



Bethany 101



MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Our classes will move from looking at the Church universal, to our Baptist Association, to the local church at Bethany, and then to you personally. - ***think of it like a funnel***

Lesson 1: A Biblical Understanding of the Church

1. The Church (Introduction)
2. The Church and the OT
3. The Church and the NT
4. Current Church
5. Five NT pictures of the Church

Lesson 2: A Biblical Understanding of the Church

1. The Apostle's Creed
2. Believer's Baptism
3. Communion

Lesson 3: The North American Baptist Conference and the BC Association

1. NAB History
2. NAB Statement of Faith

Lesson 4: Bethany Baptist Church

1. Our Mission, Vision and Values
2. The Five Dynamics of a Healthy Church
3. Time, Talent, Treasure
4. Our Covenant

Lesson 5: Your Spiritual Gifts and Devotional Life

1. The Body of Christ & Spiritual Gifts
2. The Devotional Life

Lesson One: A Biblical Understanding of the Church

1. The Church (Introduction)

- a) The church is built on the confession of the faith of Peter (Matt. 16:13-20), on the foundation of the scriptures, apostles, and prophets – with Christ as her chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20) and head (Eph. 1:22-23, Rom. 12:4-5).
- b) The work of the Spirit of Christ is proclaimed by the body of Christ, which, under the new covenant, is the church (Acts 17: 24).
- c) The role of the church is to proclaim Christ through the preaching and teaching of scripture; as well as worship God (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Pet. 3:15), care for the least of these (Matt. 25:37-40), and make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20).
- d) The Church is not a building, a denomination, or an institution; it is a community of people who profess faith in Christ.
- e) The Spirit, who lives in each believer, draws Christians to become part of a local body/church, as well as to the true universal body/church of Christ, in order to carry out the work of the kingdom (Matt. 5:13-16) through the spiritual gifts each individual has been given (1 Cor. 12, Rom. 12, Eph. 4).
- f) The church is to strive for unity without compromise (1 Cor. 12:12-13) so that the world may know that God loves them and has sent Christ to them (John 17:23).
- g) The church exists to model the greatest commandment: To love God and to love others (Deut. 6:5; Mark 12:30-31).

2) Church & the Old Testament

a) In the Old Testament the nation of Israel envisioned the gathering of all nations. Isaiah 56:6-8 & Micah 4:1-2.

b) The promise of Abraham was to be a blessing to all people. Genesis 12:2-3

This was ultimately fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, who came to us from Abraham's line. It was through Abraham's descendents that we also received the scriptures.

c) In the New Testament this vision is continued with a desire to bring the gospel to all people Matt 24:14, 28:19; Acts 1:8

Transition: There was a shift in the New Testament

d) There is a greater focus on **going out** in the New Testament than the **gathering in** of the Old Testament.

e) The church begins a new stage in the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham.

*To be a blessing to **all** people.* Eph. 2:11-22

3) Church & The New Testament

a) The **beginning** of the church is in Acts 2.

b) The book of the **Acts** of the Apostles is the account of the earliest church carrying out its mission to be Christ's witnesses (Act 1:8)

-Acts 2: Jerusalem ► OT gathering of Jews from every nation.

In Acts 7 you have the stoning of Stephen then in Acts 8 the church, under the persecution of Saul, is scattered

-Acts 8: Judea ► church going out

-Acts 8:5: Samaria ► crossing different

barriers – ½ Jews (part Jew and other nations who conquered them)

Philip proclaimed Christ to the ½ Jews

-Acts 10: Gentiles ► very controversial – non

Jews

Peter is led to the house of the centurion

Cornelius to share the gospel

-Acts 13: Ends of the earth ► everyone *Paul &*

Barnabas sent out

- c) The focus of church growth in Acts is more about quality and breaking cultural barriers than it was about numbers.
- d) Remember the church's goal is to continue the work of Jesus in the world.
- e) The early church faced many periods of intense persecution.
- f) When Christians were persecuted they saw themselves as following in the footsteps of Jesus.
- g) Early Christians also had a powerful witness in lifestyle (especially sexual purity before and during marriage).
- h) Early Christians were “salt and light” in their communities through good deeds.
- i) The Christian witness from the beginning has called for witness in truth, lifestyle, and service to the greater community.

4) Current Church

- a) The original center of Christianity was the Mediterranean region: Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Greece, North Africa.

- b) The message of Jesus Christ eventually moved into Europe and North America.
- c) Over the past century, the Christian world has shifted to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The largest Christian communities are found in Africa and Latin America.

 “Today a ‘typical’ contemporary Christian, is a woman living in a village in Nigeria or in a Brazilian slum.” -Phillip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*, 3
- d) Just as the Holy Spirit initiated the mission of the church at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been continuing mission through the church (Matt 28:19, Acts 1:8)
- e) The church is not a North American, African, Chinese, European, or Mediterranean invention. The church is God’s instrument to be a witness to the truth of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

5) Five pictures of the church we find in the NT (Nikki Gumbel-Alpha)

- a) People of God (1 Pet 2:9 & 10)
 -The church is a community of people gathered together by God.
Theme: Chosen People, God’s Possession (NLT)
- b) Family of God (1 John 4:19-5:1)
 -God is our father and we are brothers and sisters in Christ. (Rom 15:30, 16:1)

Theme: Love/Fellowship w/in the church

 -The church must focus on modeling the greatest commandment:
 -To love God and to love others (Deut. 6:5; Mark 12:30-31).

c) Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-20)

Theme: *Unity and Diversity*

-Picture of the body is very common in the NT
(Paul)

- "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though its parts are many, they form one body."

d) Holy Temple (Eph 2:19-21)

Theme: *God's Presence in the World*

-In the **Old Testament** the temple symbolized =
God's presence among the people.

- **New Testament** picture of the church as the Holy
Temple symbolizes = God's presence among his people.

-God is present by the Holy Spirit in each individual
Christian as well as in the church body as a whole
(1 Cor. 3:16— 'you' is plural).

e) Bride of Christ (Eph 5:25-28, 32)

Theme: *Purity/Holiness, Expectation of
Christ's Return*

-*Christ is the bridegroom and the church is the
bride.*

Lesson 2:

A Biblical Understanding of the Church

1. The Apostle's Creed

- a) The Apostle's Creed is the earliest Creed of the church and has been universally accepted by all Christian denominations throughout history as the best summary of Christian doctrine.
 - *The basic text was found in many different forms as early as AD 150 and added to as late as AD 600. So it was worked on over time by different groups.*
- b) Early Christians would sooner give up their lives than what they believed the Bible said.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. The third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting.

****Working through the Apostle's Creed with a mentor is prerequisite for baptism at Bethany Baptist.***

(The Apostle's Creed was the early baptismal confession of faith).

The Ordinances (Baptism and Communion)

- a) The ordinances of Communion and Baptism were instituted by Christ as holy rites through which His finished work would be remembered.

*Communion and Baptism are both **tangible activities***

- Its not just mental remembrance*
- Taste the bread and juice/wine*
- Real water that you are dunked in.*
- It involves your mind and your senses*
- The tangibleness tells a story*
- There is something powerful about engaging our senses together with our mind*

*Communion and Baptism are also **very simple activities***

- They are not complicated ceremonies.*
- Thomas Oden says the basic idea is that it is a Bath and a Meal*

“There is something refreshingly simple about the sacraments Jesus instituted; they are hardly more impressive than a bath and a meal. Life in Christ begins with a cleansing bath of repentance and pardon; it continues with nurturing food and drink.”—Thomas Oden, Pastoral Theology, 107

- b) Baptism is an **introductory** ordinance and communion a **continuing** ordinance of the church.

2. Believer’s Baptism

- a) Believer’s Baptism follows a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ which includes repentance from our sins (Acts 2:38) and belief in his saving work on the cross (Acts 18:8).

-Baptism happens after someone has declared Christ as their Saviour.

- b) In baptism a believer is telling the world and the church that they want to be identified as a Christ follower and are choosing to follow Him for the rest of their life.

- c) The church also acknowledges that they see the work of God in the life of the person being baptized.

- d) By being baptized they are also becoming part of the church family. Acts 2:38-41
-This is why we, at Bethany, connect baptism with church membership.
- e) Baptism is both an individual act as well as a community act. It is an individual declaring what Christ has done in them as well as a community of believers affirming the work that Christ has done in the individual.
- f) Baptism does not actually 'save' someone.
- g) Believer's baptism is an outward symbol that an inward change has taken place.
- h) At Bethany we baptize by immersion because we believe it best symbolizes the dying of the old person and the raising to life of the new person in Christ (Rom. 6:1-6, Col. 2:11-12), as well as the fact that they have been washed and regenerated.

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

3. The Lord's Supper

- a) The continuing ordinance of the church goes by many common names including Communion, the Lord's Supper, or Eucharist.
- b) This meal began at the Last Supper when Jesus told his disciples to continue sharing this meal together to remember His suffering on the cross. (Luke 22:19).
- c) Communion is an act that only followers of Jesus Christ should participate in.
- d) Communion is both an individual act as well as a community act. It is an event to remember what Christ

has done for us as individuals, but it is also an event (meal) that calls believers together in their “common-union” that they now have in Christ. (Where there is no separation between Jew or Gentile, slave or free, man or woman – Galatians 3:28).

d) The wine symbolizes His blood shed for us (Luke 22:20), and the bread symbolizes His body given for us (Luke 22:19; John 19:33).

e) We remember that it is only by his body and blood given for us that we find forgiveness for sins (Matthew 26:28).

f) Communion reminds us that we are all equal before God and equally needing his grace.

*-Sharing communion together means we must:
-Extend forgiveness to one another
-Help take care of one another's
tangible needs. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)*

g) Communion is a time to examine ourselves and make sure that we are not holding onto un-forgiveness towards another person. We are encouraged to go and make things right between one another. In this sense, frequent communion encourages regular forgiveness, accountability, and short accounts between believers. (1 Cor. 11:17-18 & 27-32, Matt. 5:23-24)

*-At Bethany we celebrate communion once a month
(usually the first Sunday of each month).*

h) The meal also looks forward to the day when we will share a feast together with Christ himself (Revelation 19:9).

i) By sharing this meal together we “proclaim the Lord's death until he comes” again. (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

j) Every time we share in the Lord's Supper we proclaim:
-Christ has died!
-Christ is risen!
-Christ will come again!

Lesson 3:

The North American Baptist Conference

- a) Almost 170 years ago (1843) Rev. Konrad Fleishman founded the first North American Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA. ► relatively new church!
- b) And 22 years later a small group of German-speaking churches formed the North American Baptist Conference (NAB).
- c) Their dream was to establish North American Churches that would be a witness for Christ to German immigrants.
-100 years ago all NAB church services would have been in German
- d) Today that dream of establishing churches that will witness for Christ has not changed; however, we now reach out to English, Cambodian, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, French, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian.
-These are all in Canada and the United States.
- e) Today our NAB family includes over 400 churches in North America.
More than 75,000 attendees (of all Christians in the world).

Southern Baptist = 2.5 million attendees ► we're a small slice @ 75,000
CBC IN Cameroon CBC = 1000 churches with 3 times the # of attendees (225,000)
- f) Each NAB church is independently run (congregational), yet has agreed to be a part of an association of churches for mutual encouragement, accountability, support, and to co-operate on ministries that can more easily be done together than alone.

*-We are technically a conference (where each church is independent) not a denomination.
-Congregational does not imply democratic.*

- g) The NAB currently has missionaries in places like Cameroon, Romania, Mexico, Russia, Brazil, Japan, Philippines, Nigeria, etc.
- h) We have two seminaries for training Christian leaders, pastors and missionaries. One is in Edmonton, Alberta and the other is in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- i) Our current Executive Director of NAB is Rob McClelland.
- j) Locally we have the BCA with Bob Krahn as the BC Association Regional Minister.

**NAB Statement of Faith -
www.nabconference.org/about-us/our-beliefs (for full version)**

We Believe...

- a. The Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. (II Tim. 3:16)
- b. In the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy, and love. (I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4)
- c. God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will. (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16)
- d. God created people in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be stewards over His creation. (Genesis 1:26-28)
- e. Salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death. (2 Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23)

- f. The Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5)
- g. The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (I Cor. 11:23-26).
- h. Religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God. (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; II Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29)
- i. Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society. (Matthew 5:13-16)
- j. God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and new earth. (Ephesians 1:9-10; Revelation 21:1)

Lesson 4:

Bethany Baptist Church

1. Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Mission Statement: To glorify God by making disciples.

Our Vision Statement: Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to reach out cross-culturally, winning, equipping, and empowering people for ministry.

Our Core Values

1. Unreserved submission and obedience to our sovereign God.
2. The Bible as God's infallible Word, and its authority in all matters of faith and practice.
3. Fervent, authentic, Spirit-led worship of our sovereign triune God.
4. Prayer – realizing our total dependence on God and the work of the Holy Spirit
5. Unity of purpose in the body of Christ.
6. The gifts of the Spirit given to every believer and their expression in ministry.
7. Commitment of every believer in service to Jesus Christ as seen in generous giving of time, energy, and finances.
8. Intentional evangelism to all peoples – local and world-wide.
9. Intentional discipling of believers – bringing them to maturity in Christ.
10. Inter-generational and cross-cultural ministry.

11. Love for our neighbour – expressed by compassionate care to the needy in the church and in the community – local and world-wide.

12. Our affiliation with the NAB Conference and endorsement of the NABC Statement of Beliefs.

2. The Five Dynamics of a Healthy Church (Acts 2:41-47; 6:1-4)

T.R.E.E.S

A. Teaching the Word of God (Discipleship)

In John 1 we are told that Jesus is the Word. He was and is the Way, Truth and Life (John 14:6). Jesus taught people with great power. He did so with concern about knowing (understanding & comprehending), valuing (prioritizing) and applying (constantly living out) the Word of God. Paul gave his understudy Timothy a charge, "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction." Teaching happens in many settings: the church together for corporate worship services; in age-related classes; small group settings; through parents with their children; etc. Teaching is to lead us towards knowing, valuing and applying the Word in order to make us more Christ like.

B. Relating One-to-Another (Fellowship)

In Acts 2:44&46 we read, "All the believers were together and had everything in common... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts..." The early church were 'together' and their togetherness allowed for those who were added daily (v47). The books following the Acts of the Apostles give us further instructions on building these relationships. Some of these are: 1) love (I John 4:7-12&19); 2) harmony (I Peter 3:8-11); serve (I Peter 4:10); greet (Romans 16:1-16); honor (Romans 12:10); forgive (Ephesians 4:29-32); encourage (Hebrews 3:12-14); etc. These relationships are to reflect the Triune God.

C. Exalting the Lord in Worship (Worship)

Worship involves our literal act of offering "our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1). As a church we are to meet together to be taught, fellowship and corporately worship God with a sense of awe (Acts 2: 42-47). Therefore, we are to worship as a church in community of life and we are to worship in the community of life. Our lives are to be acts of worship.

D. Evangelizing those outside of a relationship with the Lord (Outreach)

Again, in the Gospels Jesus calls us to share the good news. In Mark 16:15 Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." This call is not just a foreign missions command. It relates to all corners of the earth. In Acts 1:8 we are called to be "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." A church's Jerusalem is their immediate location. For Bethany Baptist Church that would represent the Hamilton and Queensborough area. Judea would represent a broader circle of influence. Samaria would be close but foreign. What is interesting is that the first area mentioned is Jerusalem (Hamilton and Queensborough). To ignore this is to ignore God's call. Evangelizing (sharing and explaining the gospel of Jesus Christ) is our call.

E. Serving our church, community, and world (Service)

We are called to serve God's purposes in our generation until we are called home to be with the Lord for eternity. Acts 13:36a describes David's life in this manner as a servant of the Lord. The apostle Paul describes each follower of Christ as a part of the body with unique gifting and that these gifts are in the verb form - to be doing and using. When each person is serving as God has called them, in the name of Christ then the church, community

and world are encouraged. The word of serving came to Zechariah (7:9), "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.'" Justice, mercy and compassion applied become powerful acts of serving.

3. Your Time, Talent, and Treasure

Church members exhibit their commitment to Christ and the community through their time, talent, and treasures.

Time: a) Being a committed community member means regular attendance at church services and other church functions (Heb. 10:25).

Talent: b) Being a committed community member means offering your gifts and talents to the church (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4).

Treasure: c) Being a committed community member means financially supporting the church – 1 Corinthians 16:2 & 2 Cor. 8:1-7. (In the Old Testament a tithe was 10% of the first fruits of your income - Lev. 27:30; Malachi 3:8-12).

4. Our Covenant

Every person wanting to become a member of Bethany must read, agree to, and sign this covenant.

Membership Covenant

I have accepted The Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit as the one-and-only true God. In order to grow in my relationship with Him I have chosen to enter into a covenant relationship with Bethany Baptist Church for **accountability** and **spiritual growth**. I promise to live according to what the Bible teaches in doctrine and lifestyle (1 Timothy 4:16); adhering to the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), the Great-

est Commandment (Mark 12:29-30), and the values of Bethany Baptist Church. I hold to the Apostle's Creed and the "Statement of Beliefs" as adopted by the North American Baptist Conference (August, 1982). If I move to another location I agree to unite with another congregation where I can continue to live out the spirit of this covenant. If I am wilfully living in a consistent, unrepentant, and unbiblical way in life or in doctrine I give Bethany Baptist Church the right to remove my membership. I would be welcome to attend the church, but would not be able to hold any positions of leadership and/or teaching.

Lesson 5:

Your Spiritual Gifts and Devotional Life

1) The Body of Christ & Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor 12; Rom 12:3-8; Eph 4:11-13

- a) The body of Christ is a unit; and despite a person's office or role, we are all equal in the eyes of God (1 Cor. 12:12).
- b) Every believer in the church is a part of the Body of Christ and has been given different spiritual empowerment, gifts, and talents even if they are not church leaders.
- c) Every believer is essential to the health of the body (1 Cor. 12:14-31) and need to work in unity and be connected with the other believers.
- d) Their gifts are spiritual in the sense that they are given by the Holy Spirit and what they accomplish is for the glorification of Christ.
- e) These gifts are given to the church through the person; they are not given to the individual for their own glory (1 Corinthians 12:7)

*Go over the results of *Uniquely You*.

2) The Devotional Life

A) Prayer

- a) Prayer is the discipline of talking with God.
- b) All relationships involve communication, therefore, to have a relationship with God means communicating with God.

There are different types of prayer.

- c) Disciplined prayer: A special time carved out of each day to talk with God. (Use of prayer walks, prayer journals, prayer retreats, prayer closet, etc).
- d) Spontaneous prayer: Talking to God as thoughts come into our mind. They are often “single sentence” prayers and they can be said at anytime of the day or night.
- e) Public prayer: Talking to God while others listen and join in. (At meal times, care groups, Bible studies, church services, meetings, social functions, or other occasions).
- f) A prayer guide: ACTS
 - A Adoration
 - C Confession
 - T Thanksgiving
 - S Supplication
- g) Praying the Psalms/Scripture.

B) Scripture Reading

- a) Scripture reading is the discipline of listening to God.
- b) All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong with our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- c) Scripture should be read regularly and systematically.
- d) The books of the Bible should be read as books—from beginning to end.
- e) Start by reading the New Testament. ► *the Gospels*

- f) Scripture should be interpreted in light of the literary genre of the book or section being read.
- g) Scripture should be interpreted in light of its setting.
- h) We must accept the limits of God's revelation.
- i) The scriptures must move us from interpretation to application.
- j) Scripture should be used to interpret scripture.
- k) Scripture should be read under the guidance of the universal church (i.e. The Creed, study guides, commentaries, Bible study groups, the preaching/teaching of called leaders, etc).

C) Community

- a) Church attendance is the discipline of committing yourself to a body of believers for mutual support, encouragement, and accountability (Acts 2:42-43, Heb. 10:25).
- b) Being a part of a church allows us to grow in Christ and put into practice the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23); and our time, talents, and treasure.

D) Witnessing

- a) Witnessing is the discipline of sharing our faith with people of other faiths.
- b) Jesus commanded us tell everyone about him (Matt. 28:19-20).

How do we share our faith with someone else?

Use the Scripture:

Paul reasoned, explained, and proved Christ from scripture (Acts 17:2-3, 11).

Use of other tools:

4 Spiritual Laws

The "Bridge" Diagram

Books like "Mere Christianity" or "Basic Christianity"

Alpha or Christianity Explore

Invite some one to church, small group, or an outreach event.

****Personal Testimony (Appendix):***

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Pet. 3:15).

E) Serving

- a) Serving is the discipline of developing God's heart for compassion, humility (John 13:12-17) and justice (Micah 6:8).
- b) "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).
- c) "Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the poor honour God" (Proverbs 14:31).

Putting Together a Personal Testimony

(Questions from *The Purpose Driven Life*, p. 291)

1. What was my life like before I met Jesus?
-This question may have to be skipped by those who grew up in the faith.
2. How did I come to realize that I needed Jesus?
3. How did I commit my life to Jesus?
-For some there will have been a specific moment (tell us about that moment).
-For some it will have been a process. If it was a process make sure that you still emphasize that *you have chosen* to become a follower of Jesus, but the *specific* when it happened has been a journey. (In the same way, not everyone remembers *when* they fell in love, but they do know that they are in love and they did make a choice to love the person).
-Make sure that there is clear statement in your testimony acknowledging that you understand that Christ has forgiven you of your sins and that you have chosen to live for him as one of his followers.
4. What difference has Jesus made in my life?
5. (For those who fell away). Why did I fall away from Jesus and why and how did I come back to him?

*Everyone should answer questions 2, 3, & 4 in their testimony (1 & 5 if they apply).

Write out your testimony and e-mail it to me: spi-va@bethanybaptist.bc.ca

After I go over it (and I may suggest a few things) this will be what you read to the Deacons (prior to your baptism and church membership).

For those being baptized it will also be shared with the church (on the Sunday you are baptized).

Your testimony should not exceed two pages (written/typed double-spaced) in length.

