

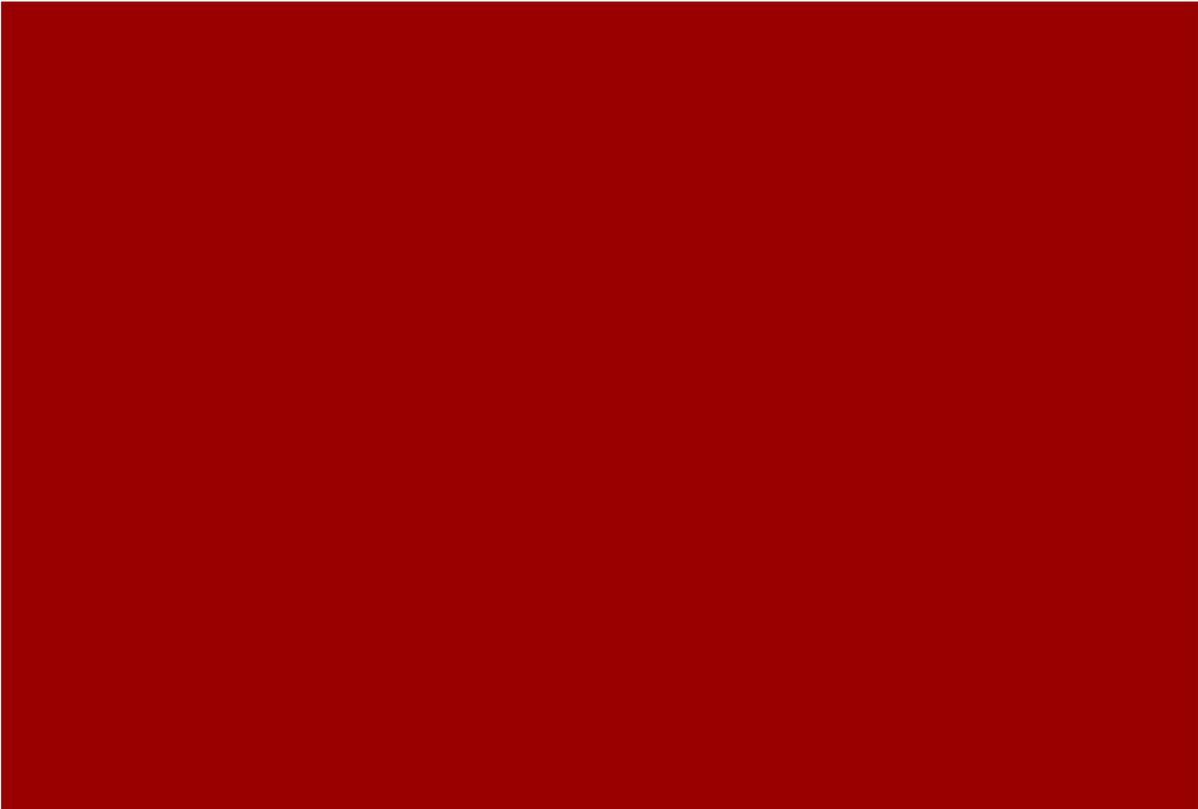


As we conclude our study,  
please take a moment and complete  
the Personal Information sheet at the  
back of your book. Then remove the  
sheet to give to Pastor Bob at the end  
of the class. Thank you for  
participating!

To indicate your desire to serve, you  
may also use the iServe link on our  
website.

# DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

SESSION 5

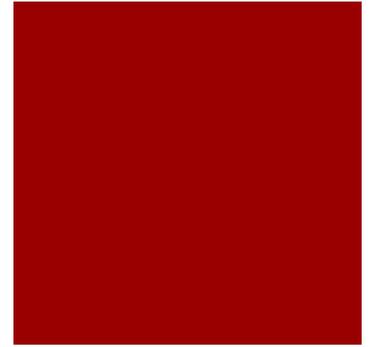


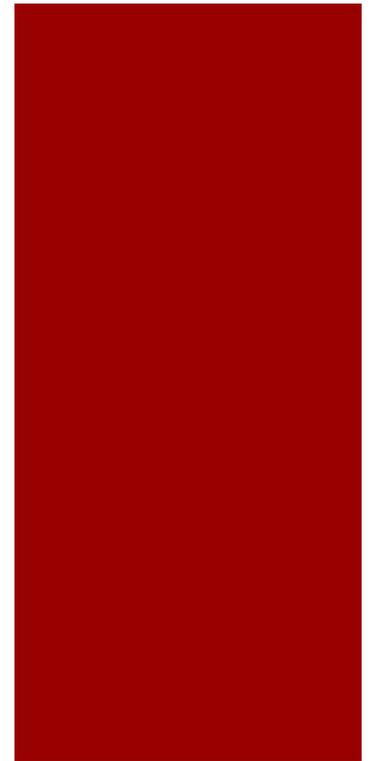
# OUR BELIEFS, STRATEGY, AND STRUCTURE

SESSION 5

## 1 Corinthians 14:33,40

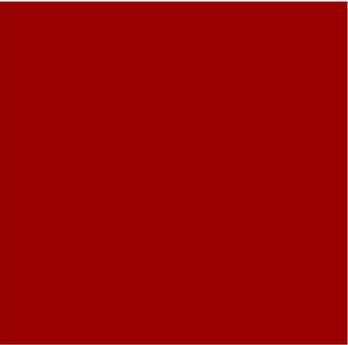
*"For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."*





## What We Believe

What we believe dictates what we do, and what we do dictates how we do it. So in this final session, we want to look at what we believe, what strategy we hope to fulfill, and how we are structured to do that.



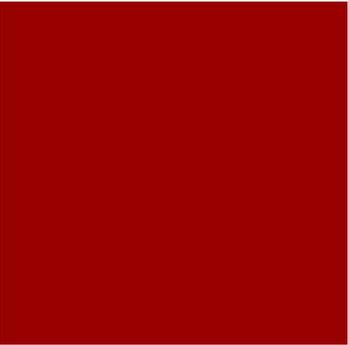
## *What We Believe*

- What we think tends to dictate what we do, so our beliefs are very important. This summary of our beliefs is drawn from a Baptist document called the Baptist faith and Message of 2000.

Our beliefs are important because:

- In essential beliefs—we have unity.
  - “There is one Body and Spirit. . . , there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of us all. . .” (Eph. 4:4-6)



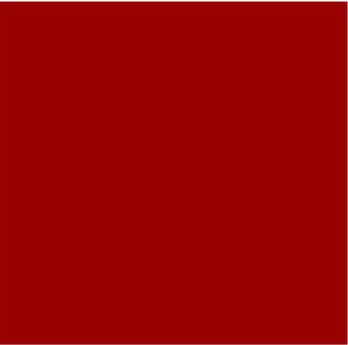


# What We Believe

Our beliefs are important because:

- In the non-essentials—we have liberty.
  - *“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment in disputable matters. . . Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. . . So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. . . So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”*  
(Rom. 14:1,4,12,22)
- In all of our beliefs—we show charity.
  - *“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”*  
(1 Cor. 13:2)





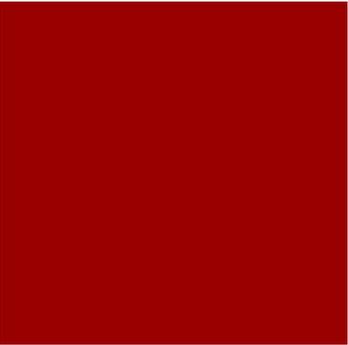
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **1. About God**

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

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2





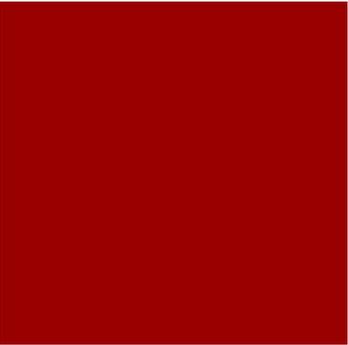
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **2. About Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

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





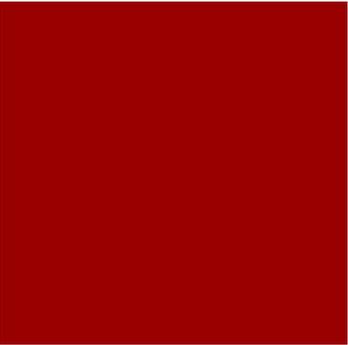
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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

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





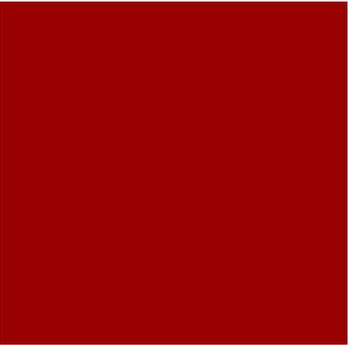
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **4. About the Bible**

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

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





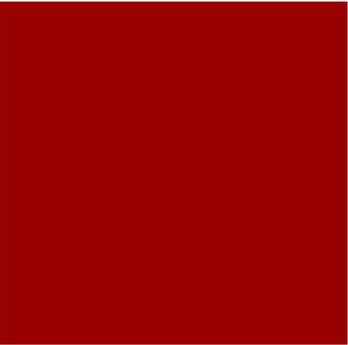
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## 5. About Human Beings

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

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a, 59:1,2; Romans 3:23





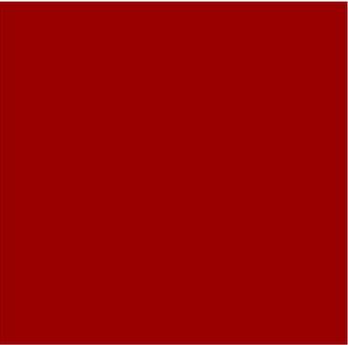
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **6. About Salvation**

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

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





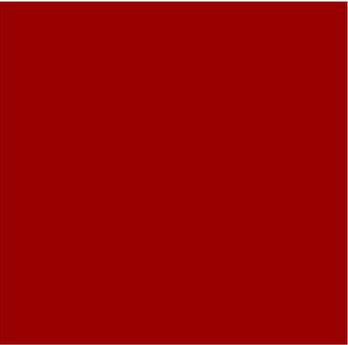
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## 7. About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18;  
Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9





# *The Essentials We Believe*

## 9. THE CHRISTIAN & THE SOCIAL ORDER

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.



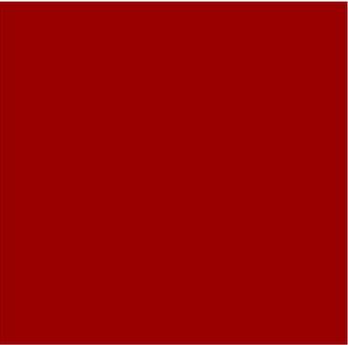
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## 9. THE CHRISTIAN & THE SOCIAL ORDER

We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

*Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*





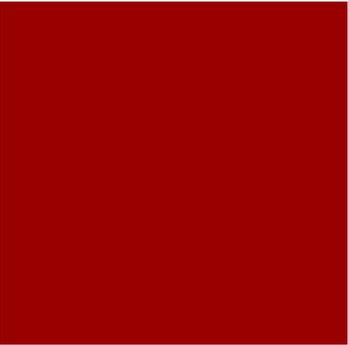
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **10. THE FAMILY**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.



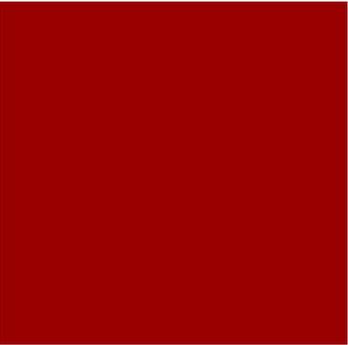


# *The Essentials We Believe*

## **10. THE FAMILY**

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.





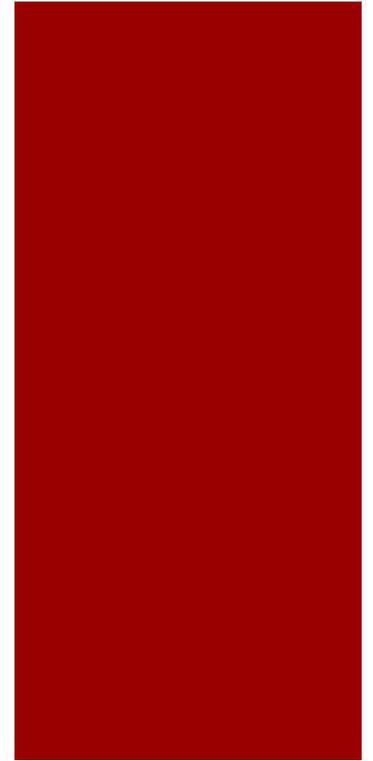
# *The Essentials We Believe*

## 10. THE FAMILY

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

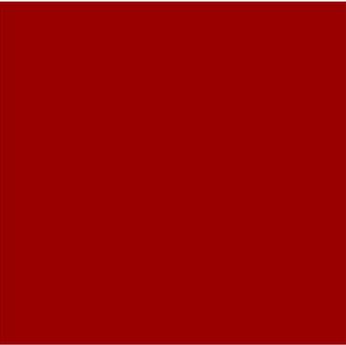
*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*





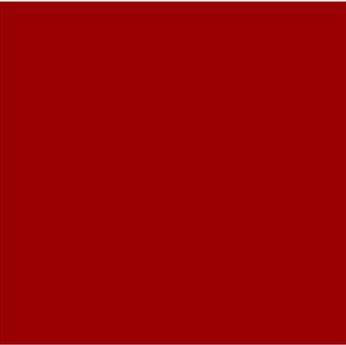
# OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

WHAT WE PRACTICE



# WHAT WE PRACTICE

- 
- Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:



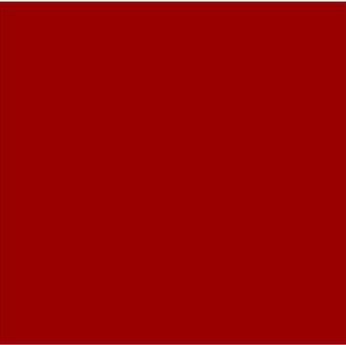
# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ THE BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

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

- Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.



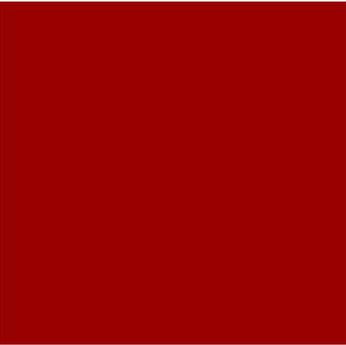
# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

- *“And He (Christ) is the head of the church...”  
(Colossians 1:18)*

- The recognized head of our church is Christ, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

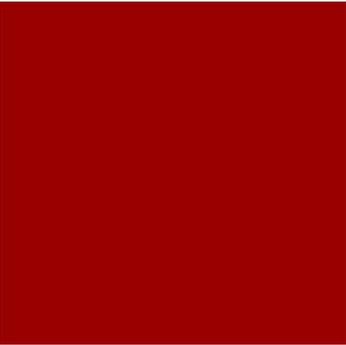


# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ THE PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

- *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)*
- The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full-time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

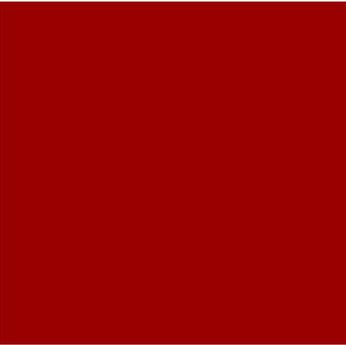


# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ TITHING

- *“A tithe of everything from the land... belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30)*
- At First Baptist we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving at least 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. We give out of a cheerful heart, seeking to be obedient to God’s word.

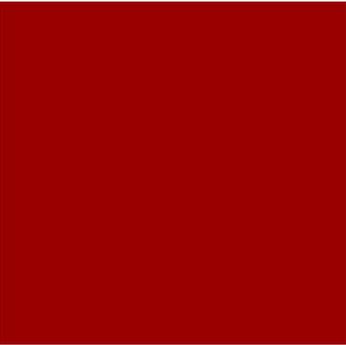


# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

- *“...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (Col. 2:12)*
- We practice baptism by immersion under water the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

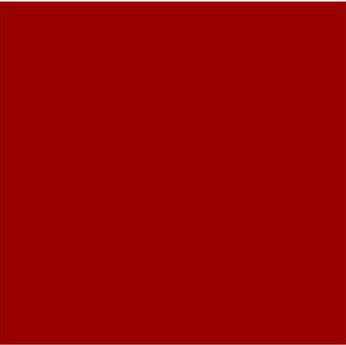


# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ SPIRIT-LED LIVING

- *“I am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)*
- We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18).

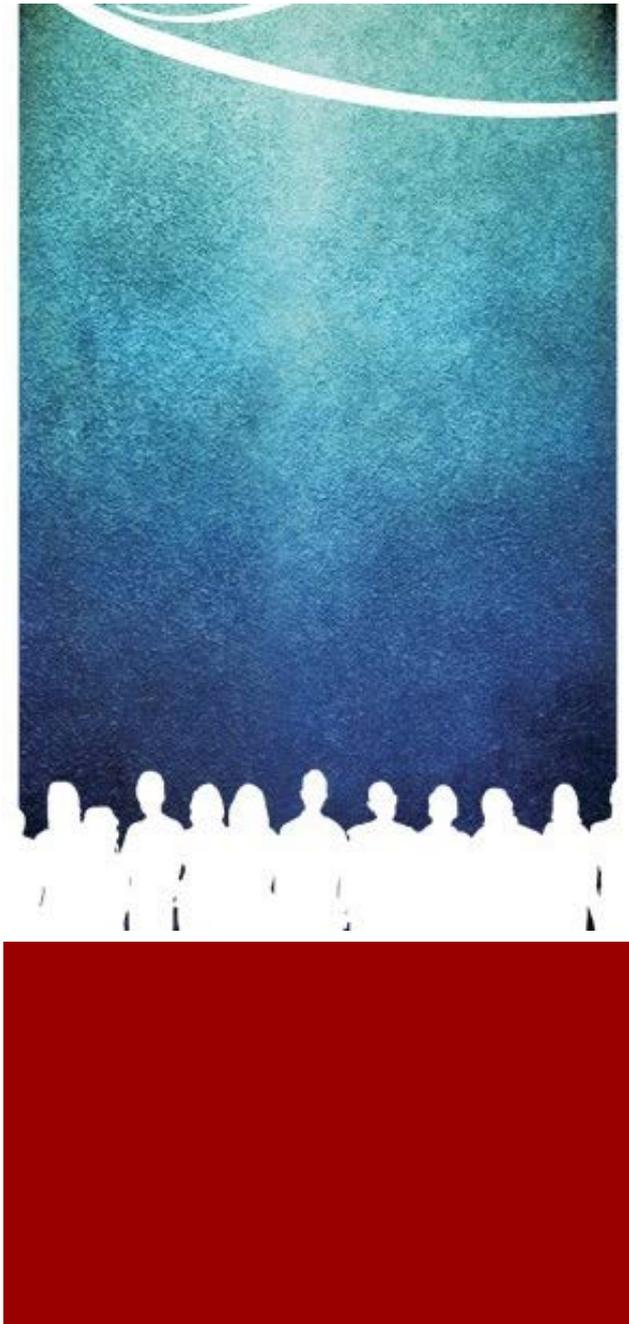


# WHAT WE PRACTICE



## ■ TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

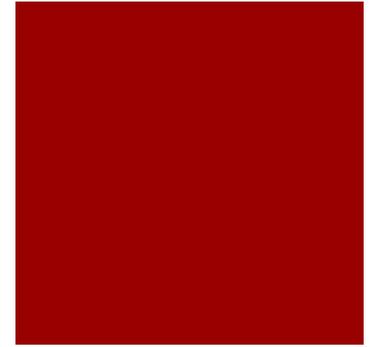
- *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15)*
- It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We actively share about Christ and invite others to church.



# WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

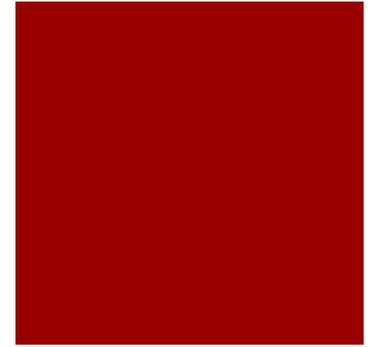
SESSION 5

# WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?



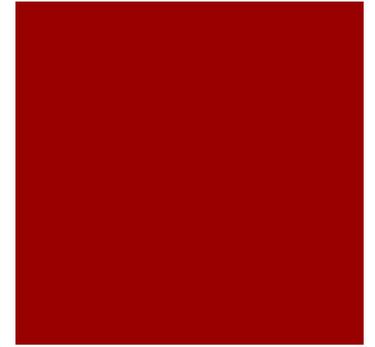
- At First Baptist, we realize that God has placed this church exactly where He wants it, in order to reach this community for Christ. We are surrounded by new developments, different races, and a variety of people at various economic levels. We feel that God wants us to reach all people in our area with the gospel and to carry out our Simple Three Values that we have studied. If we do that, then we are making disciples who:

# WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?



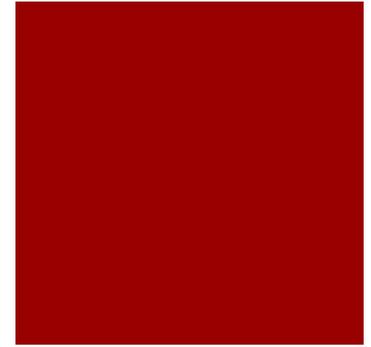
- Exalt the Savior.
  - *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)*
- Equip the saints.
  - *“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Eph. 4:11-12)*

# WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?



- Evangelize the sinner.
  - *“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)*
  - *“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ.” (Acts 5:42)*
  - *“Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.” (Luke 14:23)*

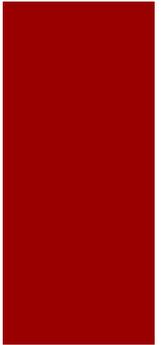
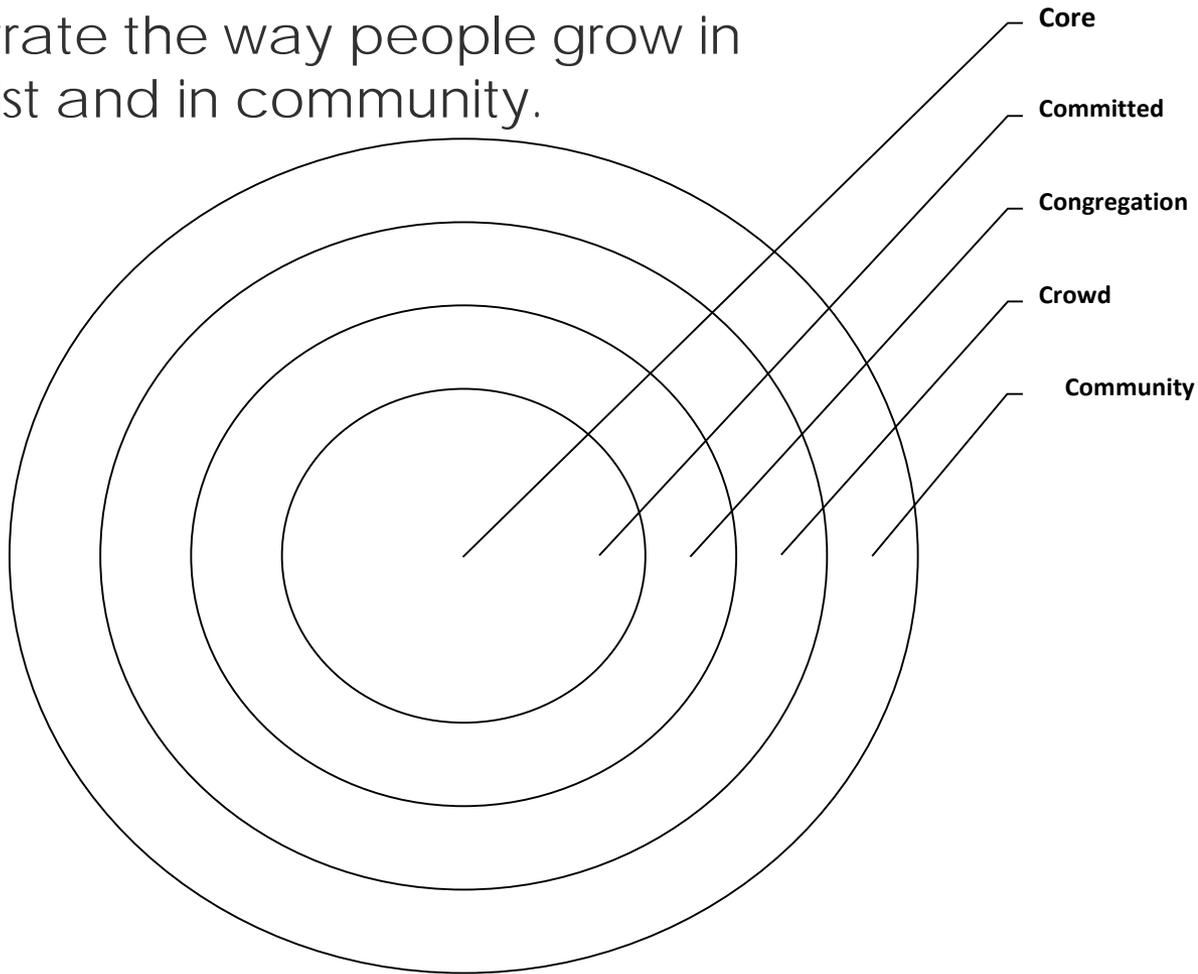
# WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

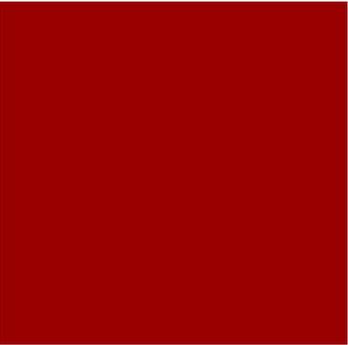


- Exhort the saved.
  - *“My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sin.” (James 5:19-20)*
  - *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

# Five Circles of Commitment

- The five circles of commitment illustrate the way people grow in Christ and in community.





# Five Circles of Commitment

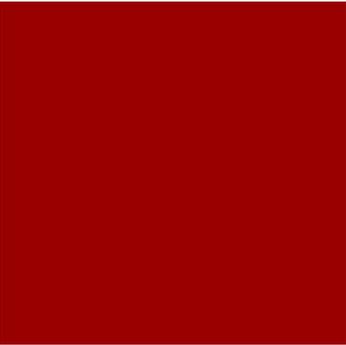
- Our objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:





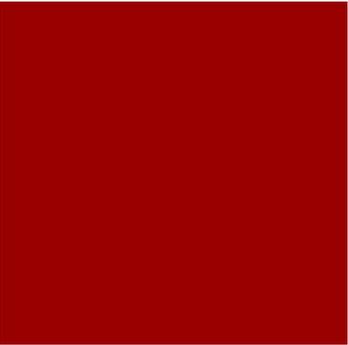
# Four Commitments for Spiritual Growth:

- 
- The Membership Commitment. . .
  - . . . is a commitment to Christ and to the FBCS family.
    - *"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household." (Eph. 2:19)*
  - The Maturity Commitment . . . .
  - . . . is a commitment to the habits necessary for spiritual growth.
    - *"Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18*
    - *".... train yourselves to be godly" 1 Timothy 4:7*



# Four Commitments for Spiritual Growth:

- 
- The Ministry Commitment . . .
  - . . . is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in ministry to God and others.
    - *"Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..."* (1 Peter 4:10)
  - The Missions Commitment . . .
  - . . . is a commitment to sharing the Good News with others.
    - *"...you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)
    - *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."* (1 Peter 3:15)



Why do we have these  
covenants?

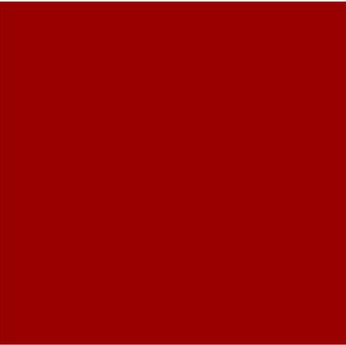


Because we become  
what we are  
**COMMITTED TO !**



# HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

SESSION 5



# How Our Church Is Structured

- The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions. **THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE!**



# How Our Church Is Structured

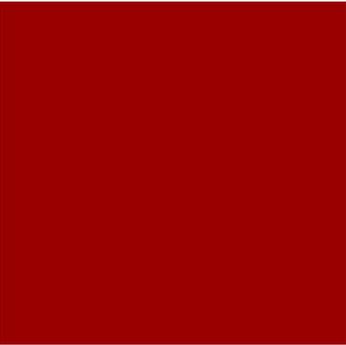
- The Church is a fellowship.
  - *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship..."* (Acts 2:42)
- A top priority of fellowship is harmony and unity.
  - *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."* (Eph. 4:3)
  - *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."* (Romans 14:19)
- ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin!
  - Col. 3:15; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Tim. 2:14; Prov. 17:14; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3; Col. 2:2; Phil. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Cor. 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Tim. 2:23; Rom. 15:5-6, 12:16-18; Col. 3:13-14; Ps. 133:1



# How Our Church Is Structured

- That means: A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences.
  - *"In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you..."* (1 Cor. 11:17-18)
- The Church is a family.
  - *"Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers."* (Hebrews 2:11)
- Therefore we try always to operate on the basis of relationships, NOT rules.





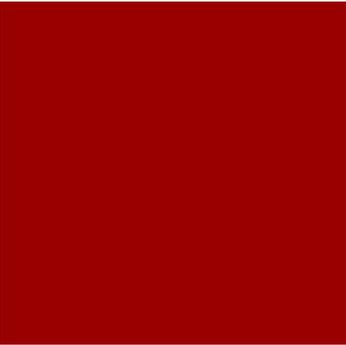
# How Our Church Is Structured

- 
- The Church is a body.
    - 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:23; Eph.1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 2:19
  - We are a body, not a business! We are an organism, not an organization!
  - Therefore, we function on the basis of spiritual gifts , NOT elected positions.
    - *“Just as each of us has one body and many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” (Rom. 12:4-6)*

# How Our Church Is Structured

- In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism “ministry” is the focus.
- At First Baptist, we desire to have a simple structure so we maximize ministry and minimize maintenance.
  - *“God gave... some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” (Eph. 4:11-12)*



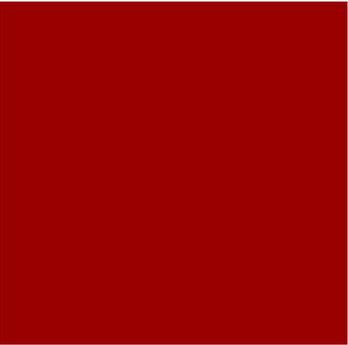


# How Our Church Is Structured

## Key Principles to Remember...

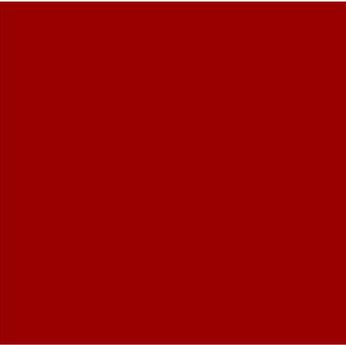
- The People are the ministers.
- The Pastors are the administrators.





# How Our Church Is Structured

- 
- The Church is a flock.
  - (This was Jesus' favorite description of the church)
    - John 10:1-30; Matt. 25:33, 26:31
  - Therefore, it is cared for and led by a shepherd.
    - *"Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Do you really love me?' 'Yes Lord,' said Peter. 'Then **take care** of my sheep.'" (John 21:16-17)*

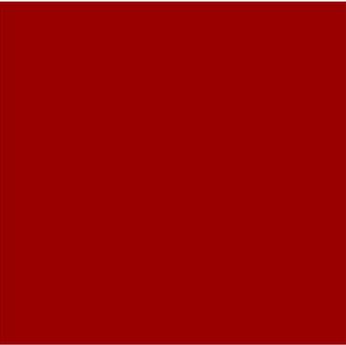


# How Our Church Is Structured



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

- “POIMEN”: Pastor/ Shepherd
- “PRESBUTEROS”: Elders (spiritual not physical)
- “EPISCOPOS”: Overseer, bishops
  - *“To the elders I say... Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers...” 1 Peter 5:1-2*
  - *“Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God...”*
  - Acts 20:17-18, 28
  - See also Titus 1:5-7, 1 Timothy 5:17



# How Our Church Is Structured

To stay organized for ministry, we are:

- Constituted
- Incorporated
- Congregationally-governed
- Pastor-led





# OUR AFFILIATIONS

SESSION 5



# OUR AFFILIATIONS

- **The Brunswick Baptist Association**

- 48 churches fellowship together and work together to reach this area for Christ.

- **The North Carolina Baptist Convention**

- 4,300 churches fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state.

- **The Southern Baptist Convention**

- The SBC has more than 45,000 churches and missions-churches in North America that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions.

# What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It is the largest association of churches in North Carolina and America. One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC (44,000 churches and over 16 million members.)
- It is the most *diverse* association of churches. SBC churches include every race, nationality and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the United States.
- It is one of the fastest *growing* groups. The SBC baptizes over 1,000 new Christians a day in the United States and begins 5 new churches a day!





# Why not just be an independent church?

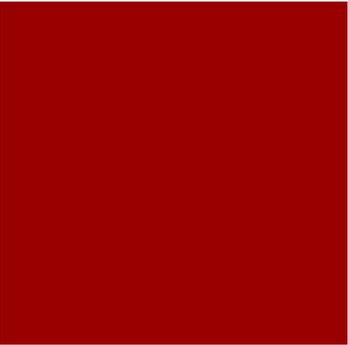
We *are* an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets
- Every SBC church determines its own programs



# What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?

- It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made “creed”. The Bible is our only authority.
- It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC Cooperative Program we help support over 8,500 missionaries in 153 countries around the world.

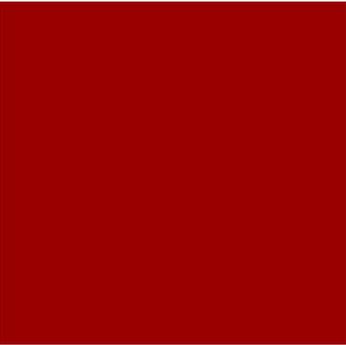


# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

- 
- The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: commitment.
  - At First Baptist, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

## 1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

- “... Christ loved the church and gave His life for it.”  
(Eph. 5:25)

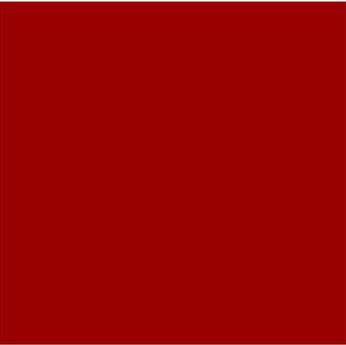


# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER



2. **A Cultural Reason:** It is an antidote to our society.

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

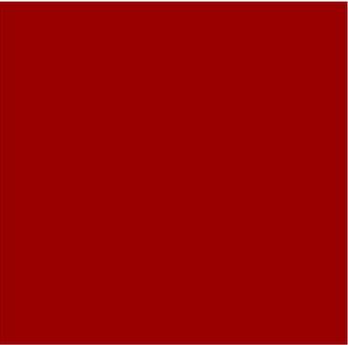


# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER



3. **A Practical Reason:** It defines who can be counted on.

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

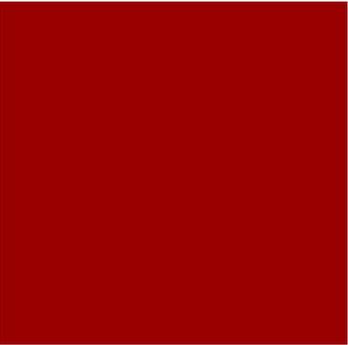


# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

## 4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

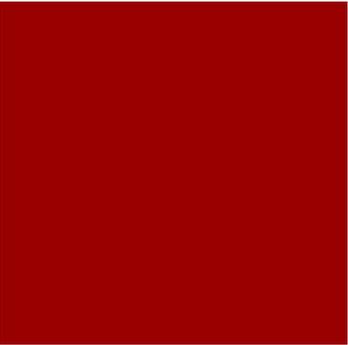
- The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.





# What is expected of me as a member?

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- At First Baptist, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out below, in the form of a covenant:
  - “As I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the First Baptist Church family, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:”

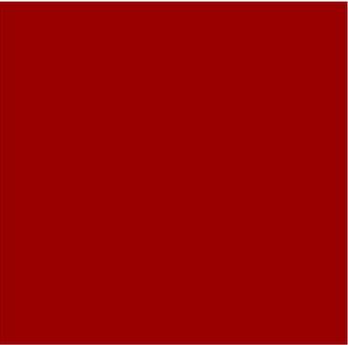


# What is expected of me as a member?



## I will protect the unity of my church

- ...by acting in love toward other members.
- ...by refusing to gossip.
- ...by following the leaders.
  - *“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”* Romans 14:19
  - *“May the God who gives you endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.”* Romans 15:5
  - *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...”* Ephesians 4:29
  - *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.”* Hebrews 13:17

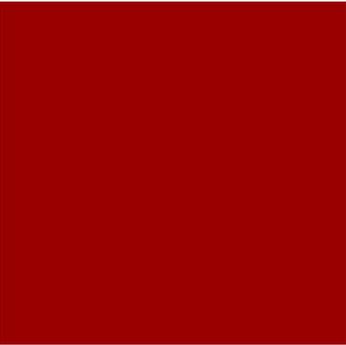


# What is expected of me as a member?



## I will share the responsibility of my church

- ... by praying for its growth.
- ... by inviting the lost and unchurched to attend
- ....by warmly welcoming those who visit.
  - *"To the church... we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly."* 1 Thessalonians 1:2
  - *"Go out into the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house may be full."* Luke 14:23
  - *"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you, then God will be glorified."* Romans 15:7

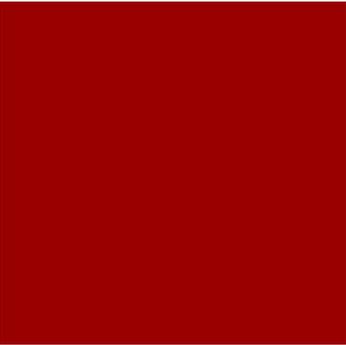


# What is expected of me as a member?



## I will serve the ministry of my church

- ... by discovering my gifts and talents.
- ... by being equipped to serve.
- ... by developing a servant's heart.
  - *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in various forms."*  
1 Peter 4:10
  - *"God gave..., some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."* Ephesians 4:11-12
  - *"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ who took on the very nature of a servant..."* Philippians 2:3-4, 7



# What is expected of me as a member?



## I will support the testimony of my church

- ... by attending faithfully.
- ... by living a godly life.
- ... by tithing regularly.
  - *"not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching."* Hebrews 10:25
  - *"Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ."* Phil 1:27
  - *"On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come."* 1 Cor. 16:2
  - *"Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD."* Lev. 27:30



# What are My Next Steps?

SESSION 5



# What are My Next Steps?

- And that's it! You have completed this study!
- If God is leading you to join First Baptist Church, the next step, if you have not already done so, is to come forward when the Pastor invites people to respond to Christ following the Sunday morning message.



# What are My Next Steps?

Also,

- Join a Sunday School class or other small group Bible study. We will provide for information about our Bible studies so you can get involved.
- Get involved in ministry. We will provide for you a list of leaders and their contact information for the ministries of our church.
- Invite someone to worship with you.



# What are My Next Steps?

Also,

- Follow God's leading and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ!
- Study one of the next-step books recommended:
  - *I Am a Member*, by Thom S. Rainer; *Multiply* by Francis Chan;
  - *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby;
  - *SimpleLife* by Thom Rainer;
  - *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts* (or a related study)



# What are My Next Steps?

- At the conclusion of this study, you will receive a card asking for more information about you and areas you would like to serve as a member of FBCS. Please complete the card and return it to the Pastor or leader of this study.
- Welcome to FBCS!