

Member Guide



Starting Point

A starting point for membership and ministry at First Baptist.

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Handouts:

- Baptist Faith and Message
- Current Church Budget
- Church Giving Envelope
- Gospel Tract
- Spiritual Gift Survey
- Personal Profile

All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Hobbs, Herchel H. The Baptist Faith and Message. Nashville, Tennessee: Convention Press, 1971.

Discovering My Ministry C.L.A.S.S. 301, Rick Warren

Workbook by Paul Byrom

Introduction

Welcome

Welcome to four hours of training that will hopefully be both informative and interesting to you. Our church has made this course a prerequisite to elected service, unless one has already been elected before July 1998. Even those already serving are encouraged to complete these sessions. There are several reasons why this course is important and why it will be helpful to you:

1. Leaders like to know what they are getting themselves into and what is expected of them.
2. Those who unite with our church might not know all of our treasured doctrines, history, mission, or needs.
3. It is only fair to expect that those who assume positions of elected leadership—such as a Sunday School teacher, committee member, mission group leader—both understand and support the church's beliefs and mission.
4. Learning about the mission and ministry of our church in a group setting will help us begin to discern who may be fitted for various tasks.
5. The friendships that are formed in the class will help newer members more rapidly be connected with the life of the church.
6. Attendees often want to know what a church is all about before becoming members.

Over these next few sessions, we will be concentrating on the following subjects:

1. Basic Baptist beliefs
2. The church-universal and local and what your membership means.
3. First Baptist Church, its history, polity and ministry.
4. Discovering your ministry (including opportunities of service, and expectations of members and leaders)

This training is only an introduction. Growing as a Christian and becoming a more useful member of God's church is a lifelong process. Remaining faithfully involved in your church's Bible teaching, worship, ministry and fellowship opportunities will be important to your spiritual vitality for the rest of your life.

Mission of First Baptist Church

Before launching into basic beliefs of Baptists, let's begin by pointing out the mission of our church: First Baptist Church is a body of baptized believers voluntarily associated and prayerfully committed to the following Bible-based callings:

Worship: To experience the presence of God. To recognize His holiness, majesty and love and to praise and thank Him for His gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Evangelism: To proclaim through words and actions the good news of God's redemptive love and saving grace.

Discipleship: To provide opportunities for spiritual growth and development, and for application of individual gifts and abilities as provided by the Holy Spirit.

Ministry: To respond to physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs in a way that bears testimony to the love of God for all people.

Fellowship: To provide opportunities for encouragement, Christian love and support through association with others.

First Baptist Exists to
Know Christ and make Him known!



Chapter 1

Basic Baptist Beliefs

Some people say that as long as we all believe in Jesus Christ, other doctrines are not that important. They ask, “Why can’t we just forget our differences and all get together?” It is a good question; however, our differences are based on what we interpret the infallible Word of God to be saying. We can still share our brotherhood in Christ with those with other biblical interpretations. However, we do not need to throw out our distinctness just to worship with them.

. . . What does it mean to be a Baptist?

Aren’t all denominations basically the same? The answer to that question is no. Although we share some of our doctrines with some denominations—and other doctrines with others—to be a Baptist represents a combination of beliefs that are seen in few other denominations. Admittedly, there are not even two Baptist churches that are exactly alike. But the following are some distinctions that have historically marked mainstream Baptist teaching. (As supported in “The Baptist Faith and Message.”)

The Bible is the authoritative Word of God.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) As the Word of God, the bible is the record of God’s revelation of Himself and His plan to man. The “Baptist Faith and Message” explains the Bible like this:

“It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.
It has God for its author,
Salvation for its end, and truth
—without any mixture of error—for its matter.”

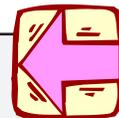
2 Timothy 3:16-17
16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

At FBC, we make no apology for believing that the Bible is without error. There are 3 clear and simple evidences of the inspiration of the Bible.

1. _____
For example, there are 333 prophecies concerning Christ which have been fulfilled to the letter. By the law of probability, there is only one chance in 83 billion that 333 prophecies could be fulfilled in 1 person. (Examples include the manner and place of Jesus’ birth—Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2; the death of Christ and details about it—Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53)
2. _____
The Bible has one central theme: God’s redemptive purpose. It has one central figure: Christ. It has one central goal: God supreme in a redeemed universe. It was recorded over a period of approximately 1,500 years in various places

stretching all the way from Babylon to Rome. It was penned in 3 distinct languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The human authors included a variety of men in many stations of life—peasants, kings, poets, herdsman, fishermen, doctors, farmers, priests, pastors, tent makers, and governors—probably man had no knowledge of what others had written. Yet, when under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the various books were gathered together, they told one complete story.

3. _____
Its message is unlike that of any other book.



The Bible lays no claim to being a textbook of history, literature, philosophy, psychology or science. Yet, it contains true elements of all these and more. It is not designed as an encyclopedia containing answers to all of man's questions. Yet it answers the vital and ultimate inquiries of the heart, mind, and spirit. It may not tell man all he wants to know, but it does tell him all that he needs to know about his moral and spiritual duty and destiny. The Baptist Faith and Message

- a. The Bible introduces us to Jesus Christ.
- b. The 4 Gospels focus entirely on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But the entire Bible looks forward to, at, or back to Jesus.
- c. The Bible reveals the way to be saved. (2 Timothy 3:15)
- d. The Bible is our guide to daily living. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Salvation is by grace through faith alone.

“Grace” _____.

Jesus paid the price in full for our salvation from sin with His own blood on the cross. When He died, he cried, “It is finished.” The word He used assures us that He did all that needed to be done to pay for our salvation. Our part is simply to receive the gift of salvation in repentance and faith. There are a myriad of Scriptures that prove this truth.

Examples: John 1:12; John 3:16; John 3:18; John 3:36;
John 11:25-26; Acts 16:31; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 3:18

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

Baptism is to be by immersion of believers only.

We as Baptists observe 2 church ordinances.

The word ordinance means _____.

The 2 ordinances are _____.

We observe them because Jesus commanded them. The word “ordinance” means a decree or command. The Lord’s Supper is a time of remembering Jesus’ sacrificial death for us, as He Himself specified. It is symbolic, not sacramental. Jesus Himself was baptized, setting an example for us (Matthew 3:13-17). The early church practiced baptism from the beginning, and asserted that it was a prerequisite for church membership (Acts 2:41). Though baptism is not essential to salvation, it is not optional for obedience to Christ’s clear command, and therefore not optional for church membership.

Baptism portrays the _____ of Jesus, and our death to the old life of sin and new life in Him, according to Romans 6:2-5, and Colossians 2:11-12. It proclaims our faith openly and publicly. In the book of Acts (the history book of the early church) when people were converted, they testified to their faith in baptism (Acts 8:26-39).

We as Baptists had our origin partly because of our conviction as to what the Bible teaches about baptism. There are a number of divergent teachings and practices concerning baptism. For example:

1. Many churches baptize by “_____” (pouring or sprinkling). This began with the Catholic church in the 11th century. Until then, the practice was immersion.
2. Many churches practice _____.
3. Some churches believe that baptism _____.
4. Some churches even “_____” baptism and do not literally baptize at all.

So, what do we as Baptists believe that sets us off from these other denominations, and why do we believe such?

1. We baptize _____, and accept only such baptism as legitimate. (Thus, we do not believe infant baptism to be legitimate biblical baptism.)

Why? 2 reasons:

- a. There was never a baby baptized in the Bible. (Whenever there is reference to the household being baptized, it is accompanied by a testimony that those of the household believed.)
- b. Jesus gave the proper biblical order for baptism in His Great Commission, Matthew 28:19. There He said that first a person is to become a disciple; then, he/she is to be baptized. Baptism testifies to what happens in a person’s life when he/she accepts Christ. If it hasn’t happened, it makes no sense to attest to it.

2. We baptize _____, and accept only immersion as legitimate biblical baptism. Why? 2 reasons:

- a. That is what the word “baptism” means. Our word “baptism” is simply a transliteration of the Greek word “baptidzein.” That word only meant “_____.”
- b. Since baptism pictures death, burial, and resurrection—as we pointed out—only immersion gives an accurate picture of death, burial, and resurrection.

3. We do not believe that baptism _____.

- a. Some denominations say so, and use Acts 2:38 as a proof text. The word “for” in that verse can be translated a number of different ways, including “upon.” Thus, we need to consider what the rest of the New Testament teaches, and interpret that verse in light of the others.
- b. Many texts tell us how to be saved without mentioning baptism. For example: John 1:12; Romans 10:9,10,13; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

Then, what does baptism signify? It reflects the believer’s repentance of sin and celebrates the believer’s new life in Christ. It proclaims the Gospel of the atoning death, burial, and victorious resurrection of Christ and how that avails new life to us.

So, why do we baptize?

1. Baptism is an act of _____. Matthew 28:19—a command

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

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,

2. Baptism is an act of _____ . The purpose of baptism is simple: by this act we tell others of our new life in Christ. Baptism does not establish this new life; the water does not wash away your sins. Rather, baptism shows others that we have received this new life already. The old person you were before you received Christ has “died” and been replaced by the “new person” Christ has created in you (Romans 6). When you are laid under the water, you symbolize burial of the old person. When you are raised out of the water you symbolize the raising of the new person.

The Eternal Security of the Believer

This is what is sometimes identified as “once saved, always saved.”



Baptists believe that all true believers will endure to the end. But note that it is true believers, not superficial ones. Many people believe about Jesus, but not in Him. But those who God has accepted in Christ, and set apart by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end.

The Baptist Faith and Message

Why do we believe this? Because both logic and Scripture demand it!

1. Logic

Salvation is a work of God’s grace which the Christian receives through faith, even though in no way worthy. We don’t and can’t earn it to begin with; so what is the logic of saying we have to earn it to keep it? We simply receive salvation as a gift and God doesn’t give and take away. Remember, who does the saving? God does. Does He do a halfway job? It is entirely possible that a person may “jump on the bandwagon” of Christianity without having been born again and becoming a new creation; but once a person does, he does not lose his new birth.

2. Scripture

- Ephesians 2:8-9; There, the verb “_____” is a perfect tense verb. Literally, it means, “have been, are now, and always will be saved.”
- John 10:27-29. A believer’s security does not hinge on him holding onto Jesus; but on Jesus’ promise that He will hold onto the believer. Our Lord promises that—once we are His sheep—we will never (under any circumstances) perish.
- Romans 8:1; Notice that there is already “_____.” That means there is no possibility of paying the penalty of judgment to the ones “in Christ Jesus.” (Christians)
- Romans 8:28-30; Notice that our “_____”: (heaven) is spoken of as having already happened when we are justified (saved).
- Romans 8:38-39
- Ephesians 1:13-14; When one accepts Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit “_____” him as belonging to God. He is God’s property, His purchased possession.
- John 3:36; “_____”; “has”—present tense; by definition, this verse confirms the security of the believer, for if you already have eternal life, you can never lose it, or it would not really be eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ (a Christian), he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Autonomy (self-governance) of the local church



The local church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation, members are equally responsible. The local church's two Scriptural offices are pastor and deacon.
The Baptist Faith and Message

The words “bishop,” (episcopos) and “elder” (presbuteros) were used interchangeably to describe the pastor or pastors. (Example: Titus 1:5 and 7, elder and bishop are used of the same office.)

1. The basis for this teaching is the pattern of the New Testament. There is no evidence of an ecclesiastical hierarchy where a church was answerable to some distant body of rulers. The churches were independent and acted through democratic processes under the Lordship of Christ.
2. Dr. William Stevens, in his book “Doctrines of the Christian Religion” states: “There is no evidence in the New Testament of “ruling elders” or “bishops” who direct the affairs of the church. . . Also, any advice Paul presents to the early Christians in his epistles is given to the whole church, not to some august assemblage selected from its midst.”
3. Examples:
 - a. Acts 6:1-7; The church body _____.
 - b. Acts 13:1-3; The church body _____.
 - c. Paul’s letters to the Christians at Rome (Romans 1:7), Corinth (I Corinthians 1:2 and 2 Corinthians 1:1), Ephesus (Ephesians 1:1, Philippi (Philippians 1:1), Colossae (Colossians 1:2), Thessalonica (I Thessalonians. 1:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1) were all addressed to the whole church.

The Priesthood of the Believer

The Bible teaches that—as believers—we are all “priests.”

1 Peter 2:4-5

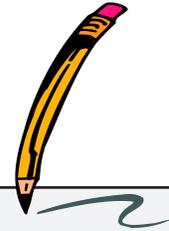
4 As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him
5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- A priest _____
1. Look at I Peter 2:4-5 to find this doctrine stated. This passage bestows on Christians the same priestly title God gave Israel.
 2. God acted for all of His people during the crucifixion of Jesus when He tore the Temple curtain—which restricted people from coming into His presence—in second from top to bottom. (Matthew 27:51) Peter understood the symbolism and declared that all of God’s children are to be holy and royal priests.
 3. The priesthood of the believer is a doctrine that has often been misunderstood and abused. The following erroneous views of the priesthood of the believer need to be cautioned against:
 - a. That the Christian _____.
Ephesians 4:11 clarifies that.
 - b. To use the priesthood _____
—to say that each of us can decide for ourselves and by ourselves what we believe and nobody else has a right to tell us that we’re wrong.
 4. What the priesthood of the believer does mean for us:
 - a. _____
_____.

Hebrews 10:19-22; Hebrews 4:16. This means that we do not need to go to a priest, minister, etc. to confess our sins and be forgiven. We do not need a priest to serve as a mediator before God on our behalf. We may go directly to the Father through our great High Priest, Jesus Christ Himself.

- b. One of the functions of the Old Testament Priest was to officiate at all sacrifices (Leviticus 6). Remember, a priest mediates between man and God. This mediation was accomplished by sacrifice (Hebrews 5:1). The New Testament teaches that we as believers now have the responsibility and privilege of offering sacrifices. What sacrifices do we offer?

- 1) _____ (Romans 12:1-2)
- 2) _____ (Hebrews 13:15)
- 3) _____ (Hebrews 13:16) The word “communicate” in the KJV actually means “giving” or “sharing.”



“Priests have the privilege of coming into the presence of God; worshipping God with praise and adoration; discovering the truth in the Word of God; and bringing burdens, joy, and sorrows to God. Priests have the privilege of praying to the Father on behalf of other individuals and groups in society. This privilege of access is experienced in prayer, meditation, and study of God’s Word. Priestly access to God is always through the Great High Priest, Jesus in whose name Christians have access to the Heavenly Father...No sin is greater than failing to experience this privilege of fellowship with God, for which Christ died.”

Basics for New Baptists

Other doctrines that we hold dear at FBC

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. The Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper to remember Christ’s sacrifice.

- a. We do not hold to “_____” —that the bread and drink actually become the body of Christ. If that were true, how could Jesus be standing there in body when He said “this is My body.” We take the word “is” to mean “represents.” For instance, when you point to a street on a map and say, “that IS where I live,” you mean it represents where you live.
- b. We do not hold to “_____” —the view espoused by Martin Luther. This interpretation says that the bread and drink continue to be bread and drink, but at the same time take on the character of the body and blood of Christ.
- c. We hold that the elements are _____ of His body and blood that portray what Jesus did for man’s salvation. Jesus stated the purpose of the Lord’s Supper in very clear terms. He said, “do this in remembrance of Me.” So, as we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we focus our hearts on the suffering death of our Lord on the cross for our sins. However, we do not believe partaking of the Lord’s Supper has saving efficacy. Remember, salvation is by grace through faith alone!

We will gladly supply information about these doctrines.

Chapter 2

God's Exciting Plan of the Church

Jesus personally established the church while He was here on the earth to unite Christians into a spiritual family. He said, "I will build MY church; and the gates of hell shall not overpower it," (Matthew 16:18). Paul wrote, "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her," (Ephesians 5:25). This lesson has been designed to help you understand the church and discover your part in it—that you might find maximum fulfillment from your involvement in FBC.



At the end
of this
session
instructor

will lead a church
tour.

The Meaning of the Church

The word "church" in the Bible is a translation of the Greek word "ekklesia," meaning "_____." Some of the time the word "church" is used in the New Testament (22 times), it refers to the universal church, which represents all born-again believers worldwide. Most of the time (92 times) it refers to the local church, a local assembly of believers such as First Baptist Church in Midland of which we are a part.

1. The Universal Church—There are several illustrations used in the New Testament to define and describe the nature and design of the church. The three most dynamic images of the church are: a building, a body, and a bride.

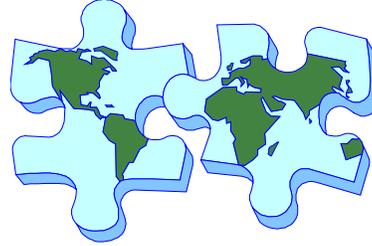
a. The church is like a _____.
(I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22) As a believer, you are one of God's living stones, chiseled out of the quarry of the world and used in the construction of the spiritual family of God.

b. The church is like a _____.
_____. The church is often called "the body of Christ," (I Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:16). Just as a body has many different parts—each with its own unique and essential function, so is the body of Christ, the church. There is an important job for everyone. Each must do his job if the church is to be healthy and grow. But each must also understand his connection with the other members of the body. No member of a body can function in isolation. Picturing the church as the body of Christ illustrates the inseparable union between Christ and His church (Colossians 1:18, "Christ is the head of the body, the church."). Jesus' human body is an illustration of the way God uses the church. How did Jesus use His body? He went about doing good. So, the church—as the body of Christ—is the instrument which the Lord uses to do the works of God.

c. The church is like a _____.
_____. In Ephesians 5:31-32, Paul compares Christ to a

husband, and the church to a wife. A sinner leaves his old sinful life, cleaves to Christ, and the two become one. (Revelation 22:17)

2. The Local Church—First Baptist Church in Midland is a local assembly of baptized believers on common mission for the Lord, like the biblical church at Rome, or Philippi, or Thessalonica, etc. How do you explain the local church in relation to the universal church? Let’s use the illustration of the United States Army. There is only one U.S. Army made up of committed soldiers all serving universally. It operates under one Commander-in-Chief. However, it is divided into local units or bases. When a man or woman enlists in the Army, he/she is assigned to one particular unit even though he is a part of the whole army. No one would say, “I’m not going to stay with one unit. I’m just going to go around and enjoy the best of them all.” The same is true as Christians. We belong to the Universal church; but we perform our Christian role attached to a particular unit, a particular local church. It may help you realize just how vital the local church is when you learn that almost half of the entire New Testament is addressed to and/or is about local churches.



The Mission of the Church

What did Jesus establish as the mission of the church? Why does the local church exist? The church has at least a fivefold mission:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1. To _____ God’s Presence: Worship

The first purpose of the church is to honor and worship the Lord. Deuteronomy 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” The church exists to worship God. How do we love God with all our hearts? By worshipping Him! When we worship, we are expressing our love to God. The Psalmist said in Psalm 34:3, “Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.” The entire book of Psalms is songs of honor and worship unto the Lord that were to be shared together in worship. Note Ephesians 5:19-20.

At FBC, we are devoted to corporate worship. We have multiple worship services on Sundays and another on Wednesday night. We offer alternatives so that the most people can come to worship and can worship in the style that best enables them to express their love to God.

2. To _____ the Gospel: Evangelism

The word “evangelism” comes from a Greek word meaning

“_____.” The word “Gospel” is from the same word. To

evangelize is to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ, and give people an opportunity to respond in faith to the Gospel. The last words spoken by Jesus to

Eph 5:19-20

19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8

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

Matthew 28:20
and teaching them to obey
everything I have
commanded you. And surely
I am with you always, to the
very end of the age.

His disciples are found in Acts 1:8. Notice how Jesus planned for the unsaved to be reached. "YOU will be My witnesses..." God has chosen you and me as witnesses. Someday each of us will give an account as to how seriously we took this responsibility.

Evangelism is more than our obligation; it is our privilege. We are invited to be a part of bringing others into the family of God.

❧ *There is no more significant
cause to which to give your life.* ❧

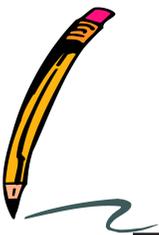
If you knew the cure for cancer, I'm sure you'd do everything you could to get out the news. It would save millions of lives. We have something better—the Gospel of eternal life. As long as there is one person left on earth who does not know Christ, the church has to continue to communicate the Gospel.

3. To _____ into God's Family: Fellowship
As Christians, we are not only called to believe, but to *belong*. (Ephesians 2:19) says, "...you are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's family." This is why Sunday Schools are emphasized so strongly at FBC. It is not only the best tool for evangelism; it is organized for fellowship—to assimilate new believers and other new members into the life of the church, to help them establish relationships within the family.

4. To _____ Believers: Discipleship
Discipleship is _____

God has ordained that the church be His main tool for helping Christians develop toward spiritual maturity. (Matthew 28:20, Colossians 1:28) "We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ." Here again, our Sunday School, ACTS, weekday Bible studies, etc. are employed to disciple believers. (Acts 4:32-37)

5. To _____ God's Love: Ministry
Ministry is demonstrating God's love to others by meeting their needs and healing their hurts in the name of Jesus. The church is to minister to all kinds of needs: spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical. (Acts 4:32-37)



The most clear example of this fivefold mission of the church is the first church at Jerusalem described in Acts. Circle each facet of the church's mission in the text below. Acts 2—Evangelism: v. 47; Discipleship: v. 42; Worship: vs. 43, 47; Ministry: vs. 44-45; Fellowship: vs. 42, 44-46

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts; 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Membership

When you go into a restaurant, why do you look at a menu? Because you are interested in what is available to you and what it will cost. The value of membership and what is expected of our members will be explained in this section. For members these are expectations and desired involvement. However, for elected leaders, these expectations are evaluated and have a role in whether one remains in such leadership in the best interest of the ministry of the church. For those being considered for elected leadership, these things may be considered typical criteria for enlistment. You will also begin to discover that God has crafted you for His glory!

Attributes of Membership

First Baptist Church is more a family than an institution. We realize that the key factor in people’s decision to join a church is relationships. People don’t enjoy joining institutions, but they love being a part of a family. We’re glad you’re a part of the family. Membership in this family of faith is a step of spiritual growth. You became a Christian by committing yourself to Christ. You become a church member by committing to other Christians.

Listed below are the basic expectations of every member of our church: (The key word in each statement is “help.” A productive member of the church is actively seeking to help the church carry out its mission.)

- To Help Support the _____.
 ...by faithfully attending when the church is gathered (Hebrews 10:25)
 ...by genuinely reflecting a Christ-centered life (Philippians 1:27)
 ...by regularly giving of material resources (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2)***

***More on this matter of stewardship: We are caretakers of what really belongs to God. Psalm 24:1 KJV, “the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” Stewardship, then, covers all of life: time, talent, and treasure. All belongs to Him and is entrusted to us to use for His glory and to help others. Through all we are and have, we are to worship and serve Him.

God has established a starting place for stewardship of our financial resources. It is called the “tithes.” It denotes 1/10 of our income. Gifts to the Lord’s work over and above the tithe are called “offerings.” Malachi 3:10 instructs us to bring the tithe to the “storehouse.” The storehouse is the local church in our day. From our church, God’s tithes and our offerings are distributed from Midland to the ends of the earth.

Our giving is a representation of our attitude toward the Lord, (Matthew 6:21). Our gifts should reflect an attitude of gratitude. The spirit in which we give is important, even as is the gift itself. Note the following that the Bible teaches about our giving:

- ...Generosity in giving: 2 Corinthians 8:2
- ...Unselfishness in giving: 2 Corinthians 8:5
- ...Follow the example of Christ in giving: 2 Corinthians 8:9
- ...Cheerfulness in giving: 2 Corinthians 9:7
- ...Love for the things in heaven in giving: Matthew 6:19-21

First Baptist Church likewise has a responsibility of good financial stewardship. We give _____ of our undesignated receipts to cooperative program missions, and _____ to mission causes. We also seek to exercise sound stewardship of property, finances, etc.

The word “stewardship” means _____

Matthew 6:21
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. To Help _____.
- ...by inviting the unchurched and unsaved to attend (Luke 14:23)
 - ...by warmly greeting those who visit (Romans 15:7)
 - ...by earnestly praying for the church (Ephesians 1:15-16)
3. To Help _____.
- ...by discovering your spiritual gifts and God-bestowed abilities and interests (I Peter 4:10)
 - ...by participating in spiritual growth training activities (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - ...by developing the heart of a servant (Philippians 2:3-7)
 - ...by accepting opportunities of service that utilize my gifts and abilities (I Corinthians 12:4-7)
4. To Help _____.
- ...by showing sincere love and support for others in the fellowship (I John 4:7-8; Romans 14:19)
 - ...by refraining from gossiping about members (Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 16:28)
 - ...by supporting the leadership of the church (Hebrews 13:17)

Joining First Baptist Church

Listed below are the ways in which you can join First Baptist Church:

1. By profession faith in Jesus Christ and following Him in water baptism.
2. By transferring your membership from another Baptist church.
3. By your statement of faith in Christ, and that you have been baptized by immersion after salvation into a church of like faith. (If you are not certain about this matter, a staff minister is trained to help you.)
4. As a candidate for baptism by immersion from another denomination that does not hold our beliefs about salvation, the eternal security of the believer and/or-baptism. This involves a statement that you have already received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Salvation and Baptism
When?

Where?

Chapter 3

History, Polity and Ministry of FBC

The Church's Rich History

First Baptist Church was started on _____ with 24 charter members. Rev. S.B. Callaway was the first pastor. Over the next 60 years, the church had a total of 14 pastors, one of whom served on two separate occasions. Some of the pastors have been quite colorful...like Leander Millican, second pastor, who was a cowboy preacher. He carried a Bible in one saddle bag and a six-shooter in the other. The church's first full-time pastor was G.H.M. Wilson who served twice; his second tenure as the full time pastor. Since 1942, the church has had only 5 pastors. In the early 1950's, the church relocated from its downtown location to the present site. Ground was broken on March 9, 1952, and the congregation began to worship at this present location on June 6, 1954. The facilities were dedicated on July 11 of that year. Since then, the facilities have been expanded several times. The Child Development Center was attached to the expanded facilities in 1984. In 1998 the new north-end complex—housing preschool, youth, and adult facilities, plus a new fellowship hall—was added. Also, our mission building was completed.



1. A history of _____: In its history, there is no evidence of a single major split in our congregation. A number of other Baptist churches in Midland have grown out of our congregation as positive, cooperative efforts to start new congregations in order to meet the growing need.
2. A history of _____: The church has seen steady growth numerically, financially, and a in variety of ministries. The budget for the church in 1901 was \$1,650. The budget in 1953 was \$193,000. The present church year budget is _____. The growth in income has clearly been the result of the consistent reaching of people for Christ. From the 24 charter members in 1886, the church grew to average 1,000 in Sunday School in the 1950s, to over 1,500 in the 1970s. The church began a contemporary worship service in 1990.
3. A history of _____: Of the last 5 pastors of our church, 3 have gone on to key state and national leadership posts, and one (Jim Denison) now pastors Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas. Vernon Yearby, who served here from 1942-1953, went on to serve with the Alabama Baptist Convention. L.L. Morriss went from here to be the Director of Evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and then the Director of the Christian Education Coordinating Board. Daniel Vestal presently serves as the Executive Director of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The names of these men are household words in Texas and beyond because of their reputation for visionary leadership. Many examples could be cited of that kind of leadership. One would be

the implementation of our television ministry, started during the ministry of Dr. Morriss, which now reaches to large portions of two states and is seen in parts of several other states.

4. A history of _____: Our church has been instrumental in the starting and support of many churches around the world. For several decades, our church has been among the leaders in missions giving of all SBC churches. Several of those years, we led the convention in Cooperative Program gifts. From our congregation, many have gone to serve both in our country and abroad. We also provide direct sponsorship to numerous churches, missions, and para-church works throughout the world. Year after year, we send out teams of people on mission endeavors to such places as Russia, Kenya, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and throughout the states. In our own community, a new church, Stonegate Fellowship, was launched in the late 1990's. We provide significant financial support to local ethnic and Anglo congregations.

For a more complete history of the church, copies of "To God Be the Glory" are available in the church library.

The Church's Functional Polity (Governing Structure)

Ephesians 4:11

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

1. *The Offices of the Church*

- a. _____—Ephesians 4:11. At other times, the Bible uses the words "_____" and "_____" to refer to the same office.

Examples: I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5:1-5. In our church, we have a team of Pastors, ministers and directors who work alongside the lead pastor.

- b. _____—Acts 6:1-7 presents the role of deacon. Deacons are ordained, or set apart, by the church for their ministry office. The word "deacon" means _____.

Their responsibility is not to serve as a board of trustees, but to minister to needs within the congregation. The men chosen are to be men who reflect the characteristics called for in I Timothy 3.

2. *Congregational form of government*: Our church maintains a congregational form of government. We have quarterly scheduled business conferences, so that matters of importance might be dealt with in an openly and orderly manner. Each member has one vote, including new members. As we pointed out in session 1, we believe this to be the proper biblical approach to church government. Even the matter of joining the church is decided by congregational action. If someone were known to be attempting to join the church with an ulterior motive in mind, the church could reject the request for membership. For congregational church government to be effective, a congregation must make all of its decisions in the awareness that Jesus is Lord of the church, and His will must guide in all the decisions of the church.

In order to expedite our many administrative matters of church business, our church has a 21 member church council whose responsibility includes oversight, evaluation, research, and recommendations to the church on various matters

that enhance and stabilize our ministry. However, as a democracy, a member is entitled to bring any recommendation for action or matter of information to the floor of the business conference directly. There are also several ongoing committees that serve several ministries in the church.

Sample of FBC Committees

Benevolence Committee—coordinates an expansive program of church assistance to needy families. Membership on this committee calls for involvement in benevolence ministry.

Child Care Committee—assists with child care ministry policies and operations.

Committee on Committees—responsible for staffing church committees.

Deacon Nominating Committee—receives recommendations for deacons, reviews recommendations, interviews potential candidates, and brings recommendations before the church body for action.

Family Assistance Committee—conduct interviews, process applications and provide assistance for church members.

Flower Ministry Team—arranges for flowers for the worship center on Sunday mornings.

General Nominating Committee—nominates all elected volunteer positions of the church, except deacons and committees.

Maintenance and Expansion Committee—supervises upkeep of all church building and grounds also oversees and makes recommendations regarding the building needs of the church.

Membership Committee—maintains complete list of church membership, coordinates deacon visitation of new members, publishes church directory every five years, takes pictures of new members.

Missions Committee—a large committee that oversees one of the most expansive missions endeavors of any church—the committee that decides on mission support for ministry, projects and personnel around the world; and mobilizes the membership for involvement in local and worldwide missions.

Ordinance Committee—coordinates baptisms assistance and the Lord's Supper.

Personnel Committee—employs all staff except the pastor; coordinates their supervision with the pastor; makes salary recommendations annually; develops employee policies.

Scholarship Review Committee— obtains background information on each individual candidate that applies for a particular scholarship.

Church Council--the governing body of the church authorized to conduct any and all business operations of the church which include, but not limited to, matters related to personnel, finance, insurance, food service, security and transportation.

Transportation Committee—determines the transportation needs of the church, transportation policies, and recommends purchase of new vehicles as needed.

Wedding Ministry Team— compile and carry out the guidelines for service of marriage conducted in First Baptist Church

The Church's Diversified Ministry

Our church has implemented many strategic programs to fulfill our God-given mission and vision. These ministries/programs/events are based on the 5-fold mission of the church studied in the last session. In Midland Park Mall, there are 4 anchor stores on which all of the other stores depend to assure sufficient customer traffic through the mall: Sears, JC Penney, Dillard's, and Bealls. You might say that the plethora of avenues of learning, growing, serving, and being served that are provided in our church are built on:

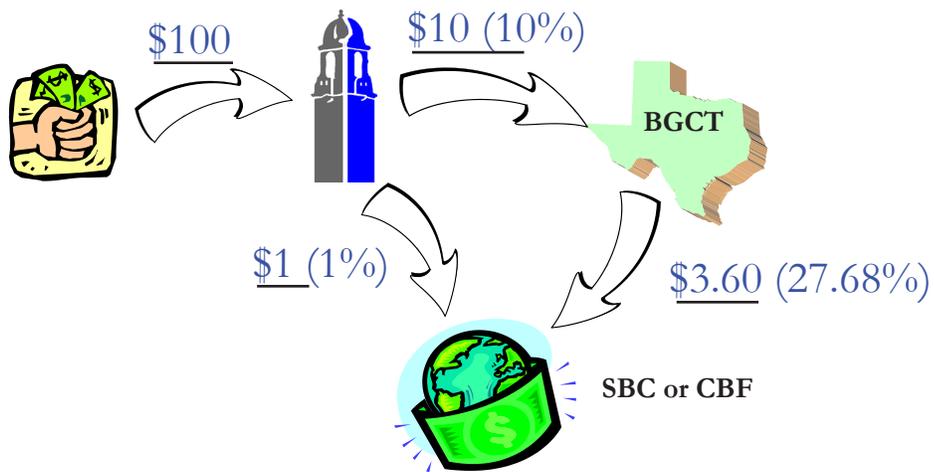
We have many other vital ministries, recreation, weekday Bible studies, family ministry, midweek prayer, and specialized age-group and peer-group ministry—such as Children's ministry, Student Ministry, Single's Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, and more. All of these ministries are based on our stated mission and vision. However, the traffic in those ministries—as with specialty stores in a mall—is directly influenced by the effectiveness, participation in, and support of our worship services and Sunday School. Those two ministries have far and away the largest participation, and we are committed to their excellence and meaningfulness.

For other ministries refer to our church website: fbc-midland.org.

Explanation of how our cooperative missions support works

In our general budget, a person/family has the choice of supporting world missions through either the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program or through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. In either case, the support is channeled through the Baptist General Convention of Texas. This is very important to note in your own personal stewardship.

The choice as to how your tithes and offerings are dispersed for world missions is up to you. However, only if your envelope specifically designates the gifts to CBF will any of your contributions be channeled that direction. All gifts not specifically designated will go to the SBC. If you check SBC on your envelope, the portion designated for the Cooperative Program will send _____ to the general operating budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, while _____ will go to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. If you do not check either the SBC or CBF on your envelope, the distribution will be as follows: approximately _____ remains with the Baptist General Convention of Texas; _____ goes to the Southern Baptist Convention, targeted mainly to mission boards.



Chapter 4

Discovering My Ministry

When you go into a restaurant, why do you look at a menu? Because you are interested in what is available to you and what it will cost. These next two sessions will show you what ministries are available to members and what is expected of those who serve (the cost). For those being considered for elected leadership, these things may be considered typical criteria for enlistment. You will also begin to discover that God has crafted you for His glory!

The two results of discovering the ministry I've been shaped for are:

_____ and _____

What the Bible says about ministry

Definition: (Greek “diakonos” - “to serve”) “Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.”

We minister in three directions

To _____, _____ and _____.

We minister to three areas of need.

To peoples' _____, _____ and _____ needs.
Acts 13:3 Hebrews 6:10 Matthew. 5:13

“We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” Colossians 1:28, 29

The purpose of ministry

There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. Paraphrased from I Corinthians 12.

God wants to use me to _____.

Homework: Please take the spiritual gift inventory and complete it by the next session.

The priority of ministry (Why should I be interested?)

1. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10

2. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY! “Saved to Serve!”

“It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began...”
2 Timothy 1:9 LB

3. I'VE BEEN _____ INTO MINISTRY!

“God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve him.”
Galatians 1:15 GN

“... You have been chosen by God himself — you are priests of the King... you are God’s very own — all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing, now you are God’s own!”
1 Peter 2:9-10 LB

4. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY!

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

5. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY!

“(Jesus said) All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples...”
Matthew 28:18-19, also 2 Corinthians 5:20

6. I'M _____ TO MINISTER!

“(Jesus) Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve...”
Matthew 20:28 LB

“(To Archippus) Take heed to the ministry you’ve received from the Lord and fulfill it.”
Colossians 4:17 KJV

7. I'M TO BE _____ FOR MINISTRY

“God gave pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry so that the body of Christ may be built up...”
Ephesians 4:11-12

8. THE BODY OF CHRIST _____ MY MINISTRY!

“All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27LB

Ministry always functions in the context of the _____.

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, ‘The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send our workers into his harvest field.’”
Matthew 9:36-37

9. I AM _____ FOR MY MINISTRY!

“So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
Romans 14:12
The Parable of the Talents:
Matthew 25:14-30

10. I WILL BE _____ FOR MY MINISTRY!

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men,

“(God says) I was hungry and you fed me, ... thirsty and you gave me a drink... needed clothes and you clothed me... sick and you cared for me... in prison and you visited me... Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me.”
Matthew 25:35-36, 40

“... Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.”
1 Thessalonians 5:14 GN

“... God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”
2 Corinthians 5:18

I am not who I think I am
I am not who you think I am
But I really am who God says I am!

since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”

Colossians 3:23, 24

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!”

Matthew 25:23

How to discover my ministry

(Romans 12:1-8)

STEP 1 DEDICATE _____.

“I urge you... to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — which is your spiritual worship.” (vs. 1)

STEP 2: ELIMINATE _____.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (vs. 2)

STEP 3: EVALUATE _____.

“Don’t cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you.

vs.3 Phillips

STEP 4: COOPERATE _____.

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body and each member belongs to all the others.” (vs. 5)

“I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...” Exodus 31:3

STEP 5: ACTIVATE _____.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us.. prophesy... serving... teaching... encouraging... contributing... leadership... showing mercy...”

Romans 12:6-8

What God made me to *BE* determines what He intends for me to *DO*. I will understand more about the **purpose** I was created for when I understand the kind of **person** I am. This is one secret for knowing God’s will for my life!

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! By reviewing and studying these factors, we can discover the ministry He has for us... the *unique* way God intends for us to serve Him.

(God) has given... pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4: 11-12

My Ministry is determined by my _____!

How God has SHAPED me? *“Your hands formed and shaped me...”* Job 10:8a GN
God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping you even before you were born!

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous... You were there while I was being formed... You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.”

Psalms 139:14-16 (LB)

“What right do you have, a human being, to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: Why did you make me this shape? A potter can do what he likes with the clay!” Romans 9:20-21

1. I was _____ for a purpose.
2. I am _____ Shape!
3. I am _____.

Your ministry SHAPE is determined by several factors.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

My S.H.A.P.E.

S _____.

“... Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.”

1 Corinthians 7:7b

What Am I Gifted To Do?

H _____

“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose...”

Revelation 17:7

What Do I Love To Do?

A _____

“the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

1 Corinthians 12:6

“... our competence comes from God.”

2 Corinthians 3:5b

What Natural Talents And Skills Do I Have?

P _____

“No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself.”

1 Corinthians 2:11

Where Does My Personality Best Suit Me To Serve?

E _____

*** What _____ Experiences Have I Had?**

“There has been enough time for you to be teachers — BUT you still need to be taught... (you are) without any experience in the matter of right and wrong.”

Hebrews 5:12-13

*** What _____ Experiences Have I Had?**

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”

Proverbs 20:30 (GN)

“God helps us in our troubles, so we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.”

2 Corinthians. 1:4 (GN)

*** What _____ Experiences Have I Had?**

“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life — guard it well!”

Proverbs 4:13 (GN)

*** What _____ Experiences Have I Had?**

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel...”

2 Corinthians 9:13

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your **Gifts** and **Abilities** in the area of **Heart’s Desire** in a way that best expresses your **Personality** and **Experience!**

“For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!” Philippians 2:13 NEB

Success Is Doing What God Made Me To Do!



Now Let's take a closer look at your SHAPE beginning with Spiritual Gifts.

1. Only _____ have spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians. 2:14
2. Every Christian has at least _____ gift. 1 Corinthians 7:7
3. No one receives _____ the gifts. 1 Corinthians. 12:27-30
4. No single gift is given to _____. 1 Corinthians. 12:29-30
5. You can't _____ a spiritual gift. Ephesians. 4:7
6. The _____ decides what gifts I get. 1 Corinthians. 12:11
7. The gifts I'm given are _____. Romans 11:29
8. I am to _____ the gifts God gives me. 1 Timothy 4:14
9. It's a sin to _____ the gifts God gave me. 1 Corinthians. 4:1-2
Matthew 25:14-30
10. Using my gifts _____ God and _____ me. John 15:8

The Purpose Of Spiritual Gifts

A. Not for my benefit, but _____.

"Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others, the spiritual gift he has received from God." 1 Peter 4:10 (GN)

"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church." 1 Corinthians 12:7 (LB)

B. To produce _____ and _____ in our church family.

"It was He who gave gifts to men... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..." Ephesians 4:11, 13-14 (GN)

Cautions About Spiritual Gifts

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
* "Fruit" shows my Maturity. * "Gifts" show my Ministry.
3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
4. Be aware of the "gift projection" tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results)
5. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. 1 Corinthians 12:21
6. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless! *"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains — but if I have not love, I am nothing... it does no good."* 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (GN)

Definition: "an individual manifestation of grace from the Father that enables you to serve Him and thus play a vital role in His plan for the redemption of the world." Ken Hemphill

- 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
- 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

"gifts"—"Charismata"—
means _____
_____.

Chapter 5

Discovering My Ministry



Fill in the top part of the form and list your 3 highest scoring spiritual gifts.

During this session we will work together to get a better picture of your “SHAPE.” Use the Personal Profile to help complete this process. Let’s begin by noting the three gifts from the survey in which you rated the highest.

Monitoring My Heartbeat

Definition: “HEART”

- a. The organ that pumps your blood.
- b. Your emotional constitution or disposition.
- c. The vital force or driving impulse.

The Bible uses the term “heart” to represent the center of your motivation, desires, and inclinations. *“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.”* Psalms 37:4 etc.

My heart determines...

* Why I say the things I do

“The mouth speaks what the heart is full of”

Matthew 12:34 GN

* Why I feel the way I do

“The Word of God... examines the thoughts and motives of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

* Why I act the way I do

“Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

My Heart Is The Real Me!

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. Each person has a slightly different pattern. Likewise, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others.

This God-given motivation serves as an internal guidance system for our lives. It determines what your interests are, and what will bring you the most satisfaction and fulfillment. It also motivates you to pursue certain activities, subjects, and environments.

Why Has God Given Each Person A Unique “Heartbeat”?

“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose...” Revelation 17:17

God had a purpose in giving you your inborn interests. In fact, your emotional heartbeat reveals a very important key to understanding God’s design and intention for your life.

The Bible makes very clear that your heart was designed by God, but you make the choice to use it for good or evil, for selfish purposes or for service.

You may have *“... selfish ambition in your heart...”*

James 3:14

Or you may *“... Serve the Lord with all your heart.”*

1 Samuel 12:20

“... Do the will of God from your heart.”

Ephesians 6:6

How can I do God's will and serve God's purpose? By letting my heartbeat motivate me for *ministry*!

Discover The Motivated Direction Of Your Heart

Examine your achievements for a common motivational thread. You might find a key phrase repeated. See if you can match one of the "heartbeats" listed as samples.

Remember these are ALL God-given motivations. They are only sinful when used selfishly. Every one of these can be used in effective ministry. Don't be embarrassed to identify a basic heartbeat that doesn't *seem* spiritual! Almost every one of these can be identified in the ministry of one of the twelve Apostles!

I Love To ...

Design and Develop — I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.

Pioneer — I love to test out and try new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.

Organize — I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.

Operate / Maintain — I love to efficiently maintain some things that are already organized.

Serve or Help — I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.

Acquire and Possess — I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.

Excel — I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.

Influence — I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behaviors of others.

Perform — I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.

Improve — I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.

Repair — I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.

Lead and Be in Charge — I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.

Persevere — I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.

Follow the Rules — I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.

Prevail — I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.



Fill in the "Heart" section of your profile.

Taking A Spiritual EKG

If you are like most people, you haven't taken time to identify what you are good at and motivated to accomplish. As a result, it is unlikely that you use these talents as completely or effectively as you could. The key to understanding your heartbeat is to look at your past accomplishments. Note these things on the profile. Did You Find The Basic Direction Of Your Heart In This List? Write It On Your Personal Profile.

Applying your abilities

"There are different abilities to perform service."

1 Corinthians 12:6

"I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..."

Exodus 31:3

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

Misconceptions about abilities, skills & talents

- 1. MYTH: People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.** This simply is not true. There are a number of skills which seem to be inborn and develop very early in infancy. When people say, "He just seems to have a natural talent for it", it's probably true.
- 2. MYTH: Those skills which must be learned, are earned primarily in the classroom.** Actually some of your most basic skills were learned at home, "in the street", or somewhere outside the classroom.
- 3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.** Again, that is not true. You're probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of. You need some process of skill identification.
- 4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.** Hopefully, by the end of this class, you'll see the fallacy of that idea. Be creative.
- 5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities.** The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from five hundred to seven hundred different skills.

"It is quite true to say that a man who sets his heart on becoming a church leader has a laudable ambition."

1 Timothy 3:1 PH

How to discover your motivated abilities

Look back to the personal profile at your list of accomplishments. Circle all verbs that denote actions performed while you were doing each achievement. Now compare those verbs to the list below and check those abilities you feel you have.

26 Specialized Abilities:

Entertaining ability: to perform, act, dance, speak, magic

Recruiting ability: to enlist and motive people to get involved

Interview ability: to discover what others are really like

Researching ability: to read, gather information, collect data

Artistic ability: to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings

- Graphics ability:** to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners
- Evaluating ability:** to analyze data and draw conclusions
- Planning ability:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events
- Managing ability:** to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved
- Counseling ability:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity
- Teaching ability:** to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
- Writing ability:** to write articles, letters, books
- Editing ability:** to proofread or rewrite
- Promoting ability:** to advertise or promote events and activities
- Repairing ability:** to fix, restore, maintain
- Feeding ability:** to create meals for large or small groups
- Recall ability:** to remember or recall names and faces
- Mechanical operating ability:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery
- Resourceful ability:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
- Counting ability:** to work with numbers, data or money
- Classifying ability:** to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily
- Public Relations ability:** to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy
- Welcoming ability:** to convey warmth, develop rapport, making others feel comfortable
- Composing ability:** to write music or lyrics
- Landscaping ability:** to do gardening and work with plants
- Decorating ability:** to beautify a setting for a special event

Plugging-In Your Personality

Write your name below: Now write your name with your opposite hand:

What Happened? When you tried to do something that was not *natural* to you...

1. You felt uncomfortable.
2. It took extra time and effort.
3. You still did a lousy job at it!

The same things are true when we try to minister in areas that are not suited to our personality. God has wired your temperament in a unique way. This factor is very important in matching you to the right ministry.

It's obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety — just look around! And there is no “right” or “wrong” temperament. We need opposites to balance the church.

Although there are many fine (and extremely detailed!) personality assessments available, for the purpose of your Personal Profile, we want you to consider just five aspects. Look at the profile and mark where you would best fit on the personality chart.



Fill in the Abilities section of your profile list your specialized abilities.



Fill in the Personality section of your profile.

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.
Philippians 1:12

Examining My Experiences

“And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
Romans 8:28

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experience, particularly my hurts and problems I’ve overcome with God’s help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we’ve learned in the “school of hard knocks.”

God Never Wastes A Hurt!

He wants you to be open to ministering to people who are going through what you’ve already been through!
“(God)... Wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!”
2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (LB)



Fill in the Experience section of your profile.

Expectations for all Leaders

1. Understanding of the _____ . The reason for this course.
2. Loyalty to the _____ .
3. Faithfulness to _____ .
4. Faithful _____ .
5. _____ .
6. A growing _____ .
7. Endorsement of the _____ ..

Now let’s take a look at the possibilities on the profile form. After looking at your SHAPE mark opportunities you would like to review further with a minister.

Chapter 5 material adapted from Discovering My Ministry C.L.A.S.S. 301,
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