



NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION HOMEWORK



Dr. Maurice Pugh, Senior Pastor

Dear Prospective Member:

We are deeply honored that you desire to join the New Life Fellowship family. One of the most important decisions for any Christian is the selection of a church home. Because a church is entrusted with the awesome responsibility of your spiritual well being, it is crucial that the choice be made prayerfully and carefully.

It is because we respect the seriousness of this decision that we have established this new member's process. Over two weeks, our desire is to orient you to the mission, values, and vision of New Life Fellowship, provide you with the basic knowledge of what it means to be a growing Christian, and give you the expectations of church membership.

May God's grace guide and direct you as you experience this process of becoming a member of NLF. I look forward with great anticipation to the potential of serving you as your pastor-teacher.

Because of Grace

Dr. Maurice Pugh

Senior Pastor



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Please set aside some time to study and respond to the following discussion questions. If your spouse is also attending the classes, each of you must complete a separate lesson. Each participant is asked to bring a Bible and completed lesson assignments.

CLASS TIME

The Saturday class begins promptly at 9:00 am and the subsequent Sunday classes will begin at 2:00 pm. Childcare will be provided, but you must request it prior to the beginning of the first class. On the last class, we will take your picture for the church administrative data base and answer questions about your selection of ministry.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

At the beginning of each class, please check-in so that we may have a record of your attendance and provide you with any special instructions. Completed homework assignments will be checked at the beginning of each class. Make-up classes will only be provided in cases of emergency. You must participate in all class sessions to be granted official membership.

IN PREPARATION CLASS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTIONS *WHY MEMBERSHIP?*, *SALVATION*, AND *BAPTISM*.

We look forward to making the New Members process a wonderful part of your spiritual journey at New Life Fellowship.

If you have any questions, please email membership@nlife fellowship.org





MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

1. Of what church was Phoebe identified and a servant? _____
(Romans 16:1)
2. When did the believers gather together? _____
(Acts 20:7)

THE ACTIVITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

There are some specific spiritual activities that are conducted among believers through the context of the local church:

1. Hebrews 10:25 _____
2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 _____
3. 1 Timothy 4:13 _____
4. 1 Peter 4:10 _____
5. Acts 2:47 _____



6. Acts 12:5 _____
7. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 _____
8. Romans 1:15-16 _____, Acts 4:4 _____

The Power of the church and Promise to the church

1. Matthew 16: 18 Jesus says: I will build my _____ and the gates of _____ shall not _____.
2. Matthew 16:19 Jesus says: I will give the _____ so that whatsoever you _____.

Purpose of the Church

1. Matthew 28:19 _____ GO _____ and _____

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership at New Life Fellowship expects a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and this local church in the following areas:

1. To _____ with respect to your salvation (1 Peter 2:2). God desires for each member to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ; this growth effort requires one to prioritize moments and opportunities for spiritual growth such as: prayer, bible study, and worship.
2. To _____ in the church (1 Peter 4:10). God had gifted each member in the body of Christ with a spiritual gift to be used to serve each other and bring glory and honor to God.



3. To _____ support the ministries of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1). God provides monetarily to his saints but asks that believers give cheerfully, willfully, and generously to support ministries of the church such as outreach efforts, oversees mission, members in need, etc.
4. To _____ others into a relationship with Christ or visit the Church (John 4:29). God anticipates that Christians will regularly and enthusiastically tell others about His Son Jesus Christ and/or invite people to church service to hear about God's love for them.
5. To _____ authentic and genuine relationships with other Christians (Ecclesiastes 5:9-10). God created people not to be isolated from one another, but for companionship and relationship. True spiritual growth happens in the context of believers who gather together for prayer, study, and accountability.

SALVATION

The Need for Salvation

1. What does the Bible say about humanity's spiritual condition:
 - a. Romans 3:9 _____
 - b. Romans 3:10 _____
 - c. Romans 3:11 _____
 - d. Romans 3:23 _____
 - e. Ephesians 2:1 _____
2. What is the consequence of sin:
 - a. Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23 _____



b. Isaiah 59:1-2 _____

The Provision of Salvation

1. What is the gift of God? _____

(Romans 6:23)

a. What does "a gift" generally mean?

b. What does the gift of God mean for "sinners?"

2. What is the role of Jesus as the provision of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:3)?

3. What made Jesus qualified to be the provision for our salvation (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

The Process of Salvation

1. What must a person do to become a Christian (Romans 10:9):

a. _____ in your heart

b. _____ died for our sins and was raised from the dead

c. Then you will be _____.

2. To sum it up, Ephesians 2:8-9 says: We are _____ by
_____ through _____ and not according to
_____.



[illegible]

BAPTISM

When people consider the topic of Baptism, two categories of questions are often asked. The first is a very basic one: "What is the spiritual significance of baptism?" The second has to do with traditions from the past—specifically, pre-conversion baptism. The issue in that case is, "Why be baptized as an adult believer when I was baptized as a baby?"

Why Baptize?

1. Baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is the means by which disciples of Christ are identified.
2. Baptism was practiced by the early church. In the book of Acts, believers expressed publicly, through the act of baptism, their inward decision and intent to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts, it is evident that the act of baptism came after an individual's decision to trust Christ for salvation (Acts 2:28,41; 8:12; 10:47-48). Baptism can't give a person anything, spiritually speaking. It can signify something that has already happened.

Who Should Be Baptized?

Believers/Disciples—The Apostles were commanded to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." One must have the heart to be a follower of Christ. Individuals who trust Christ as their own personal Savior should be baptized.

1. Anyone who has not been baptized since becoming a Christian.
2. Any Christian who has never clearly understood the meaning of baptism, even though they may have been baptized previously
3. Any Christian who desires to recommit their life to Christ



What Does Baptism Mean?

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 6:3-4, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so too we might walk in newness of life."

1. Baptism is a public declaration of the believer's identification with Jesus Christ, death, burial, and resurrection.
 - a. Death – placed into the water, "Baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3).
 - b. Burial – submerged, "Buried with Him through baptism into death" (Romans 6:4).
 - c. Resurrection – brought up out of water, as Christ was raised from the dead...so we too might walk in newness of life.
2. Baptism is a testimony to a new life.
 - a. New direction and purpose for living.
 - b. Complete trust in God to direct your life.
 - c. Courage and excitement to share Jesus with others.
 - d. Controlled and directed by the Spirit of God.

Additional Notes



