



# ***Surveying the Land:***

## ***What's The Church & How Do I Become A Part Of It?***

### ***Session Three:***

### ***Why Join This Church?***

#### I. Our Statement of Faith (What We Believe)

*"Watch your life and doctrine closely." ~ 1 Timothy 4:16*

Resting our faith entirely in the Lord Jesus Christ for our eternal salvation, we believe in the teachings of the Holy Bible and in the following doctrines, statements of faith, and historic Baptist distinctives.

1. That the Holy Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and that it is therefore the final authority in all matters.
2. That God exists eternally and that He manifests Himself in three persons--God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and that He was at the same time both divine and human.
4. That the Holy Spirit is a divine person as truly as are God the Father and God the Son.
5. That the Lord Jesus Christ, after being buried following His Crucifixion on the cross of Calvary, arose bodily from the dead, and that He is the Savior, and the only Savior through whom fallen people can find forgiveness and salvation.

6. That the forgiveness and salvation made possible by the vicarious death of Jesus Christ on the cross comes to people through personal faith in the Crucified One – the Lord Jesus Christ—and that salvation is by grace.
7. That Jesus Christ Himself will come again to this world to rule and reign in righteousness and that His coming again is imminent and that it will be literal, personal, visible and sudden.
8. That this church is composed of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, who have been baptized by immersion in water, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
9. That the ordinances of the Church are believer's baptism in which is shown forth the individual's personal identification with Jesus Christ as Lord in being buried and raised in Him to newness of life; and the Lord's Supper in which the believer shows forth their remembrance of the atoning death of Jesus Christ in anticipation of His coming again.
10. That the local Church is autonomous, governing itself by the majority rule in order to guarantee equal right to all and special privilege to none, and resting upon its interdependence with other churches of like faith and practice for the carrying out of Christ's Great Commission.

### Note three important truths:

- We are a **Christ**-centered church, seeking the power and presence of Jesus Christ;
- We are a **Biblical** church, looking to the Word of God for guidance in faith and practice;
- We are a **New Testament** church, patterning our beliefs and practices after New Testament practices.

*Do you have any questions about FBC's doctrine?*

## II. Our Lifestyle Statement (What We Value)

### **Values We Share With Other Baptists:**

#### **B = Bible-Based.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

#### **A = Autonomy of the Local Church.**

1 Corinthians 12:27 – *“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*

#### **P = Priesthood of All Believers.**

1 Peter 2:9 – *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.”*

#### **T = Tithing.**

Malachi 3:10 – *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty.”*

#### **I = Immersion and Believer’s Baptism.**

Acts 2:38 – *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins.”*

#### **S = Soul Liberty.**

Acts 5:29 – *“We must obey God rather than men!”*

#### **T = Telling Others about Christ.**

Matthew 28:19-20 – *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

## ***Values That Are In Our DNA (Or Starting To Emerge):***

### **FULL Member Concept.**

Romans 12:5-6 – *“In Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

Each member involved in a

**Feeding** Ministry

**Undergirding** Ministry

**Living & Learning** Ministry

### **Each member SHAPED for ministry.**

1 Corinthians 12:7 – *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

Each member needs to know his or her **Spiritual Gifts**

**Heart**

**Abilities**

**Personality**

**Experiences**

### **LIFE Groups.**

Acts 20:20 – *“I have...taught you publicly and from house to house.”*

Each member in small group communities for

**Learning**

**Intercession**

**Fellowship**

**Evangelism**

*A healthy church grows larger and **smaller** at the same time!*

### **Organized to Mobilize.**

Ephesians 4:11-12 – *“It was [God] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service.”*

## ***What is FBC’s basic governing structure?***

***We aim for ministry over meetings.***

### III. Our Mission Statement (What Our Purpose Is)



**Our Mission Statement**



**Empower And  
Encourage Our  
Community With The  
Love Of Christ**

A good mission statement should help a church...

...motivate.

...regulate.

...evaluate.

How does this mission statement do these three things?

### IV. Our Vision Statement (What We Hope To Become)



*But as we work on our vision for the future...*

## A. Consider the need...

1. ...of our region:

2. ...of our community:

\_\_\_\_\_ live within a 20 minute drive of FBC!

*“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”*  
(Matthew 9:36-37)

## B. Consider the outcome...

If our vision becomes a reality, then...

- souls will be saved *for eternity*
- marriages will be restored
- addictions will be broken
- suicides will be prevented
- people will escape financial bondage
- the grieving will find comfort
- the hopeless will find a purpose for living
- the lonely will find companionship
- crime will drop
- school hallways will become safe
- teen pregnancies will be reduced
- racial tension will lessen
- the poor will be cared for
- 

What our nation needs now more than anything is a **revival**, a turning back to **God**.

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” (Psalm 33:12)*

*“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” (Proverbs 14:34)*

*“Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.” (Proverbs 11:11)*

## ***Now What? (Where Do I Go From Here?)***

### I. The Stepping Stones To Membership

<b><u>Step</u></b>	<b><u>Date Completed</u></b>
<b>1. Completion of Membership Class</b>	_____
<b>2. Conversion and Baptism</b>	_____
<b>3. Share Testimony with Spiritual Leaders</b>	_____
<b>4. Share Testimony with Congregation (optional)</b>	_____
<b>5. Affirmed and Welcomed By Congregation</b>	_____

#### **On The Day I Am Baptized...**

- Since baptism is full immersion in water, wear clothes that are comfortable, and that you don't mind getting wet. We will provide you with a robe to wear in the baptismal tank over your clothes, so don't worry about making a fashion statement!
- Bring along a change of clothes for after your baptism. And don't forget a hairbrush, hair dryer, towel, a bag for your wet clothes, etc. Someone from the diaconate will be available to assist you with anything you need.
- The actual baptism will take place at the end of the service, so you may sit with your family and friends throughout most of the time. Be prepared to share your testimony (1 written page, 2-5 minutes) during the service.
- Meet ten minutes before the service in the pastor's office for a time of prayer, and to situate your things in the changing rooms.
- During the actual baptism, step down into the tank when the pastor signals you. The pastor will say, "\_\_\_\_\_, based upon your confession of faith in Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." Relax and lean back in the water. The pastor will support you. (Feel free to hold your nose if necessary.) And have faith that the pastor will bring you back up once the water has covered you!

## II. In Joining FBC, What Am I Promising To Do?

### THE FBC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT (Modeled after Saddleback Church)

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

#### 1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

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

*"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."  
(Rom. 14:19)*

*"(Be) like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." (Phil.2:2)*

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." (Ephesians 4:29)*

*"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17*

#### 2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

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

*"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." (1 Samuel 12:23)*

*"Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full."  
(Luke 14:23)*

*"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."  
(Romans 15:7)*

### **3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...by being a FULL Member**
- ...By discovering my SHAPE (my gifts and talents)**
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors**
- ...By developing a servant's heart**
- ...By supporting FBC's child-safety program**

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others." (1 Peter 4:10)*

*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)*

### **4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving regularly**

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)*

*"Train yourself to be godly...Godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8)*

*"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..." (1 Corinthians 16:2)*

*"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." (Leviticus 27:30)*

## Am I A Full Member?



We believe that God has equipped every Christian with spiritual gifts that are to be used for the strengthening of his church and the building of his kingdom. If I do not allow my gifts to be used, the work of the church will suffer (and I will too!) At the same time, there must be a balance to my service. *Church-a-Pewism* (doing too little) and *Church-a-Holism* (doing too much) are to be avoided. The FULL Member concept is designed to help you find **direction** and **balance** in your church involvement. This scoring system will help you get an idea of where you are at on the FULL Member Scale. Score 5 points for each checkmark you make unless noted otherwise.

### Feeding Ministry – *Serving On The Frontlines*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Sunday School Teacher/Helper _____               | “HUGS” Security Team _____                 |
| Children’s Church Teacher/Helper _____           | Prayer Team Member _____                   |
| Awana Teacher/Helper _____                       | Marriage Mentor _____                      |
| Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministry Teacher/Helper _____ | Volunteer Regularly At Local Charity _____ |
| VBS Coordinator _____                            | Shut-In Visitation Ministry _____          |
| Small Group Facilitator _____                    | Men or Women’s Group Leader _____          |
| Worship & Sound Team _____                       | Meals Ministry _____                       |
| Missions Team _____                              | Drama Ministry (Caraway) _____             |
| Building Maintenance Team _____                  | Financial Peace Coordinator _____          |
| “HUGS” Usher/Greeter _____                       | Support Group Leader (e.g. CR, AA) _____   |
| “HUGS” Hospitality-Coffee Team _____             | Offer Car or Home Maintenance _____        |

*Periodic/Occasional Ministries (2 points each)*

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Worship Service Leader _____         | Trunk ‘n Treat/Easter Egg Hunt _____     |
| VBS Teacher/Helper _____             | Blood Drive Coordinator _____            |
| Choir/Bell Choir/Special Music _____ | Special Outreach Event Coordinator _____ |

*Add 2 points if you are the coordinator of any ministry team \_\_\_\_\_*

### Undergirding Ministry – *Supporting The Frontlines*

- |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Church Moderator _____                | Christian Ed Planning Staff _____ |
| Church Clerk _____                    | Church IT-Video team _____        |
| Treasurer/Asst. _____                 | Van Driver _____                  |
| Financial Secretary/Asst. _____       | Child Safety Program Lead _____   |
| Leadership Team Member _____          | Church Web Site _____             |
| Christian Education Team Leader _____ | Nominating Committee _____        |
| Nursery Volunteer _____               | Beautification Team _____         |

*The following are areas of support which require periodic help. (2 points each.)*

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cook Meals _____                | Church Photographer _____ |
| Church Work Day Volunteer _____ | Church Librarian _____    |
| Communion Preparer-Server _____ | Church Historian _____    |
| Office Helper _____             | Stock pews & foyer _____  |
| Audit Team _____                |                           |

**Living and Learning Ministry – Growing On The Front Lines**

Small Group/Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_  
 Men’s Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_  
 Women’s Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_  
 Awanas \_\_\_\_\_

Support Group Attender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday School Attender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor’s Discipleship Track \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth Group (Jr. or Sr. High) \_\_\_\_\_

*Periodic/Occasional Ministries (2 points each)*

Men’s/Women’s Prayer Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seasonal Training Seminar \_\_\_\_\_

Men’s/Women’s Retreat/Conference \_\_\_\_\_

**Point Total:**

**FEEDING:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**UNDERGIRDING:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**LIVING & LEARNING:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring System:**

- 0-9**            **Require morgue; ain’t no pulse!**
- 10-15**       **Require intensive care; pulse is weak**
- 16-22**       **Require hospital bed; making good recovery**
- 23-30**       **Proper fitness level for a FULL Member**
- 31-36**       **Require oxygen – you’re overdoing it!**
- 37+**           **Require intervention! Suicide Watch!**  
**Abandon Ship!**

## The FBC Quiz

1. What's our Mission Statement?

2. What does it mean to be a "FULL Member"?

It means I will seek to be involved in at least one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ministry

\_\_\_\_\_ Ministry

\_\_\_\_\_ Ministry

3. How many people live within a 20 minute drive of the church?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. List 3 reasons why God wants me to be a member of a local church family.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Think: *Brotherhood of Body-Building Battalion Brides* for a clue!

5. For us at FBC, church membership is not about voting or status, but primarily about:

***building \_\_\_\_\_ within a caring***

***\_\_\_\_\_.***