WITNESSING

Listen to the person

Never become defensive

Do not be pushy

Never argue

Do not go beyond what they understand

If you do not know how to answer their questions – say so

Know your message

CONNECTION POINT

TOOLS TO USE IN EVANGELISM

BRIDGE DIAGRAM (Grace Fellowship recommended format)

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Keep your testimony brief (5-7 minutes)

Break testimony into three sections (Life Before Christ, Salvation Experience, & Life since Salvation)

Use appropriate Scripture

Do not give a play by play of past sin

Emphasize Christ, God, and the Holy Spirit

Be confident in Christ

Now that you have heard this teaching you are armed with the ability to share the gospel.

Remember that you do not have to have all the answers to begin sharing your faith because all of the information necessary to salvation is contained in the simple gospel. Go in the power of the Holy Spirit with the message of eternal life! God will save, your only responsibility is to share the message.

Personal Testimony Form

John 9

It is important to remember that you can begin to share the gospel as soon as you are saved. The Blind Man is a great example of how God can use your personal testimony to call others to repentance.

LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

SALVATION EXPERIENCE

LIFE AFTER SALVATION EXPERIENCE

Grace Fellowship Membership Agreement

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God and this church most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Agreement with one another as one body in Christ. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

1. To walk together in Christian love;
2. To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another;
3. To consistently practice, support and submit to church discipline as outlined in Matthew 18;
4. To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys;
5. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness;
6. To guard the spiritual and Scriptural purity, peace, prosperity of the Church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus;
7. To assist, through the gifts of the Spirit, in the work of the Church and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus;
8. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the Church, the relief of the needy, and evangelism of all people;
9. To love and to pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ;
10. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer, and to establish family devotions where possible;
11. To bring up such children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;
12. To walk circumspectly in the world, to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to be faithful in engagements, exemplary in deportment, denying ungodliness and worldly lust;
13. To endeavor by example, by work, and by prayer, to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
14. To purpose that when we remove ourselves from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this Agreement and the principles of God's word.

By signing this Agreement, each individual is committing to support and carry out the purpose of Grace Fellowship. By the grace of God, the membership of Grace Fellowship will always be a light in the dark and dying world.

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____