

## Lesson 1

**BECOMING A PART OF OUR CHURCH****BECOMING A PART OF OUR CHURCH**

Faith Church is a family of followers of Jesus Christ who desire to honor God by applying His sufficient Word to all areas of life and ministry. The apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Churches that seek to please God and follow His Word can expect and enjoy His blessing. One way God regularly blesses Faith is with new people. Therefore, we choose to view each person God brings to us as one of God's potential blessings!

**HISTORY****The History of Faith Church**

Faith Church (originally Faith Baptist Church) began as a vision of the congregation of Kossuth Street Baptist Church (currently located on the corner of 29th and Kossuth Street). Services began in February 1964 under the direction of Pastor Roland Reed. Beginning in 1967, Glen Lockwood pastored Faith for six fast-growing years. In 1975, God provided leadership in Pastor William Goode. As the church continued to increase in spiritual maturity and size, it outgrew its land and facilities on 18th Street. In 1986, the church relocated to our present location on State Road 26 East. In 1987, Pastor Goode and the congregation invited Steve Viars to join the staff as the Associate Pastor – with the plan in mind for Steve to eventually become the senior pastor. In February of 1996, our congregation unanimously elected Steve as our senior pastor and he served as our senior pastor until 2024. Jesus has been faithful to continue to build his Church through the years as Faith Church established campuses and community centers in West Lafayette in 2013 (Faith Church West) and in the Northend of Lafayette in 2018 (Faith Church North). In 2025, Faith's congregation elected Rob Green as the current lead pastor.

For a more detailed timeline and history of the church please visit our website: [faithlafayette.org/church/about/history](http://faithlafayette.org/church/about/history)

**MISSION****The Mission of Faith Church**

The Mission of the church is expressed in the New Testament and abbreviated in Matthew 28:19, 20 and Ephesians 4:11-16. What are Christ's four commands in Matthew 28:19, 20 that describe the mission of Christ's followers?

#1: \_\_\_\_\_

#2: \_\_\_\_\_

#3: \_\_\_\_\_

#4: \_\_\_\_\_

*The mission of Faith Church is to glorify God by winning people to Jesus Christ and equipping them to be more faithful disciples.*

We have summarized this mission based on the Scriptures in the following way:  
*The mission of Faith Church is to glorify God by winning people to Jesus Christ and equipping them to be more faithful disciples.*

## ABOUT THE BIBLE

## ABOUT THE CHURCH

## VALUES

## The Values of Faith Church

**GROWING STRONGER** - believing that God has a plan for every Christian's growth and that He wants godly lives and families built.

**REACHING OUT** - believing that a changed life enables us to reach those without Christ in a way that is faithful and creative.

**SERVING TOGETHER** - believing that God wants us to challenge and equip our members to serve Him, and that He wants every member serving.

**MEETING NEEDS** - believing that our church should address community concerns by doing good works and sharing biblical truths.

**STRENGTHENING OTHERS** - believing that God is pleased as we seek to strengthen other pastors, missionaries, and key lay leaders.

**I. What We Believe About the Bible** (See Articles of Faith I)

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (or the Scriptures) are:

- A. INSPIRED – verbally inspired and the product of God through Spirit-controlled men. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 1:16, 28:25).
- B. INERRANT – Truth without error. (Psalm 119:105, 130, 160; Luke 24:25-27, 44, 45; John 17:17).
- C. AUTHORITATIVE – the supreme authority by which all human conduct, creed and opinions should be tried (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Matthew 7:21-23; Psalm 119:89; Proverbs 30:5, 6; Romans 3:4; 1 Peter 1:23; Revelation 22:19; John 12:48; Isaiah 8:7-11; John 1:45-47; John 5:39)
- D. SUFFICIENT – In his Word He “has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).

**II. What Is The Church?** (See Articles of Faith XIV)

In the Bible, the Church is described as both UNIVERSAL and LOCAL.

- A. The **church universal** is a New Testament institution, established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole Head; revealed through the apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; His “body” for service and His “bride” for glory. The church universal began with the New Testament Saints at Pentecost and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the Rapture. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8, 2:1-13, 41-47, 15:14; Ephesians 1:22, 23, 3:21, 5:23-32; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- B. The church universal is manifested through the **local church**, which is:
  - 1. a congregation of baptized believers, associated together by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel. (Acts 2:41, 42)
  - 2. observing the ordinances of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:2)
  - 3. governed by His laws. (Ephesians 1:22, 23)
  - 4. exercising the gifts, responsibilities and privileges invested in them by His work. (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8:11)
  - 5. that its scriptural offices are those of pastors, elders or bishops, and deacons whose qualification, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. (Acts 14:23, 6:5, 6, 15:23, 20:17-28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-13)
  - 6. that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit's direction by the Word. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23, 24; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

7. that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel and that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. (Acts 15:22; Jude 2, 3; 2 Corinthians 8:23, 24; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3)
8. that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence, the will of the local church following the Word of God is final. (Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 27:32; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13)

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### IMPORTANCE

#### Matthew 16:13-23

13. Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
14. And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."
15. He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16. Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17. And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."
18. "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."
19. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
20. Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.
21. From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.
22. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."
23. But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

### III. The Importance of Church Membership

Why should anyone consider the church, and membership in a church, to be important?

A. It is important because it was important to Jesus Christ. Please read Matthew 16:13-23.

1. What question did Jesus pose to His disciples (v.13)?
2. How did Peter answer (v. 16), and what did Jesus think about His answer (v. 17)?
3. Jesus refers to Peter's confession in v. 18 when He says "upon this rock" [i.e. Peter's profession in v. 16 that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the Living God"]. What did Jesus say He would build upon this rock?
4. What does this tell us about the importance of the church to our Lord, and how should this affect the way we view the church?
5. How would you respond to a person who said, "I love Jesus Christ, but I have no place in my life for the church?"

B. It is important because of the place the church is given in the New Testament. Many of the New Testament epistles are addressed to local churches and their leaders. Please read the following scriptures. How does Paul describe the recipients of his letters?

- Romans 1:7
- 1 Corinthians 1:2
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1
- Philippians 1:1
- 1 Timothy 1:2
- Titus 1:4

**Ephesians 5:23-32**

23. *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.*
24. *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.*
25. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,*
26. *so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*
27. *that He might present to Himself the church [fn]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.*
28. *So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;*
29. *for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,*
30. *because we are members of His body.*
31. **FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**
32. *This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.*

C. It is important because of the way the church is described in God's Word.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of which Christ is Head.  
(Colossians 1:18a)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ of which Christ is the Cornerstone.  
(Ephesians 2:20, 21)
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ of whom Christ is the Bridegroom.  
(Ephesians 5:23-32)
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ of whom Christ is the Owner.  
(Titus 2:14)
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ of which Christ is the Shepherd.  
(1 Peter 5:2-4)
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ of which Christ is the Creator.  
(Ephesians 2:15)
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ of which Christ is the High Priest.  
(1 Peter 2:9)
8. An \_\_\_\_\_ of which Christ is the Heir.  
(Ephesians 1:18)

D. It is important because of the way New Testament churches kept organized membership rolls.

- The numbers were known (Acts 1:15, 2:41, 4:4).
- Special rolls were kept (1 Timothy 5:9).
- Election of officers assumes a roll (Acts 6:2-5).
- Church discipline assumes a roll (1 Cor. 5:13).

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP***BENEFITS***IV. THE BENEFITS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP****LOVE:** *Please read John 13:34-35*

The church is a place where you can others and be \_\_\_\_\_ by others.

**LEARN:** *Please read 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

The church is a place where you can \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

**WORSHIP:** *Please read Ephesians 5:19-21*

The church is a place where you can worship God with other believers and \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual songs together.

**SERVING:** *Please read 1 Corinthians 12:4-8*

The church is a place where you can use your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to serve God and others.

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP***REQUIREMENTS***V. THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

(See Articles of Faith VI to XI)

When it comes to the matter of requirements for church membership, God's Word clearly outlines two requirements for church membership. *Please re-read Acts 2:41.*

A. Salvation by grace alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), through faith alone (Romans 10:9), in Christ alone (1 Corinthians 15:1-5).

How does John 1:12 state this? *“But as many as \_\_\_\_\_ Him . . .”* This word has the meaning “take hold of” or “grasp.” A person must “grasp” or “take hold” of Him (Christ) as one's own Savior.

B. Repentance is NOT merely feeling “sorry” or “remorseful” over your sin. True repentance literally means a “change of mind” with reference to sin and God which produces a change in action.

What phrase in 1 Thessalonians 1:9 describes true repentance on the part of the Thessalonian believers?

C. Baptism by immersion AFTER salvation. *Please read Matthew 28:19, 20.*

1. What are Christ's four commands in Matthew 28:19, 20?
2. Baptism serves as an identification with Jesus Christ and an outward expression of a person's inward faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection; it is a reminder that you are dead to sin and raised to walk in newness of life. *Please read Romans 6:3-6.*
3. Which mode of baptism fits the thought of the following passages: sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?
  - John 3:23
  - Acts 8:36-39
  - Romans 6:4-5
  - Colossians 2:12

*Note: Faith and repentance are two sides of the same coin of salvation.*

*Baptism is not a part of salvation, but evidence of it!*

## Lesson 2

# UNDERSTANDING OUR PURPOSE



## WE WERE CREATED FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

The book of Genesis explains the origins of man and the purpose for our lives. God created Adam and Eve according to his image, as male and female, to worship and serve him as God's vice-regents. In other words, we are created to be the visible representatives of the invisible God.

Man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through long periods of time from lower to higher forms. Instead it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively as revealed by the Scriptures (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Revelation 10:6; Romans 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jeremiah 10:10) (See Faith Church Articles of Faith V).

*Read Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:15-18.*

In what ways are Adam and Eve commanded to represent what God is like?

**THE PURPOSE OF GLORIFYING, WORSHIPING, AND SERVING GOD IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE ARE MEANT TO DO ALONE AND IN ISOLATION, BUT WITH OTHERS. OUR PURPOSE OF WORSHIP AND SERVICE TO GOD IS ALSO CARRIED OUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHURCH'S PURPOSE.**

Put simply, our goal in life is to please God and glorify him through everything we do (1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:9). We are commanded to love God and love others, yet because of Adam's fall, men and women are now sinners by inheritance from Adam and by individual choice and until regenerated are dead in sin and inclined to evil (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 3:10-13). Man's only hope of eternal life is through redemption in Jesus Christ (John 3:3, 5; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Galatians 3:26). Only by faith in Christ can we please the Lord and love God and others (Hebrews 11:6) (See Faith Church Articles of Faith VI).

*Read Mark 12:28-34*

What does Jesus teach is the greatest commandment in Scripture?

The purpose of glorifying, worshiping, and serving God is not something that we are meant to do alone and in isolation, but with others. Our purpose of worship and service to God is also carried out in the context of the church's purpose.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

### The Purpose of the Church

In 1 Timothy 3:15, the apostle Paul referred to the church as "the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth." These words express how important the church is in our Lord's plan and program. It is not surprising that God gives us clear instruction in the Bible about the purpose of the church. We will organize our study around four key Biblical purposes of the church.

**THE PURPOSE  
OF THE CHURCH**  
*WORSHIP*

Charles H. Spurgeon wrote,

"There should be some preparation of the heart in coming to the worship of God. Consider who He is in whose name we gather, and surely we cannot rush together without thought. Consider whom we profess to worship, and we shall not hurry into His presence as men run to a fire. Moses, the man of God, was warned to put off his shoes from his feet when God only revealed Himself in a bush. How should we prepare ourselves when we come to Him who reveals Himself in Christ Jesus, His dear Son? There should be no stumbling into the place of worship half asleep, no roaming here as if it were no more than going to a playhouse. We cannot expect to profit much if we bring with us a swarm of idle thoughts and a heart crammed with vanity. If we are full of folly, we may shut out the truth of God from our minds."

(Carter, Tom, comp. Charles H. Spurgeon: Spurgeon at His Best. Baker, 1988. pp. 223-224.)

**I. WORSHIP**

A. **THE MEANING** of worship:

Our word "worship" is derived from the old English word "worthship," and that helps us to understand its basic meaning. Worship is acknowledging the unique worth of an object and showing honor and respect to it. So biblical words like honor, respect, awe, adoration, reverence, and glorifying are often near synonyms for the term "worship," communicating a similar idea. Obviously, this practice is not one that is limited to public gatherings. In fact, in Scripture those terms are used much more often in regard to our personal relationship with God than to our activities in the presence of other Christians.

(Mack, Wayne A., and David Swavely. *Life in the Father's House: A Member's Guide to the Local Church*. P&R Publishing, 1996. p. 95.)

B. **THE FOCUS:** Please read Psalm 95:6-7b, 96:8-9.

1. Who is to be the focus of our worship?

2. What do these verses teach us about our thoughts and actions during corporate worship?

3. What does Mark 7:6-7 add to our understanding of the focus of our worship?

C. **THE IMPORTANCE:** God commands us to worship.

Please read Deuteronomy 6:13 and Matthew 4:10

What do these passages tell us about the importance of worship?

D. **THE PREPARATION FOR OUR WORSHIP:** Being in a right relationship with others. Please read Matthew 5:23-24.

E. How important is solving problems with others? Is a person worshiping Biblically if he has unsolved problems with other people?

F. THE ELEMENTS OF OUR WORSHIP: Following the example of the early church (Acts 2:42-47) our worship includes these elements:

**Instruction** – “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching” (Acts 2:42)

**Prayer** – “...and to prayer” (Acts 2:42).

**Singing** – “...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...” (Ephesians 5:19).

**Observing the ordinances** – “...those who received His word were baptized...” (Acts 2:41); “They were continually devoting themselves...to the breaking of bread...” (Acts 2:42).

**Giving** – “...and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need...” (Acts 2:45).

## THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

INSTRUCTION

### James 1:22-25

22. *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*
23. *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;*
24. *for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.*
25. *But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*

### I. INSTRUCTION

- A. Delivering Instruction: Please read 2 Timothy 2:15. This verse commands pastors to work hard as they study the Scriptures. What does this verse say will result in the life of a pastor if he does not work hard? What will result if he does work hard?
- B. Receiving Instruction: Please read James 1:22-25. What do these verses tell us about the importance of listening to truth and obeying the Word?
- C. Applying Instruction: Please read Ephesians 4:11-17.
  1. What should happen as a result of the instruction we receive from God’s Word? (v. 12)
  2. Who should we “become more like” as a result of the instruction we receive? (vv. 13, 15)
  3. What pitfalls will be avoided if we carefully receive this instruction? (v. 14)
  4. How does “faithful receiving of instruction” affect the overall church body? (v. 16)
  5. Please read Ephesians 5. What do you observe are some examples of how instruction is to be applied in the lives of church members?

## THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP

### III. FELLOWSHIP

From our previous study of Acts 2:41-47, what phrases does this passage contain that illustrate Biblical fellowship?

Faith Church provides a variety of opportunities for fellowship such as Adult Bible Fellowships, Faith Groups, small groups for men and women, and fellowship groups for teenagers and seniors. You can find a list of these opportunities for fellowship at [www.faithlafayette.org/connect](http://www.faithlafayette.org/connect).

**THE PURPOSE  
OF THE CHURCH**

*RESPONSIBILITIES*

Romans 12:3-21

1 Corinthians 12:12-25

Ephesians 4

A church covenant summarizes the teaching of the Scriptures for church member responsibilities and articulates what believers in Christ agree to commit to do toward one another in a specific local church in accordance with the Scriptures.

Each member of Faith Church agrees to honor and please the Lord by covenanting like our God to live in relationship with others in the ways that God commands according to his Word.

**THE PURPOSE  
OF THE CHURCH**

*SERVICE*

*For additional understanding of the purpose of our church, please review the following documents:*

- Church Covenant
- Articles of Faith
- Constitution

**V. SERVICE**

Because this is such an important area of church life, it will be developed fully in Lesson 4 of this series.

## Lesson 3

**GROWING IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD****GROWING IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD**

Part of our written philosophy of ministry states: Our emphasis is on progressive sanctification, believing that God has a plan for every Christian's growth and that He wants Godly lives and families built. The apostle Peter wrote, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity" (2 Peter 3:18). In this lesson we will study what God's Word says about how you can grow in your walk with God.

We believe that Biblical Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, the believer is set apart from sin, unto Christ, and has three aspects (See Articles of Faith XII):

1. **POSITIONAL** - the believer has been set apart positionally before God the moment he believes. (1 Corinthians 1:30, 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 10:10, 14)
2. **PROGRESSIVE** - the believer is being set apart progressively in his walk day by day as he grows in grace toward the likeness of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, watchfulness, prayer and yielding to the Spirit through Biblical change. (John 17:17; Romans 8:13; 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 8:28, 29a; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 4:7b; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 John 3:3; Romans 12:1, 2; Ephesians 4:22, 24)
3. **PROSPECTIVE or GLORIFICATION** - the believer is to be set apart prospectively from the very presence of sin when his sanctification is completed at the coming of Christ for the church. (1 John 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 5:23)

**I. THE HOPE FOR CHANGE****1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

9. *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*
10. *Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

- A. Other Christians have changed. – Please read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
  1. List several of the sinful lifestyles mentioned in verses 9-10:
  2. Are the sinful habits mentioned in these verses serious? Would you consider them hard to change?
  3. What are the first six words of verse 11, and how do they give hope?

## INTRODUCTION TO FAITH

### Psalm 19:7

*The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

### John 17:17

*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

B. God's Word is sufficient to help us change. – Please read Psalm 19:7 and John 17:17.

1. What means does God use to sanctify (change) people according to these verses?

2. What words are used in this verse to describe what God has granted to us in His Word?

C. God has promised to help us change.

Because our rate of change and growth affects our relationship with God (and vice versa), it is not surprising to learn that each Person of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) is involved in helping us change.)

1. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ the fruitful vine. (John 15:2)

2. The Son \_\_\_\_\_ by the water of the Word. (Ephesians 5:26)

3. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ us as we behold Christ's face in the mirror of His Word. (2 Cor. 3:18)

D. God has promised to help us change; this is not to say that we have no responsibility in the matter. What does 1 Timothy 4:7 say about our responsibility in the process of change?

## II. THE GOAL OF CHANGE

A. Christlikeness: Please read Romans 8:28-29.

1. What does v. 28 say God will cause all things to work together for?

2. What two conditions are given in the second half of v. 28 that must be met before a person can claim the promise that God will cause all things to work together for good?

a. to those who \_\_\_\_\_

b. to those who are called according to \_\_\_\_\_

3. Romans 8:29 explains God's great purpose for His children with the phrase "conformed to the

\_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Being pleasing to God: Please read 2 Corinthians 5:9.

In this verse, Paul explains that the ambition (goal) of a believer should be to please God. What other ambitions might take the place of pleasing God in a believer's heart and life?

**III. THE PROCESS OF CHANGE**

Please read Ephesians 4:22-24.

**Ephesians 4:22-24**

22. *that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,*
23. *and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*
24. *and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

**A. Put Off:** Ephesians 4:22

We are commanded to lay aside habits associated with the unsaved lifestyle. After a person has identified ways he is unlike Christ, he must determine that he will stop repeating that habit (with God's help). Just like a person with dirty clothes begins the change process by taking the dirty clothes off, believers identify areas of their lives that are displeasing to God and put that sinful habit off.

**B. Change your thinking:** Ephesians 4:23

A critical part of the change process involves the inner person. To change biblically, a believer must be "renewed in the spirit of your mind." Christian change is not simply behaviorism. God wants us to become more like Jesus Christ from the inside out.

**C. Put On:** Ephesians 4:24

Paul completes the principle by instructing God's people to "put on the new self." A person does not change by simply stopping. Instead, God wants us to practice the principle of replacement - putting off what is wrong and replacing it with what is right.

*To practice identifying "put-offs" and "put-ons", please complete the following chart after reading the verses in the left column.*

VERSE	PUT OFF	PUT ON
EPHESIANS 4:26		
EPHESIANS 4:28		

**FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY, READ:**

1. *Godliness Through Discipline* by Jay Adams. This 25-page booklet is based on 1 Timothy 4:7 where Paul said "...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness."
2. *How to Help People Change* by Jay Adams.

**V. THE BLESSINGS OF CHANGE**

Please read Ephesians 4:25-32

- A. Edifying speech
- B. Generous behavior
- C. Pleasing God and not grieving him
- D. Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.



## Lesson 4

# SERVING TOGETHER IN OUR CHURCH

**John 13:5-17**

5. Then He \*poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
6. So He \*came to Simon Peter. He \*said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"
7. Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter."
8. Peter \*said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."
9. Simon Peter \*said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."
10. Jesus \*said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."
11. For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."
12. So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?
13. "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.
14. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
15. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.
16. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.
17. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

One of the great joys of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the opportunity to serve in His church. While the idea of serving is often looked down upon in our society, Christians view serving God and others as a high and holy privilege. Jesus is the One who "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant" (Philippians 2:7) and said, "whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 20:26).

Even heaven is described as a place where "there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him" (Revelation 22:3).

## I. THE MODEL OF SERVICE

Please read John 13:5-17 and answer the following questions:

A. What was Peter's initial reaction to Jesus' offer in v. 8?

What does this tell us about Peter's view of serving?

B. What did Jesus ask His disciples at the end of v. 12?

Do you believe that by asking this question, Jesus wanted His disciples to think about the literal act of foot-washing or the principle of serving others? Please explain your answer.

C. How did Jesus want His disciples to be different as a result of hearing this instruction?

D. According to v. 17, what did Jesus say would be the result of "doing" what He said?

### Matthew 20:20-28

20. *Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.*
21. *And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."*
22. *But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."*
23. *He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."*
24. *And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.*
25. *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.*
26. *"It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,*
27. *and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;*
28. *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

### II. THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE

Many people think of a servant as a person with little ambition, intelligence, giftedness, or skills. However, the Word of God makes it clear that servants are deserving of honor.

- A. A sign of Christian greatness: Please read Matthew 20:20-28 and answer the following questions:
  1. What request did the mother of Zebedee make in v. 21, and how was her desire for her sons different than Jesus'?
  2. The people Jesus spoke of in v. 25 were the unsaved rulers of the day. Notice He described their leadership as "lording it over them" or "exercising authority over them." What words might we use today to describe this kind of leadership?
  3. How does Jesus want His children to be different, according to verses 26-28?
- B. A matter of stewardship: 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy." In Bible times, a steward was a servant who was entrusted with the care and administration of his master's household while he was away. The steward's responsibility was to care for all that had been entrusted to him in a way that would please his master.
- C. Please read Matthew 25:14-27 and answer the following questions.
  1. Was there any difference in the master's commendation to the servants who had earned more than they were originally given?
  2. What did the master say to the third servant who squandered the opportunity to increase the single talent he was given (see verses 26-27)?
  3. What are the implications of that passage to service in Christ's church today?

**1 Peter 4:10**

*"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

**Ephesians 4:11-12**

*"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;"*

**1 Corinthians 12:7**

*"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

**III. THE GIFTS OF SERVICE**

God never asks us to do something without giving us the resources to accomplish the task.

A. Spiritual gifts: Please read 1 Peter 4:10.

The Word of God teaches that each believer in Jesus Christ has been given at least one spiritual gift. What lessons can we learn about this subject from this important verse?

B. The responsibility of the church: Please read Ephesians 4:11-12.

We believe we have a responsibility to help each person IDENTIFY his/her spiritual gift(s), to EQUIP (train) each person to use his/her spiritual gift(s), and to DEPLOY each equipped person into meaningful service within the local church.

C. The responsibility of church members: Please read 1 Cor. 12:7 and answer the following question:

What would you say to a person who had no interest in using his/her spiritual gift to serve in Christ's church?

**IV. THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

Humanly speaking, our church is what it is today, in large part, because of faithful people who love to sacrificially serve Christ.

A. Informal opportunities: taking a meal to someone who is ill, being friendly to a guest at church, inviting a friend to a special church event, praying for those in need, thanking someone for serving your children, etc.

B. Formal opportunities: Nursery, children's ministries, student ministries, college ministries, international student ministries, ushers, greeters, worship team, choir, orchestra, worship service tech, worship live streaming, building and grounds maintenance, snow removal, clerical assistance, community ministries, Community Picnic, Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, Christmas for Everyone, Living Nativity, Winter Break at Faith, and much more.

C. A few of the service positions in our church are designed so that anyone can participate. Most, however, require church membership. The reason for this is that our church leaders are responsible to ensure that those who serve in the name of Christ represent Him well. Some ministry positions even require adherence to our church's leadership standards.

*Please ask for more details from one of our pastors or the leader of the ministry in which you are interested.*

For a list of current serving opportunities at the church please visit [faithlafayette.org/serve](http://faithlafayette.org/serve).