



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

2005

The Elders of the Kansas City Church of Christ, along with the Staff, have sought to put together a four part series on the essentials of the Christian faith. We are excited to share these fundamental messages on the church web site and through the Life Group format.

Our purpose is not to provide a complete understanding of all that the Bible teaches about a life with Christ and a relationship with God. However, we do hope to express what we have prayerfully considered as four of the most essential Biblical truths of the Gospel.

Our intent is two fold: First, to bring clarification, assurance and unity to you who are members of this Body of Christ as to what we strive to proclaim as the Gospel message. Secondly, to provide an opportunity for those of you who are interested in knowing what the Bible declares about becoming a true believer and faithful follower of Jesus Christ. This study will help to build your knowledge and maturity in Christ.

We pray that these studies will encourage, enrich your life and help prepare you as you strive to be used by God in winning souls for His Kingdom. Here are the studies that we cover in this series:

1. **Jesus - The Word**
What the Bible says about him, what he said about himself and what he fulfilled for us
2. **Jesus - The Lord**
What it means to truly follow Jesus
3. **Jesus - The Savior**
The message of the Gospel and of Biblical Conversion
4. **Jesus - The Head of the Church**
The privilege and responsibility of being part of the Family of God

At the end of each outline we have included scripture references and additional points for further consideration.

We trust that God will lead you through His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit to answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

Sincerely,
The Eldership and Staff of the Kansas City Church of Christ



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

I: Jesus -The Word

A. Who is Jesus?

a. **Matthew 11:28**

“Come to me... and I will give you rest.”

b. **Matthew 21:9-11**

“...the whole town was stirred...who is this?”

c. **Matthew 16:13-18**

“Who do YOU say that I am?... Son of the Living God”

Q: What impact has the real Jesus had on your life, your choices and your faith?

B. What did Jesus say about Himself?

John 14:5-6

Thomas (the doubter) asked, “How can we know the way?”

a. **Jesus is THE Way**

Have you ever gotten lost going some place you have never been before?
Jesus came from the Father, returned to sit at the right hand of the Father.
NO ONE comes to the Father except through me.

b. **Jesus is THE Truth**

We live in a world where “truth” is relative to feelings and experience.

John 1:1-5; 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it... the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

II Timothy 3:10-17 “All scripture is God breathed...” The standard for our lives. We cannot change God’s Word to fit the preferences and wants of our lives. We must change our lives to fit the truth of God’s Word

All Scripture is USEFUL in these specific areas of our lives:

- Teaching
- Rebuking



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

I: Jesus -The Word

- Correcting
- Training

Q: What type of attitude will a person need to have for the Bible to be useful?

John 12:47-50

c. Jesus is THE Life

1 John 1:1-4 John testifies as a witness to the life of Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:3-6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Q: What hinders you from accepting Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life?

C. What Did Jesus Fulfill for Us?

a. Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past God spoke to us through prophets.

Now God has spoken to us by His Son.

The Son is the radiance of God's Glory/exact representation.

Cf. Hebrews 11:1-7 he is the exact representation of God.

Cf. Colossians 1:15 he is the image of the invisible God.

The Law, the prophets and the promises of God all point to Jesus.

Cf. Matthew 5:17, Jesus came not to abolish them, but to fulfill them

b. Acts 2

The Apostle Peter delivers the first Gospel message following the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the day of Pentecost.

c. Acts 2:22-24

Jesus was accredited by God to you.

Jesus was handed over by God's set purpose and foreknowledge.

You (1st century/21st century), with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead.

d. Acts 2:36-41

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

The people were cut to the heart...and said, "What shall we do?"



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

I: Jesus -The Word

2:40, “with many other words...”

SUMMARY:

Jesus calls us to come to him for rest...the real Jesus. Not merely as a historical figure, a religious tradition or fairy tale, but as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Jesus calls us to follow him as THE Way, THE Truth and THE Life.

Jesus calls us to recognize him as the fulfillment of God’s plan for the salvation of all who will respond to His Word, His Grace and His Will. God has provided for each of us this wonderful opportunity to enjoy a powerful and comforting relationship with him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What impact has the real Jesus had on your life, your choices and your faith?
- What type of attitude will a person need to have for the Bible to be useful?
- What hinders you from accepting Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life?
- How did the people respond to the plan and message of God here in Acts?
- What decisions has the Bible inspired you to make about your life today?

CHALLENGE:

- Take time to review and consider the personal application of these scriptures and thoughts.
- For those who consider themselves believers: Read through the first letter of John.
- For those who are searching: Begin reading through the Gospel of John

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY:

Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

Psalm 119:1-16

“I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Romans 10:17

“...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.”



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

I: Jesus -The Word

John 20:30

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

2 Peter 1:19-21

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation... but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12-13

“The Word of God is living and active... nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

James 1:22-25

“Do not merely listen to the word of God, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says...the man of God who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it- he will be blessed in what he does.”

John 8:31-32

“...if you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1 Timothy 4:16

“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

Acts 17:11-12

“...for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday to see if what Paul said was true.”

2 Timothy 4:1-4

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

II: Jesus -The Lord

Read Acts 2:36-38

A. What does it mean that “Jesus is Lord”?

Definition: Master, Owner, Controller; Emperor

Practical Application: **Obey**

a. **Matthew 7: 21-23**

“...not everyone who says...Lord, Lord... but only he who does the will of my Father

b. **Matthew 7:24-27**

The wise = listened and **obeyed**

The foolish = listened and **did not obey**

c. **James 1:22-25**

The Word helps us see ourselves as He does.

Listening without obeying leads to being deceived (like Mt 7:21-23 above).

Do what the Word says and you will be blessed.

d. **James 2:14-17**

Faith produces obedience (Faith: to believe something to be true to the extent that you give yourself over to it).

Jesus is truly our Lord if we obey him!

Obedience is a key to powerful spiritual living.

Q: What obstacles do you face that make it difficult for you to obey?

Q: Has there ever been a specific time in your life that you made Jesus your Lord?

Q: How did this change your life? (attitudes, decisions, goals, thinking, actions, priorities)

Q: Would Jesus say you are following him? Why or why not?



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

II: Jesus -The Lord

B. What does it mean to “Repent”? Act 2:38

What it is.

Three Definitions (each a different way of saying the same thing)

- A change of mind* (produced by faith) that produces a change of life.
- A 180 degree turn*: to turn from sin and to righteous living. To turn from self-rule to God rule (throne illustration).
- “Replacement”* rather than *“abstinence”* (Luke 11:24-28).

Abstinence alone produces an empty, vulnerable life.

What it is not. 2 Corinthians 7:9-12

- It is not feeling sorry.
- Godly sorrow brings repentance/change—it is not in itself repentance.

Practical Application:

What to repent “from” and “to”.

- Col 3:1-14** (also Gal 5:13-26, Eph 4:17-5:12)

From Sins (This list is not all inclusive. Gal 5:21 says “... and the like”)

- Sexual immorality
- Impurity
- Lust
- Evil desires
- Greed-idolatry
- Anger
- Rage
- Cruelty
- Slander
- Filthy language
- Lying



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

II: Jesus -The Lord

To Righteousness

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- Love

b. Matthew 22:34-40

Love God and Love “Neighbor” (1John 5:3)

c. Mark 1:14-18

“Fishers of men”/evangelism

d. Matthew 28:18-20

Evangelism and discipleship

e. Luke 15:11-22

An example of repentance

Q: What helps you to Repent? What makes it difficult?

Q: Whether Jesus is currently your Lord or not, what do you need to repent “from” and “to”?

C. What will Lordship Require? Acts 2:37

It Requires HEART

a. 2 Corinthians 7:10

Conviction/godly sorrow.

b. Romans 2:4

Appreciation (This will be covered in detail in the next lesson.)



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

II: Jesus -The Lord

c. Luke 9:23-26

Self denial "...if anyone would come after me he must deny himself...."

d. Luke 5:4-11

"...master, ...because you say so, I will...."

e. Luke 14:25 -33

Luke 7:36-50

An example of Conviction, Appreciation and Self-denial

Q: How would you define self-denial?

Q: Why do you think self-denial is so necessary?

A. SUMMARY

When a person makes Jesus his/her Lord in the way that the Bible teaches, the result is he/she lives their life for Him. This is shown by obedience, repentance and self-denial.

B. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What obstacles do you face that make it difficult to obey?
- Has there ever been a specific time in your life that you made Jesus your Lord/Master?
- If so how did this change your life? (attitudes, decisions, goals, thinking, actions, priorities)
- Would Jesus say you are following Him? Why or why not?
- What helps you repent? What makes it difficult?
- What do you need to repent from and to?
- What does it mean to deny yourself?
- Why do you think self-denial is necessary in your life?



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

II: Jesus -The Lord

C. CHALLENGES

- Restudy the verses used in this study. Be sure to include the context.
- Read: Mt 26, 27, 28. This is an example of Jesus showing lordship toward God. Also, these chapters are important for preparing you for the next study.
- If you have not made Jesus your Lord the way the scriptures teach, be sure to discuss this with one of the other members in your group.
- Whether Saved or Lost, make a list of what you need to repent from and to. With each, identify what would make this hard to follow through on.
- Start your list now and work on it until our next study. Ask others how they have overcome similar struggles as yours (or for that matter, struggles that you don't have).

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Luke 11:24-27

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' [25] When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. [26] Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

[27] As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."

1 John 2:3-6

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. [4] The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [5] But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: [6] Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

II: Jesus -The Lord

Romans 6:16

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Acts 26:20

First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Matthew 3:8

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Ephesians 4:17-5:12

Matthew 5-7

Colossians 1-4

Galatians 5:13-26

Begin reading Acts



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

III: Jesus - The Savior

Acts 2:14-47

Christ (cristos) = Anointed = Messiah = Savior

Acts 11:26; Disciples were first called “Christ”ians in Antioch

A. Jesus saves you by GRACE

a. Ephesians 2:1-10

You are dead in your sins

You deserve God’s wrath

God gives you the gift of mercy instead

You are saved through your faith, and even that is a gift from God

Q: How does it make you feel to have someone tell you that you are dead in your sins and deserve God’s wrath?

Q: How does it make you feel to know that Someone loves you anyway?

b. Titus 2:11-14

Salvation is by grace.

Not based on your feeling, works, morality or conscience.

Grace teaches you to say “no” to sin.

c. Titus 3:3-8

You can’t earn or deserve grace.

Neither the worst nor the best of us can earn grace.

d. Romans 3:23; 6:23

Mercy is not “getting what you deserve.”

Grace is “getting what you don’t deserve.”

e. You must respond to and accept God’s grace

Wages are something you earn whether you deserve it or not.

Grace is similar to a gift of one billion dollars.



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

III: Jesus - The Savior

B. Jesus saves you by the GOSPEL

a. Isaiah 59:1-2; God has no relationship with sin

Even if you could “sin no more” you still have to pay the penalty of past sins.

Penalty is death.

That is where God’s grace kicks in.

b. Matthew 26-28 (homework); 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Death, Burial & Resurrection

The “gospel” is “good news.”

Jesus paid your penalty.

- Physical pain
- Emotional pain
- Spiritual pain

c. Application

Romans 5:6-11 Christ paid the penalty for you.

Acts 2:23-24, 36 You crucified Him and are just as guilty.

Q: Did you crucify Jesus? How? Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins?

Q: How does that make you feel?

Acts 2:37 Proper response is to be cut to the heart and ask “what next?”

Acts 2:38

C. Jesus saves you by BAPTISM

a. Baptism is commanded

Peter does not “suggest” baptism but demands it.

That still does not make baptism a work that earns you salvation.

It is the point of responding to and accepting God’s grace.

b. Baptism is a picture; Romans 6:1-14

Participation in death, burial & resurrection.



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

III: Jesus - The Savior

- Die to your old self
- Buried with/into Christ
- Raised to walk a new life

Romans 3:25 At baptism, you come in contact with His blood.

1 Peter 3:18-21 Baptism saves you by the resurrection of Jesus.

Acts 2:38 Baptism is “for the forgiveness of sins.”

John 3:1-7 Baptism is what Jesus refers to as being “born again.”

Q: What is your faith in when you are baptized?

c. Baptism is the New Testament example

Saul; Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16

He had been fasting and praying for three days.

He still had sins that needed to be washed away.

- Philippian Jailer; Acts 16:16-34

Belief was not merely an acknowledgement.

Jailer demonstrated his belief in God by washing their wounds and baptism.

Saving faith is one that obeys

- 2 Kings 5:1-13; Naaman

Q: What do you think the result would have been had Naaman not dipped himself?

SUMMARY:

As good or as bad as you have been, you need God’s grace.

Whether you accept it or not, God has still given His Son as a payment for your sins.

Jesus died for your sins, was buried and then God raised Him up from the dead three days later.

This same victorious power is available for you!

Are you ready to participate in the gospel by responding to God’s grace?



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

III: Jesus - The Savior

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does it make you feel to have someone tell you that you are dead in your sins and deserve God's wrath?
- How does it make you feel to know that Someone loves you anyway?
- Why is it dangerous to rely on your feelings, works, morality or conscience?
- Did you crucify Jesus? How? Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins?
- How does that make you feel?
- What is your faith in when you are baptized?
- What do you think the result would have been had Naaman not dipped himself?

CHALLENGE:

Read an account (other than the Bible) about the death of Christ.

A couple of suggestions would be:

- Davis, C.T.: "The Crucifixion of Jesus: The Passion of Christ from a Medical Point of View," *Arizona Medicine* 1965;68:183-287
- Bauer, Rick: *The Anatomy of Calvary: An In-Depth Study of the Cross*. Boston, Massachusetts, Boston Church of Christ Press, 1989

Watch the movie:

- Gibson, Mel: *The Passion of the Christ*. Icon Productions, 2004

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY:

Acts 8:4-13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized."

Acts 8:26-40

"As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

III: Jesus - The Savior

Acts 10:1-48

“Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 16:11-15

“One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.”

Acts 18:1-8

“Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.”

Acts 19:1-5

“Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Colossians 2:12

“...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

III: Jesus - The Savior

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

John 3:1-7

“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”

Romans 3-6

“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”

Hebrews 9:11-10:18

“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

IV: Jesus - The Head of the Church

Introduction

In the previous three studies of the “*Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith*” series, we learned about Jesus and how he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life - the only way to heaven. We have also learned that “*God has made this Jesus both Lord (Phil 2:5-11) and Christ*” (Romans 6:4).

In this study, we will focus on the church established by Jesus. We will examine how we enter it, how it is shaped, and some practical aspects of being a member of the church.

The meaning of the word “*church*” is “*to be called out.*” The good news is we have been called out of the world to have a special and everlasting relationship with God, our father, and our brothers and sisters in the church. In addition, our relationship with those who are not Christians has new meaning and purpose.

Who is a member of the Church?

God adds those who accept the message through faith and are baptized into Christ to the church.

Example: Act 2: 36 – 47

3,000 people accepted the message - *called out* to be a part of the church.

These first members of the church were devoted to:

- The Apostles Teachings - The Word (Rom. 10:17 – faith from hearing the word)
- Fellowship (Hebrews 3:12-14 – encourage each other to remain faithful)
- Breaking of Bread (1 Corinthians 11:23-32)
- Prayer (Mark 6:9-15 – Jesus shows us the importance of prayer)

a. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

We are baptized into the body of Christ, which is the church.

b. Ephesians 4:4-6

The Bible teaches there is one church, one body.



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

IV: Jesus - The Head of the Church

c. Matthew 7

Jesus says, “small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, only a few find it.”
So, how do we know we are truly part of God’s church? By following the bible.

Q: How do we become part of God’s church?

Q: In what ways were the first members of the church called out to be different than the world around them?

How is the Church shaped?

a. Colossians 1:13-20

Jesus is the head.
He is the head of the body, the church.

b. Ephesians 1: 22 -23

He is head of everything for the church.

c. Ephesians 2:19

Christians make up the body - the church - the family of God.

d. Ephesians 2:20

The church is based on the Word of God. This is the church foundation.
Apostles = New Testament Bible. Prophets = Old Testament
Christ is the cornerstone.

e. Ephesians 4:11-13

Church leadership: Church leaders prepare God’s people for works of service

f. Hebrews 13:17

They keep watch over the church

Q: How does the shape of the church help us live a victorious life in Christ?



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

IV: Jesus - The Head of the Church

What does it mean to be part of the Church?

We accept God's culture, not ours:

a. Ephesians 4:22-24

Put off your old self and put on the new.

b. Colossians 3:1-17

Set your heart and mind on things above.

Our relationship with God, other Christians, and non-believers can now be what God has always intended them to be.

We have a relationship with God, our Father

a. 2 Corinthians 6:18

God desires to have a close relationship with us.

b. Ephesians 1:4-5

God has thought about us being with him since before creation.

c. Galatians 3:26 - 28

When we become a baptized disciple of Jesus, we become God's sons and daughters.

d. Galatians 4:6-7

Paul uses the word "*Abba*" which could be conveyed in today's terms as "Daddy".

e. Matthew 6: 9-15

Jesus teaches us how to pray. It is very important that we stay connected with God through communication. God speaks to us through his Word and his Spirit. We speak to God through prayer.

f. Heb. 12:7-11

God cares enough to discipline us as sons.

We have a relationship with our Brothers and Sisters

a. Romans 12:1-13

The Body has many parts, all are needed. I need the body and the body needs me so needs can be met. Be devoted to each other.



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

IV: Jesus - The Head of the Church

b. 1 Corinthians 1:10

We are called to unity, not uniformity.

c. Galatians 6:10

The family of believers provides us a place to practice doing good.

d. Hebrews 10:23-25

The Hebrew writer encourages us to “not give up meeting together...” Be involved! The fellowship with our brothers and sisters helps us to be unswerving in our commitment (v.23). Another purpose of fellowship is to encourage each other so we will remain faithful (v. 24). You need to come regularly to all meetings of the body: i.e. Sunday and midweek services, special devotionals, etc.

e. James 5:16

Be open with each other, pray for one another.

f. 2 Timothy 3:12

As Christians we will be persecuted. Our relationship with the body will help us through these times.

Q: What does the bible say about how we should be devoted to one another?

Q: What are some person examples?

We have a relationship with those who do not know Jesus

a. Mark 1:15 – 18

Jesus makes us “fisher of men” – to help people know God and the salvation found through his Son, Jesus.

b. 2 Corinthians 5:20

God uses us to help proclaim the Gospel (good news) – God’s love and God’s plan of salvation for every person. We are God’s ambassadors to the world.

c. Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

d. Matthew 28:19-20

Our mission, given by Jesus, is to make disciples and baptize them.



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

IV: Jesus - The Head of the Church

e. Acts 2:47

God's plan is to add people daily to his church.

Q: What are some practical ways that you can begin today to love your "neighbors" as God calls us to?

SUMMARY:

We enter God's church when we accept the message through faith and are baptized into Christ as seen in Acts Ch. 2.

God has set up the church with just the right shape to allow us to live a victorious life. Each member of the church is needed. Each of us is different and unique. God uses our differences to meet the needs of his people.

God calls us out of the world to have a personal relationship with him and to take on his culture and way of thinking.

We need to be totally committed and devoted to our brothers and sisters in the church.

God has given us a mission to share the Gospel (the good news) with those who are not yet Christians – to love them as God has loved us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How do we become a member of the church? And, in what ways have the members of the church been called out to be different than the world?
- How does the shape of the church help us live a victorious life in Christ?
- What does the bible say about how we should be devoted to one another? What are some person examples?
- What are some practical areas that you have seen God call his children to be unified?
- What are some practical ways that you can begin today to love your "neighbors" as God calls us to?



Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith

IV: Jesus - The Head of the Church

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Matt. 27:51

With Jesus' sacrifice, we can now have a direct personal relationship with God. God shows us the separation is gone by tearing the curtain from top to bottom.

Rom. 8:26-27

The Spirit intercedes, helping us with our relationship with God when we don't know what to say or do.

Rom. 8:34

Jesus intercedes, helping us with our relationship with God, since Jesus can relate to our struggles.

I Cor. 12:14-27

The Body has many parts, all are needed – we are made differently to help meet different needs.