



Membership Class

...Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household... Ephesians 2:19 (NIV)

WELCOME TO THE NEWSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're thrilled you've chosen to take this class.

This class is designed to help you better understand:

- God's desire for you
- Ways to express your faith
- Why our church exists
- Unique features about our church
- How you fit into the purposes
- What our church believes

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household... (Ephesians 2:19 NIV).

KEY TRUTHS:

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

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT... is a commitment to _____ and _____

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his (Ephesians 2:19 NIV).

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:4-5 NIV).

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS COMMITMENT?

We become what we are _____

A commitment to each other encourages _____

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT introduces us to three areas:

1. Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
2. Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
3. Our Strategy (How various ministries fulfill the purpose of the church)

OUR SALVATION

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28 (NIV)

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of my life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- Some look for happiness through friendships
- Some look for happiness through “pleasure” experiments
- Some look for happiness through popularity & power

But real happiness comes from understanding my _____

WHY AM I HERE?

1. We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God and to _____ all of the rest of God’s creation!

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:4-6)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. (Genesis 1:27-28)

2. When we know and _____ God, and live in harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our _____

Clear Conscience
Romans 8:1

Life & Peace
Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness
Romans 8:26

Purpose
Romans 8:28

Confidence
Romans 8:31

Security
Romans 8:39

Power & Strength
Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment
Philippians 4:19

Freedom
John 8:32,36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live!

"I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

If this is true, why aren't most people experiencing this relationship with God?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

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

This ignorance to God's way of living is communicated in our words and lifestyle:

- "Look out for #1."
- "I want what I want, when I want it."
- "Do your own thing."
- "If it feels good, do it! Who cares what God has to say about it?"
- "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: _____. Sin is a biblical word that means "to miss the mark."

Key word: _____

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way... (Isaiah 53:6a)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8).

Instead of following God's directions and will for our lives, we chose to follow our own way, rebelling against God's plan.

This rebellion, sin, breaks our close relationship with God. Sin separates us from God and causes us to live our lives outside of his will.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

The solution is not _____.

Not more you, not a better you.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2: 8-9)

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34-35)

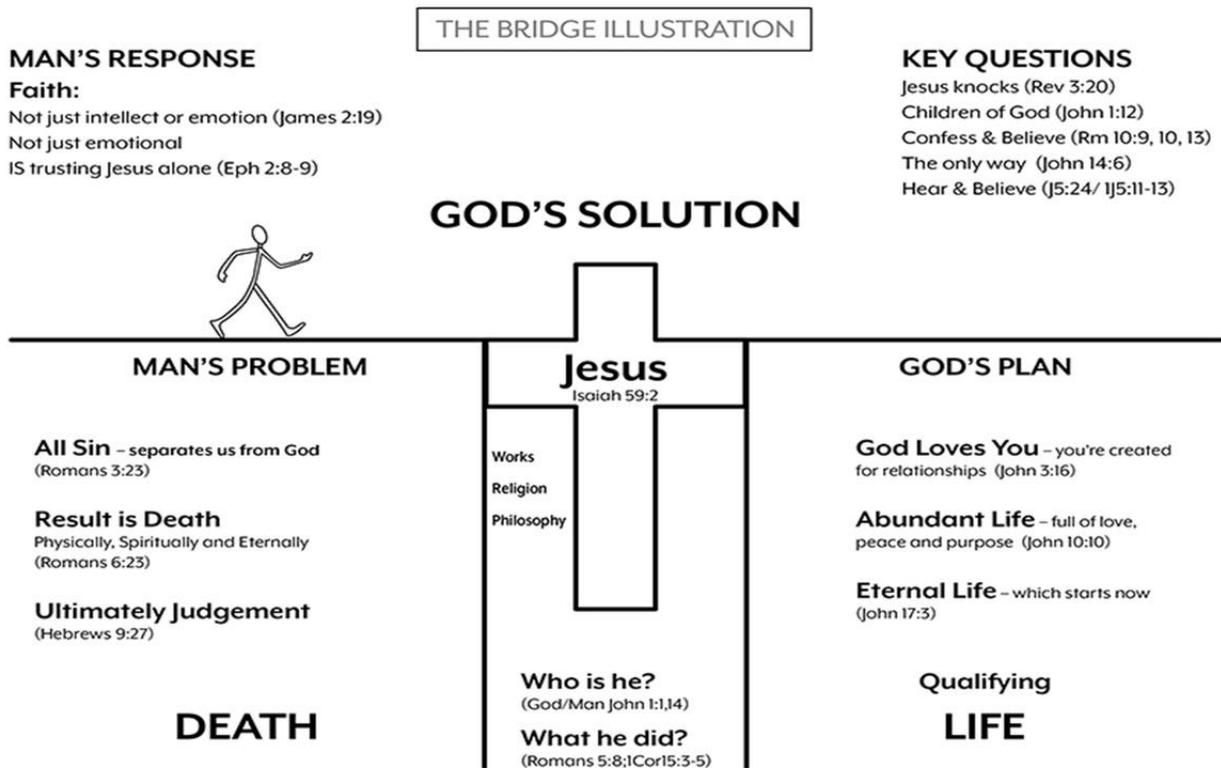
The solution is _____. *Jesus answered, “I AM THE WAY, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!” (John 14:6)*

God came to earth as a human being [in Jesus] to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus would not have had to come. “The Way” is through the person of Jesus!

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS!

For there is one God and one mediator between God and me, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all me. (1 Timothy 2:5)



WHY DID GOD SEND JESUS TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE?

God did this for YOU because he loves YOU and wants YOU to know him.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8).

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE. NOW HE WAITS FOR EACH OF US to individually RESPOND what He has done for us.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong (1 John 1:9).

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again, and is alive today.

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

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9) Believing that what Jesus did is enough.

3. _____ Jesus as Lord. Another way to say this is make Jesus your boss or director. Instead of living life your own way you are choosing to follow Jesus, as your Lord.

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is your Lord”, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

BEGIN BY PRAYING

“Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me. I admit I need you in my life and I’m sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. I believe you are the Son of God, and that you died on the cross for my sins, and then rose from the grave. I ask that you would come into my life and be my Lord. Please save me from my sin, and make me a new person on the inside. As much as I know how, I want to follow you. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.”

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

God has no grandchildren, only children. Each person must make his or her own commitment to Christ. It’s bigger than your parent’s decision.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by _____.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. (Mark 1:9).

2. Because Christ _____ it.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20).

3. It demonstrates that I really am a _____.

... and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8).

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands (1 John 2:3).

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Jesus' _____ and resurrection.

Christ died for our sin . . . He was buried . . . and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ (Colossians 2:12).

2. It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4).

Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it demonstrates that you already believe.

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

Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment.

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because _____ was baptized that way.

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

2. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

... then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ... (Acts 8:38-39).

3. The word "baptize" actually means "to _____ water."

4. Immersion best symbolized a _____ and resurrection!

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

1. Every person who has _____ in Christ.

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)

But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (Acts 8:12).

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. As soon as you have _____!

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:35-38).

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect" you'll never be ready.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

1. It is a _____.

And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. (vs. 24)

2. It is a _____.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. (vs. 25)

3. It is a _____.

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

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already _____ should take the Lord's Supper.

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Corinthians 11:29).

During the time of taking the Lord's Supper, one is reflecting on, appreciating what Jesus has done. If one has not chosen to receive God's salvation through Jesus Christ there is no reason to remember and appreciate it.

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

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (1 Corinthians 11:27-28)

YOU PREPARE YOURSELF BY...

1. _____

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 11:27)

2. _____

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

3. _____

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)

4. _____

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

STATEMENTS

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT - WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

The purpose of NewSong Community Church is to be a community of faith, introducing people to Jesus, and helping them fall in love with Him.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

Our values that guide us as we live out our purpose are:

Our _____ with God, with each other, and with the world

_____ to Christ and living out His character

_____ in all we do

_____ for all God is doing in us and in the world

_____ in our knowledge of God and His Word

_____ of ourselves for the benefit of future generations.

OUR STRUCTURE

The following are three primary programs or services we will focus around, but they are not the only ways NewSong Community Church will live out its purpose.

1. Loving God through _____. Praising God, Expressing our love to God. Listening to his Word being shared. (shows respect and submission) Primary program: _____

2. Loving each other through connecting in _____

A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13: 34-35)

Primary Program: _____

3. Loving our world by _____ our community and _____ with them the message of God's love. Primary Program: _____

THE NEWSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with NewSong Community Church’s purpose and values, and structure. I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the NewSong Community Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:”

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

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

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By giving faithfully and generously
- By warmly welcoming those who are alone and/or visiting

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

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

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE LIFE OF MY CHURCH

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NEWSONG COMMUNITY CHURCH FOUR REQUIREMENTS

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

____ Yes / When? _____ Where? _____

2. Have you been baptized by immersion (under water) after you committed your life to Christ?

____ Yes / When? _____ Where? _____

____ I want to be baptized

3. Have you completed the Membership Class? ____ Yes _____ Date

4. Do you desire to abide by the NewSong Community Church Membership Commitment?

____ Yes, I do!

Please Sign Your Name _____ Date _____

Welcome to our Family!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Appendix A

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

At NewSong we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:

1. **A BIBLICAL REASON:** Christ is committed to the church.

. . . Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it (Ephesians 5:25).

2. **A CULTURAL REASON:** It is a unique commitment in our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything . . . school . . . a relationship . . . our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers & hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion” that switches groups for any reason. Membership is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. **A PRACTICAL REASON:** It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies our family of believers who can be counted on in our attempt to fulfill our purpose.

4. **A PERSONAL REASON:** It encourages spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. It’s tough to be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.