
Discovering Church Membership



New Home
— BAPTIST CHURCH —





Welcome to Discovering Church Membership



We are so glad you have chosen to find out more about membership at New Home Baptist Church (NHBC)! This class is the basic introduction to our church family, but also serves as the first step towards membership. Since people come to NHBC from different churches and backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who we are, what we believe, and where we are going as a church.

The Goal of this Class

That I will commit myself to **JESUS CHRIST** and to the **CHURCH** family.



Session One

Our Story: Where We've Been



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For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

- **Matthew 18:20**



What is “The Church”?

The Nature of the Church

The church is the body of people called by God’s grace through faith in Christ to glorify Him together by serving Him in His world.

The church is the people of God, the new creation, the bride of Christ, the fellowship, the body of Christ, and the family of God.

Mission and Purpose of the Church

The body of Christ exists for the purposes of worshiping God, edifying the church, and spreading the Gospel throughout the world.

The church ultimately exists for the glory of God. The church is the unique instrument for bringing God such glory.

The Attributes of the Church

We are to be:

- A people, not a place.
- A people, not a group of statistics.
- A people, not a vendor of religious goods and services.
- A people, not a venue for entertainment.
- A people distinct from those who are not embracing Christ as Savior and Lord.
- A people who yearn to protect and promote the name of Jesus Christ.

“... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- Matthew 16:18

Note: Items in Sidebars are for further study or thought.

Look at scripture and what it says about the church and its attributes.

Consider the Old Testament:

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27**
- **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
- **Isaiah 48:9-11**
- **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Based on these passages, how would you summarize God’s motivation for acting on behalf of His people, His purpose in saving them?

Source: Adapted from Dever, M. (n.d.) *An Introduction to the Church*. Downloaded 11/29/16 from www.theologynetwork.org/the-church/an-introduction-to-the-church.htm



What commandment does Jesus give His disciples in this passage?

How does the unity of a local church display God's glory?

What are common reasons people "go" to church? According to these passages, why should we want to be a part of Christ's church?

For a good summary of what the church is supposed to look like, see Ephesians 4:1-16.

Core Values

So, as the Church, we are displaying the following:

God's **WISDOM**—

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

— Ephesians 3:10-11

God's **LOVE**—

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

— John 13:34-35

God's **ONENESS**—

"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me. I have given them the glory You have given Me. May they be one as We are one. I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me."

— John 17:20-23





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Session Two

Our Salvation: Who We Are in Christ



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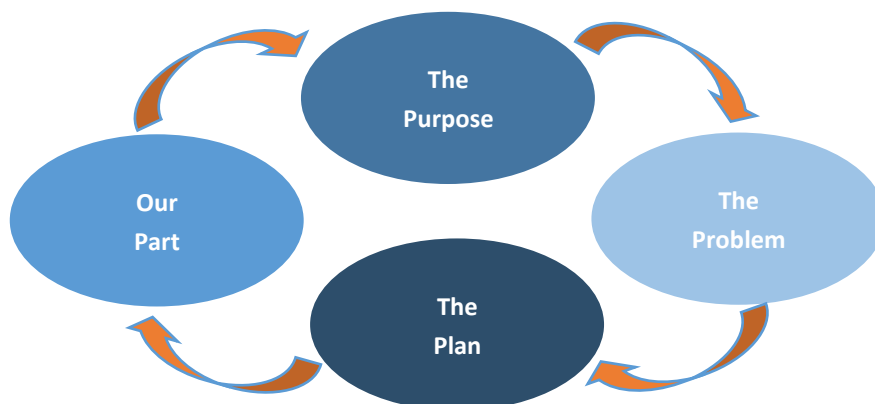
*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ
have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there
is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female:
for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- Galatians 3:26



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THE PURPOSE

God made me to love me!

*God says, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."
— Jeremiah 31:3*

*"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
— 1 Timothy 2:3-4*

We were created to enjoy a personal relationship with God and to manage all the rest of God's creation! This makes us special!

*Genesis 1:26-30: God created man/stewardship of creation.
Genesis 2:18-23: God created woman.
Genesis 3:8: God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden.*

God did all of this that we might experience life as it was meant to be, in perfect relationship to Him and His creation.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.." — John 10:10b

THE PROBLEM

Man has a natural desire to be the ruler of his own life and to ignore God's principles for living.

*Genesis 2:15-17: God's prohibition against eating of the Tree of knowledge – leads to death.
Genesis 3:1-7: Temptation of the serpent and Adam and Eve's choice to sin against God.
Immediate recognition of fear of God and their sinful humanity.*



The Bible calls this attitude sin. We have all sinned!

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way”
— Isaiah 53:6a

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
— Isaiah 59:2

People often try many different ways of coping before turning to God. Unfortunately, these things do not fix the real problem:

- Religion
- Good Deeds or Works
- Sincerity of Belief in Anything
- Family

How would you define sin?

What is the effect of sin?



THE PLAN

Because God loves us, He desires a relationship with us, but our sin has broken that relationship.

There is nothing we can do to restore that relationship, but God can and He did by sending His son, Jesus Christ.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

— Romans 6:23

God Himself came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us back to Himself. Jesus:

- lived the life we couldn't live.
- died the death we deserved.
- rose from the grave to show His power over sin and death.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 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, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

— Phil. 2:5-11

If any other way could have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The way is a Person!

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

— John 14:6

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to have a relationship with Him.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

— Rom. 5:8

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all"

— 1 Timothy 2:5-6a



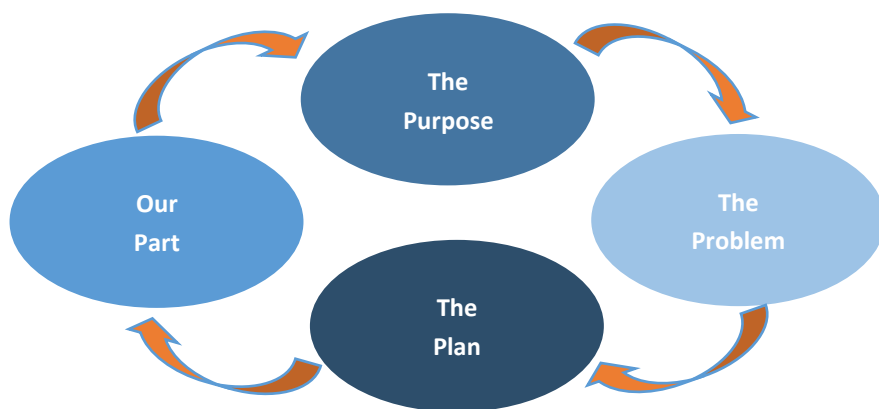
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"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

— Rev. 3:20

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

— Romans 10:13



RECAP - PURPOSE, PROBLEM, PLAN, OUR PART

You can take these steps by praying a simple, sincere prayer of commitment to God. While there is no specific "formula" for what you need to say to God, you may pray something like this:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I am a sinner and there is nothing I can do to save myself. I need you in my life. I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me and become my Lord and Savior. Thank you for dying on the cross for me and forgiving me. Please help me to understand more about you. With your help, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I am trusting you completely for salvation and eternal life. Thank you for saving me."

What Comes Next After Becoming a Christ Follower?

First, you should celebrate! You are now a child of God!

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

— John 1:12



Second, you should remember.

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His sacrifice and our new life. These two ordinances are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

THE ORDINANCES OF OUR CHURCH

What is the difference between an ordinance and a sacrament?

Ordinance - an outward rite commanded by Christ to be observed by His church.

versus

Sacrament - an act believed to convey grace (divine power) to the participants.

What the Bible Says About Believer’s Baptism



Believer’s Baptism, as we teach it here at NHBC, is not the creation of the church, or of Baptists, or of NHBC, but it is Biblical baptism. So what can we learn from the Bible about baptism?

Why Should I Be Biblically Baptized?2

To follow the example set by Jesus.

“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:”

—Mark 1:9-10

If Jesus was perfect, why was He baptized?

2 Source: Adapted from Jamieson, B. (2016). Understanding of Baptism. Nashville: BJH.



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Because Christ commands it.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

— Matthew 28:18-20

It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. . . Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

—Acts 2:37-38, 41

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

— Acts 8:12

It is an act of obedience to God.

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

— 1 John 2:3-6

What is the Meaning of Believer's Baptism?

It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection.

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

— 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

— Col. 2:12



It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

“How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
— Romans 6:2-4

It is a symbol of our belief.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
— Ephesians 2:8-9

Why Should I be Baptized by Immersion?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:”
— Mark 1:9-10

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
— Acts 8:38-39

The word “Baptize” means to dip under water.

The Greek word baptizo means “to immerse or dip under water.”

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
— Romans 6:4

In what way is baptism like a wedding ring?



Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ and trusted Him for salvation.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"

— Acts 2:41

"Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done."

— Acts 8:13

When Should I be Baptized?

As soon as you have put your faith in Jesus Christ!

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

— Acts 8:35-38





How will the baptism proceed?

We will help you prepare in our Baptistry area before the Worship Service begins. When it is time, the person baptizing you will enter the water and briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. The baptizing person will introduce you, ask you to profess your faith in Christ, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and change, or watch the others be baptized.

Can I invite my friends and family?

Yes! We encourage you to invite them. This should be a time of celebration and a time for you to pronounce your faith in Jesus Christ to the church and those closest to you.

Can I be baptized on a Wednesday Night?

Yes, if Sunday mornings cannot work for your schedule. We meet together in the worship center on Wednesday nights

Can I be baptized outside of the church?

Yes. But we do believe the Bible is clear that baptism is to be a function and ministry of the church, so we discourage private or family baptisms without at least part of the church present to affirm and encourage you.

Do I have to be Biblically baptized in order to be a member of NHBC?

Yes. At NHBC, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated. At the end of this class, we will give you time one-on-one to ask any questions or set up baptism for anyone who desires Biblical believer's baptism.

What if I was baptized when I was young and did not really understand what I was doing?

A previous baptism is only invalid if it failed to be either of the following: (1) believers baptism or (2) by immersion. You may have developed a better understanding of baptism but as long as you were trusting in Christ alone for salvation than your previous baptism is sufficient. Baptism by sprinkling or pouring is not recognized as it is not the Biblical mode.



Session Three

Our Statements: Why We Exist as a Church



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And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- Acts 2:42-47



OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As a Church

Our Mission: Who We Are

Presenting ourselves to God
as instruments of His grace

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:13

Our Purpose: Why We Exist

The reason we exist can be summarized into multiple purpose statements based on two key scriptures:

The Great Commandment: *"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*

— Matthew 22:36-40

The Great Commission: *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

— Matthew 28:19-20

Drawing from these two passages, New Home Baptist Church exists . . .

- I. To "Love the Lord your God. . .", to **CONNECT** with God through worship;
- II. To "Love your neighbor as yourself", to **SERVE** the local and community church, and the community through ministry;
- III. To "**GO**. . .and make disciples of all nations" through evangelism (local) and missions (cross-culturally);

Why is it important to have a clear vision and purpose as a church?



Matt. 4:10

John 4:23-24

What is Worship?³

Worship is the state of our heart and its affections. If our hearts are focused on loving God, then from the overflow of our heart's affections come the many expressions of worship exemplified in the Bible.

Expressions of Worship:

- **Singing** (Eph. 5:19)
- **Hearing the Word** (John 17:17)
- **Praying** (Ps. 95:6)
- **Meditating** (Hab. 2:20)
- **Serving** (Ps. 100:2)
- **Giving** (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4)
- **Lord's Supper** (1 Cor. 11-23-26)
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2)

We express this as a church in the following ways:

- In our corporate worship services at New Home, the Worship Ministry exists to exalt the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Every week we seek to prepare ourselves for a "family style" time of worship.
- **NHBC Worship Service Times:**
 - Sundays at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

— Ephesians 3:21



II. We Exist to **CONNECT** with Others Through Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP: YOU WERE FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. . ."
— Matthew 28:19

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"
— Ephesians 2:19



We express this as a church by believing that:

- Fellowship grows best in the environment of a small group Bible study class where people can connect and find lasting friendships.

- Fellowship is a vital part of every Christian's spiritual health. Being in a small group is a vital part of being a member of NHBC.

Hebrews 6:1
2 Peter 3:18
Hebrews 5:13-14
Eph. 4:11-13
1 Peter 2:1-3



III. We Exist to GROW in our Faith Through Personal and Relational Discipleship

DISCIPLESHIP: YOU WERE CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. . ."
— Matthew 28:19

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 3:18

Are you in a small group Bible study? If no, why not?

We express this as a church by believing that:

- Discipleship is more than the transferring of knowledge, it is the transformation of a life.
- Discipleship occurs best in a relational environment of teaching, accountability and encouragement.
 - Discipleship may begin in worship services and Bible study classes, but is sharpened and intensified by the intimacy of small groups of people doing life together.
- Discipleship opportunities at NHBC:
 - Sundays at 9:45 a.m. - Small Group Bible Study for all ages
 - Wednesdays at 6:00 for Youth
 - Plus various other groups for men, women, and others throughout the week



John 13:34-35
 John 15:12-14
 1John 3:16-17
 Matt. 25:34-40
 Hebrews 13:16
 Romans 12:13

Eph. 4:1-16
 1 Cor. 12
 Romans 12

What spiritual gifts do you feel have been given to you?

- Discipleship also occurs through **personal development of spiritual disciplines/practices**. These may include:
 - Reading and meditating on scripture,
 - Prayer,
 - Fasting,
 - Solitude, and
 - Keeping a spiritual journal.



IV. We Exist to SERVE the Local Church and the Community Through Ministry

MINISTRY: EQUIPPED FOR SERVING GOD

"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
 — Matthew 22:39 (ESV)

We express this as a church by believing that:

- **The heartbeat of each member is their ministry.** Every member needs to be a part of one of our ministries!
- **Ministry can take place anywhere that you are loving others and meeting needs in the name of Jesus Christ!**

At NHBC:

- Every member is a **minister**.
- Every task is **important**.
- Every member was brought here to use their **gifts**.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. . . Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."
 — 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27

Spiritual gifts may include:

- Encouragement
- Giving
- Administration
- Mercy
- Service
- Teaching
- Evangelism



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**Gen. 1:1,26,27; 3:22
Psalm 90:2
Matthew 28:19
1 Peter 1:2
2 Cor. 13:14**

We express this as a church by:

- **intentionally building relationships within our community that allow us to invite people into our lives to have an opportunity to share Christ with them.**
- **intentionally organizing our church to facilitate community and growth.**
- **believing our church must grow larger and smaller at the same time.**

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

— Matt. 24:14

NHBC continues to grow because there are still people who are LOST!

NHBC is also committed to taking the gospel to the ends of the earth, and is active in local, state, North American, and International Missions.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

At NHBC, we use The Baptist Faith and Message from the Southern Baptist Convention as a starting point for what we believe.

Just like in a family, there are certain things that are fundamental to our faith. We call these things **"the essentials."**

In general, theological issues can be understood by dividing them into three different tiers:

- Tier I: Fundamental/Essential Issues
- Tier II: Denominational Issues
- Tier III: Church Practices

The Essentials We Believe

1. About God

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



2. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, 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.

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 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.

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. When we say it is the supreme source of truth, it means when it speaks of moral issues, we consider those to be essential truths. However, we don't add our personal opinions to the scripture on issues.

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.

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.

Matthew 1:22,23
Isaiah 9:6
John 1:1-5; 14:10-30
Hebrews 4:14,15
1 Cor. 15:3,4
Romans 1:3,4
Acts 1:9-11
1 Tim. 6:14-15
Titus 2:13

2 Cor. 3:17
John 16:7-13, 14:16,17
Acts 1:8 1 Cor. 2:12, 3:16
Eph. 1:13; 5:18
Gal. 5:25

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

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

Romans 6:23
Eph. 2:8,9
John 14:6, 1:12
Titus 3:5
Gal. 3:26
Romans 5:1



John 10:29
2 Tim. 1:12
Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14
1 Peter 1:3-5

John 3:16; 14:17
Romans 6:23; 8:17-18
Rev. 20:15
1 Cor. 2:7-9

7. About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

8. 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.



Session Four

Our Strategy:
How We Fulfill our Purpose



New Home

— BAPTIST CHURCH —

(The Apostle Paul) To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

—1 Corinthians 9:22-23



Discovering Church Membership

OUR STRATEGY: DISCIPLE-MAKING PATH

"Go therefore and make disciples."

- Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

At NHBC, we have developed a path for disciple-making that incorporates our purpose statements with an intentional process of helping people grow as disciples of Jesus. This involves providing intentional entry points to help people **CONNECT** with God and other believers, **GROW** in their faith, **SERVE** the church, and **GO** and make disciples of all nations. Although it is depicted as linear, it is actually a circular, continual process, and spiritual transformation is occurring throughout every phase of the disciple's path.

The ultimate goal of this disciple-making plan is that we will see our mission become a reality in the lives of individuals and across the globe.

How did you get connected to NHBC?

How has NHBC helped you grow in faith?

Presenting ourselves to God
as instruments of His grace



The Disciple's Path



CONNECT

With All Your Heart.
Matthew 22:37
CONNECT to God through worship and others through fellowship.



GROW

In Body, Mind & Spirit.
Matthew 28:20
GROW in your faith through personal and relational discipleship.



SERVE

With Willing Hands.
Matthew 22:39
SERVE the local church and community through ministry.



GO

With Ready Feet.
Matthew 28:19
GO and make disciples of all nations through evangelism and missions.

**Repeat
Process**



Session Five

Your Story:
What it Means to Be a Member



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Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

— 1 Corinthians 1:10



Why might membership in a local church be important?

Why Membership in a Local Church is Important

The difference between “attenders” and “members” of a local church can be summed up in one word: **commitment**.

At NHBC, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A Biblical Reason: Christ is Committed to the Church.

“ . . . Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”
— Eph. 5:25

“I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- Matthew 16:18

II. A Cultural Reason: It is an Alternative 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 and hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character. **The difference between being an ATTENDER and being a MEMBER is like the difference between LIVING TOGETHER and GETTING MARRIED.**

III. A Practical Reason: It Defines Who Can be Counted on and Cared for.

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, and families care for one another.

IV. 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.



Who Can Become a Member of NHBC

Anyone who has:

1. Made a public profession of having accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, and
2. Been baptized by immersion as a believer, or
3. Christians who have already done this at another church of like faith and practice can transfer their membership or
4. Join by public statement of faith and baptism.

NHBC Member Commitments:

Having trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with New Home Baptist Church's vision, purpose statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. The Commitment to connect . . .

is a commitment to CONNECT with CHRIST and THE CHURCH FAMILY.

This includes making a personal commitment to follow Christ, testifying of my faith through biblical baptism, and becoming an active member of NHBC. This also includes active participation in worship and small groups.

Ephesians 2:19; Romans 12:4-5

2. The Commitment to grow . . .

is a commitment to take part in personal and relational DISCIPLESHIP necessary for spiritual growth.

This includes active participation in a Small Group Bible Study and other discipleship programs and through development of personal spiritual practices that result in radical transformation.

2 Peter 3:18

3. The Commitment to serve . . .

is a commitment to discover and use my God-given gifts and abilities in SERVING God and others.

This includes finding my personal ministry and committing to serving in that role on a regular basis. This may include ministry within the church, ministry within the community, and ministry around the world.

1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27

4. The Commitment to go . . .

is a commitment to GO and make disciples by SHARING the Gospel with others.

This includes making a commitment to personal evangelism and to missions by praying, giving, and going as the Lord leads. This may include sharing Christ with those in my immediate sphere of influence, with others within our community, and with people around the world.

Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16



Discovering Church Membership

NHBC Member Responsibilities

As a member of the faith family called New Home Baptist Church, I commit myself to God and to the other members of the faith family by doing the following:

I. I will protect the unity of my church

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

Rom. 15:19; 1 Peter 1:22; Eph. 4:29; Heb. 13:17

II. I will share the responsibility of my church

- By praying for its growth.
- By inviting the unchurched to attend.
- By warmly welcoming those who come.

1Thess. 1:2; Luke 14:23; Rom. 15:7

III. I will serve the ministry of my church

- By discovering my gifts and talents.
- By being equipped to serve by my pastors.
- By developing a servant's heart.

1 Peter 4:10; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 2:3-4, 7

IV. I will support the testimony of my church

- By attending faithfully.
- By living a Godly life.
- By giving my tithe, time and talents.

Heb. 10:25; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 16:2; Lev. 27:30

Note: In a fellowship, we prioritize harmony and unity. These responsibilities help maintain both.