

# Discovering Church Membership

## The Basis for This Class:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, Ephesians 2:19 NIV

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Ephesians 2:19 NLT

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, Ephesians 2:19 NASB

## Key Truths:

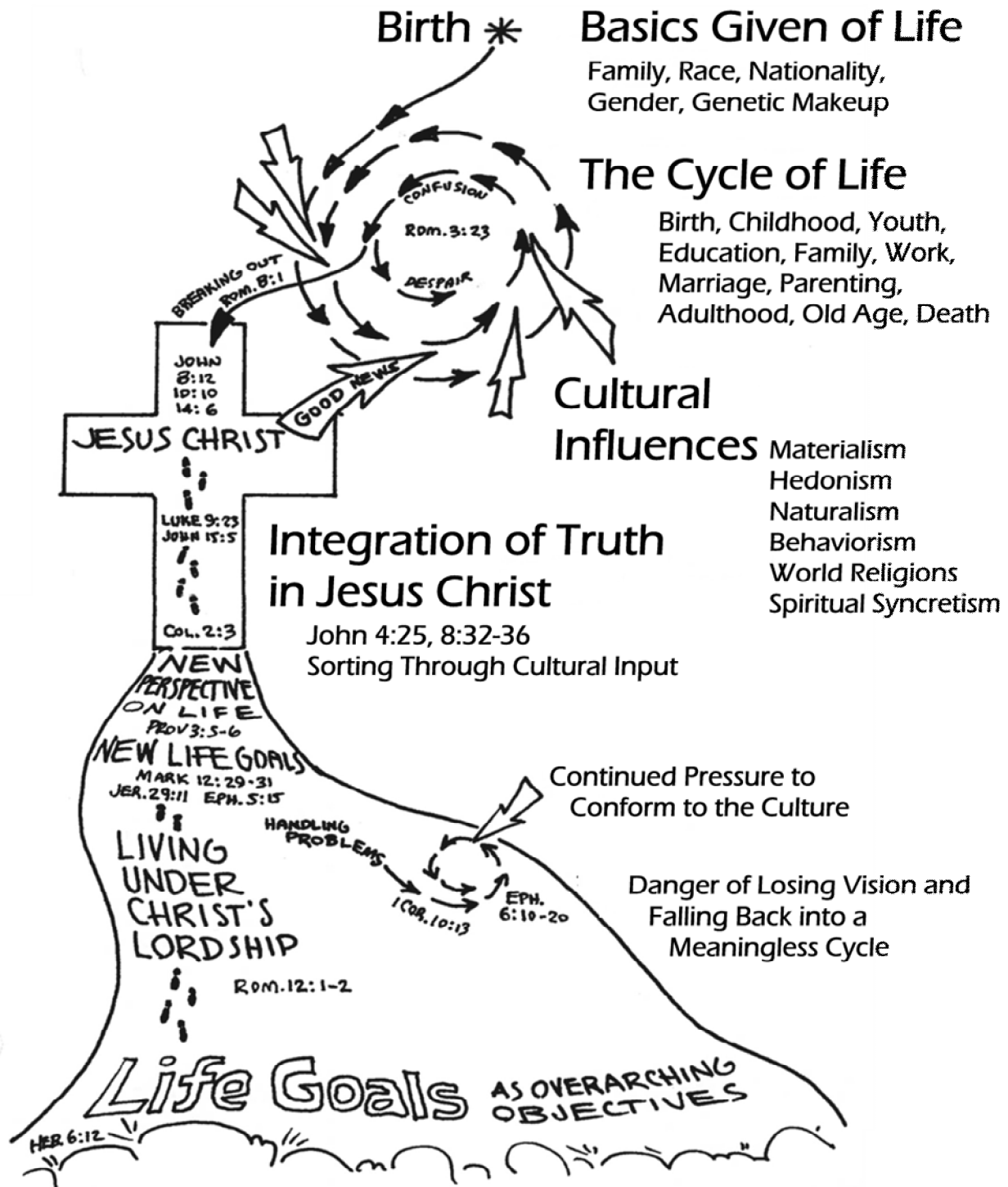
1. The church is **FAMILY**.
2. God's plan is that you are a **MEMBER** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an **ORPHAN**.

## The Goal of this Class:

That I will commit myself to these two relationships:  
To **CHRIST** (the Savior)  
To the **CHURCH** (the Saints)



# God's Purpose for Life

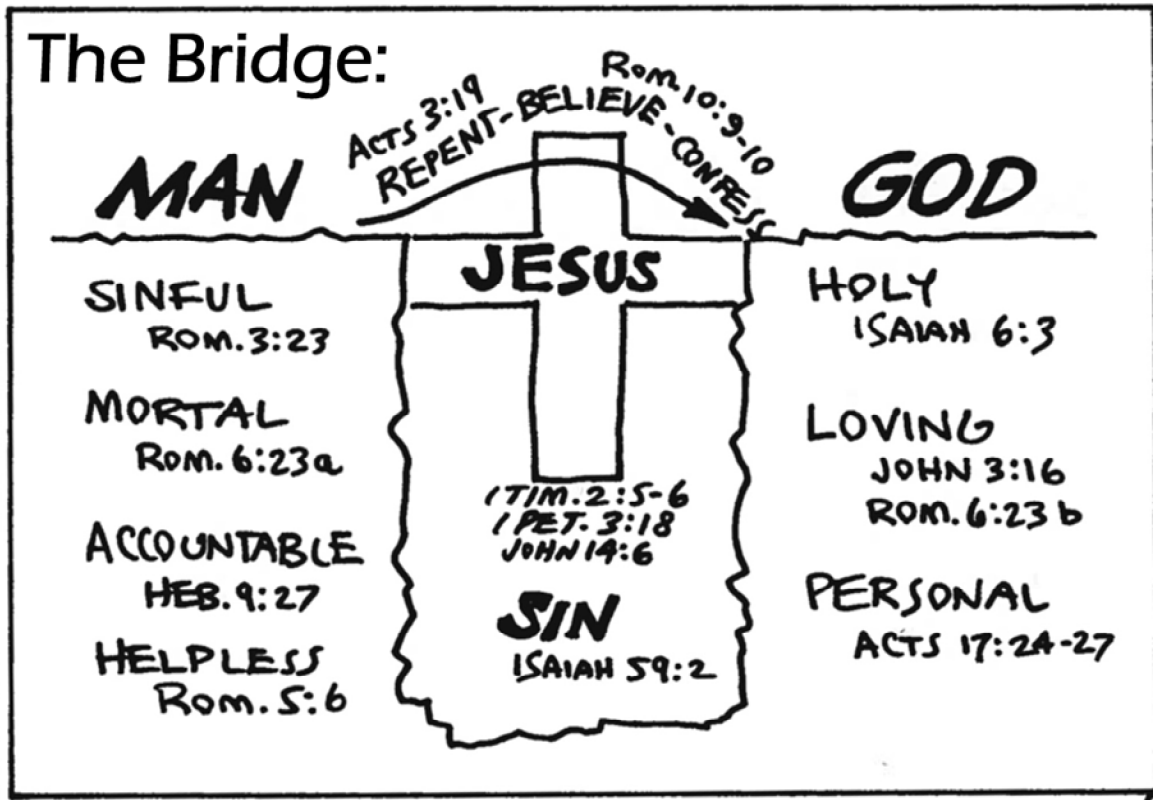


Beyond This Life - a Promise of Everlasting Life in Jesus Christ

# God's Plan of Salvation

Two questions we must all answer:

1. Have you come to the place in your life where you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you will go to heaven when you die? (1 John 5:13)
2. Suppose you were standing before God right now and He were to ask you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" What do you think you would say?



## The Secret of Being a Happy and Healthy Church Member

What is the gospel? (1 Corinthians 15:3-5) - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Other ways to present the gospel:

1. The Four Spiritual Laws
2. The Romans Road to Salvation
3. FAITH Evangelism

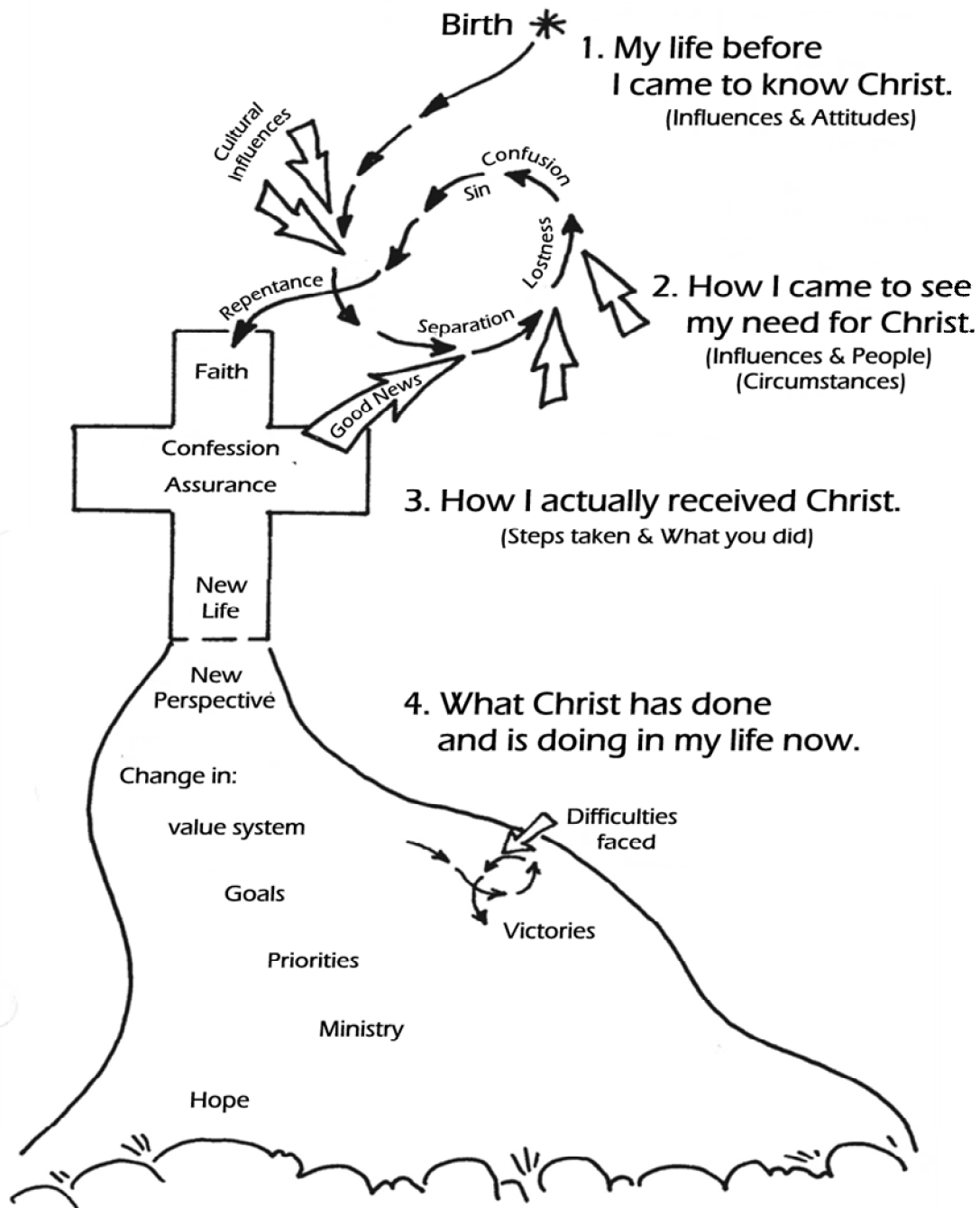
Key Elements to include:

1. God's Plan: He loves us
2. Our Problem: We are sinners
3. God's Provision: Christ and the cross
4. Our Position: Where we stand with Jesus

**DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS OR DO YOU KNOW HIM?**

# Communicate Your Story

Paul gives a great account of his salvation experience in Acts 22:3-21, and includes three main points: life BEFORE Christ, how God found him, life IN Christ.



**Life Verse:** A life verse gives spiritual focus and direction.

Verses to consider: Galatians 2:20, Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 28:19-20, Philippians 4:13, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 12:1-2

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# What About Baptism?

Why Get Baptized? Because baptism is an outward expression of an inner reality!

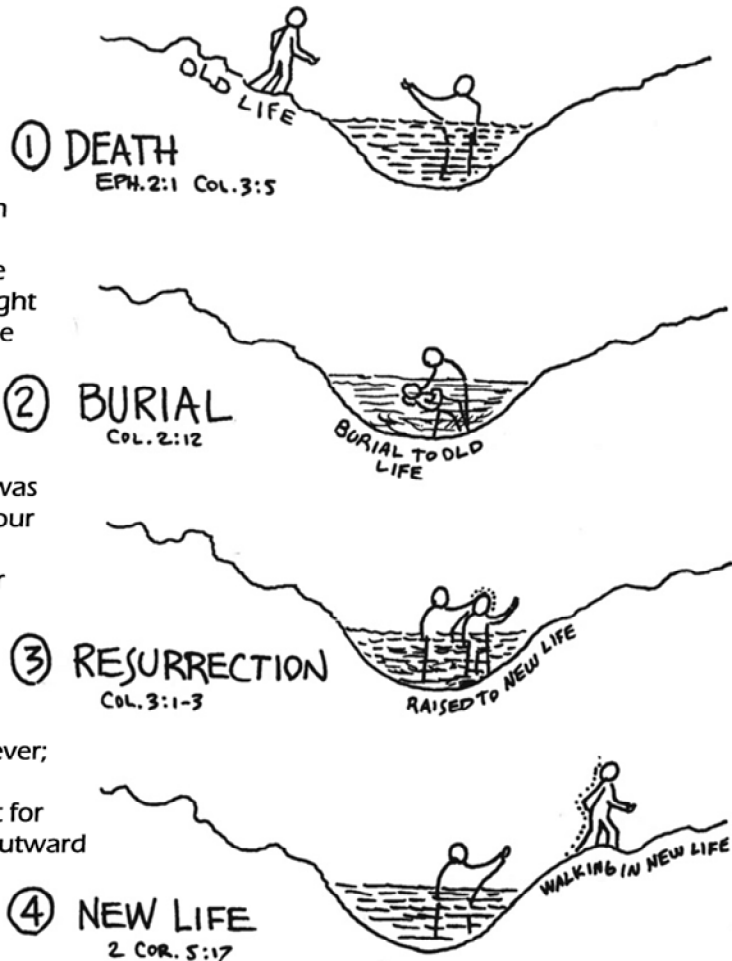
1. To COPY the example of Jesus (Mark 1:9)
2. To COMPLY with the command of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. To CONFIRM in others that you are a believer (Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3)

## Romans 6:4-6...

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

## Symbolism...

Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it shows that you are a believer. It doesn't save you; Jesus did that for you. It's like a wedding ring, an outward symbol of an inner commitment made in your heart.



## Why Baptize in Water?

Because Jesus was baptized that way (Matthew 3:16), every biblical baptism was that way (Acts 8:38-39), and the word "baptizo" literally means "to dip under water."

1. Martin Luther - "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."
2. John Calvin - "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."
3. John Wesley - "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

Describe your baptism experience:



# What About the Lord's Supper?

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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 death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

## There is Debate Over What This Ceremony Represents:

1. Transubstantiation or Symbol: the Catholic Church teaches that the elements of the bread and the cup ACTUALLY become the body and blood of Jesus when blessed by the priest, while keeping the appearance of bread and wine/juice. Baptists view the ceremony as rather symbolic; the elements represent the body and blood of Christ, shed for us, for the forgiveness of sins.
2. Sacrament: religious action or symbol in which spiritual power (grace) is believed to be transmitted through material elements or the performance of ritual.
3. Ordinance: something that is ordained or decreed by a deity, Jesus himself. To be an ordinance in Baptist circles, there had to be a sign (the act performed) and significance (the meaning of the act).

### 1. It is a MEAL, also a simple act; it is nothing elaborate or fancy.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, *took bread* and broke it...” (1 Corinthians 11:23)

### 2. It is a MEMORIAL, to be done in remembrance of him.

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in *remembrance* of me.’” (1 Corinthians 11:24)

### 3. It is a MOVEMENT, from an old Passover symbol to the new symbol.

“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘*This cup* is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’” (1 Corinthians 11:25)

### 4. It is a MESSAGE, our statement of faith in Christ.

“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you *proclaim* the Lord’s death until He comes back.” (1 Corinthians 11:26)

## Closed or Open Communion?

We encourage all those who have faith in Jesus Christ to participate in the Lord’s Supper, no matter their denominational background. Here, baptism is not a prerequisite to the Lord’s Supper.



# What is the Purpose of the Church?

A **Great Commitment** to the **Great Commandment** and the **Great Commission** will create a **Great Church**!

## 1. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)

- a. Love God with all your heart is **WORSHIP**
- b. Love your neighbor as yourself is **MINISTRY**

## 2. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

- a. Go... and make disciples is **EVANGELISM**
- b. Teaching them to observe / obey is **DISCIPLESHIP**

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The bottom line for the existence of King's Grant, is found in our mission statement:

### ***Knowing Christ and Making Him Known***

**“And He appointed twelve, so that they would be *with Him* and that He could send them out to preach,” -- Mark 3:14 NASB**

**“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—*the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*” -- Acts 20:24 NIV**

### **Why do we exist? For these five reasons:**

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- 1. To **CELEBRATE** God's Presence: corporate and individual worship
- 2. To **COMMUNICATE** God's Word: teaching God's word and Sharing God's word
- 3. To **CULTIVATE** God's People: growing toward maturity, building families
- 4. To **CONFIRM** God's Love: demonstrating God's love by serving others
- 5. To **CONNECT** People into God's Family: assimilating people into the church

## **Our Lifestyle Statement**

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These are the things we put into practice because our beliefs really don't matter a whole lot if we don't translate them into action. Actions are changed based on these beliefs.

**BIBLE is our sole authority for faith and practice**

**AUTONOMY of each local church**

**PRIESTHOOD of the believer**

**TITHING, TEACHING, and TRAINING**

**IMMERSION is our mode of baptism**

**SPIRIT-LED living, resulting in SANCTIFICATION**

**TELLING others about Christ, your TESTIMONY**

## **Our Beliefs in Relation to Other People**

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**In essential beliefs** — we have unity.

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Ephesians 4:4-6

**In non-essential beliefs** — we have liberty.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”  
Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

**In all our beliefs** — we show love.

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” 1 Corinthians 13:2 (Phillips)



## Statement of Faith and Principles

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Adopted March 5, 2006

The King's Grant Baptist Church is a united, harmonious fellowship of compassionate, servant-oriented and mission-minded believers who strive to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

The Church is a prayerful body of believers working to be more evangelistic and open to change and transition in answering God's call to service. Each year a large number of the congregations are involved in local, state-wide and international missions.

The congregation supports its Church leadership and Church ministry initiatives. In connection with governance and administration, the congregation nominates and elects its committees, then respects and supports their efforts, resolving issues in a spirit of Christian harmony.

The Church welcomes men and women in leadership roles including Deacon and Staff positions.

The Church is ecumenical, cooperating with other churches to serve the community. The Church supports the traditional Baptist principles of-

- Religious liberty: We stand for a free church in a free state. Neither one should control the affairs of the other. We support the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, with its "establishment" and "free exercise" clauses.
- Autonomy of the local church: We affirm the autonomy of the local church. Each church is free to determine its own membership and to set its own course under the headship of Jesus. It may enter into alliance with other churches as it chooses, so long as those other churches are willing.
- The priesthood of the believer: We affirm the priesthood of all believers. Laypersons have the same right as ordained ministers to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ's name.
- Soul competency: We affirm soul competency, the accountability of each person before God. Family cannot save you, neither can the church. It comes down to you and God. Authorities can't force belief or unbelief.

Believing the Bible to be the sole authority for faith and practice, the Church rejects any attempts by external organizations to establish and enforce creedal statements for local churches or for missionaries.

The Church endorses the **Baptist Faith and Message of 1963** as a non-creedal confession of faith in our religious and denominational life.

## **The Affiliations of the Church**

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The church voluntarily supports and enters into partnership associations with:

### **Locally:**

The Bridge Network of Churches  
Little Neck Area Churches – Community services and events  
The Union Mission and Judeo Christian Outreach Center

### **Statewide:**

The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV)  
or also called, the Virginia Baptist Mission Board  
The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia (CBFV)

### **National and International:**

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF)  
The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)  
The Baptist World Alliance (BWA)

Regarding the Giving Card in the membership packet: The Church gives cooperatively to the CBF, SBC and others providing each of its members the option of designating contributions and directing mission dollars solely to the Church or to the BGAV and SBC or BGAV and CBF or otherwise.

### **Traditional Missions Offerings**

Lottie Moon (IMB) – traditionally a Christmas offering for international missions  
Annie Armstrong (NAMB) – traditionally an Easter offering for domestic missions  
Alma Hunt – an offering to support Baptist Mission efforts in Virginia and beyond  
Global Missions (CBF) – an alternative to the SBC and IMB channels

## Our Strategy

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The Great Commission instructs us to go and make disciples, which is the central command in the sentence. Discipleship is the process of growing people into the followers of Christ they are intended to become.

The Discipleship Ministry at King's Grant exists to help "move people toward higher levels of commitment to Christ (the Savior) and His Church (the saints)."

The best way to reach out to others is NOT in a mass mailing or the website; but rather person to person, reaching the people with whom we have something in common:

Same workplace  
Same club or organization

Same school  
Same hobbies

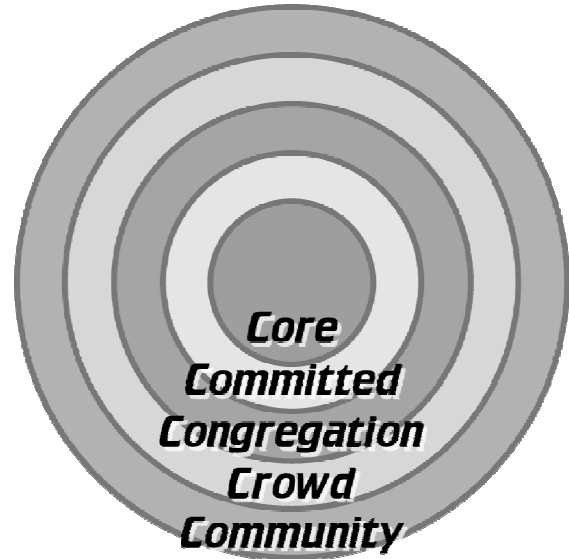
Same neighborhood

The church may provide activities that cater to the needs of people but it is relationship development that will help them move them to higher levels of commitment.

## Five Circles of Commitment

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- **The Community** – people who inhabit this city, which have no idea we even exist.
- **The Crowd** – people who for some reason or another have visited our church, expressing interest and even have come to one of our events.
- **The Congregation** – people who are actually attending our church fairly regularly; including nominal church members.
- **The Committed** – people who are members of our church and active in its programs.
- **The Core** – people who are actively involved in leadership & ministry of the church.



## Reasons for Church Membership

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The difference between "attendees" and "members" is summed up in one word:

### **COMMITMENT**

We ask you to formally commit to membership for four reasons:

#### **1. A BIBLICAL Reason: Christ is committed to the church. "**

... Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it." Ephesians 5:25

#### **2. A CULTURAL Reason: Membership is an antidote 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 & hoppers."

Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion." It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

#### **3. A PRACTICAL Reason: Membership better defines who we are.**

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.

#### **4. A PERSONAL Reason: Membership 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.

## How to Join King's Grant Baptist Church

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1. By salvation
2. By baptism by immersion
3. By statement of faith (having been previously baptized by immersion)
4. By transfer of letter from another Baptist church
5. Practical process:
  - a. Complete Membership Application Card, to be kept on file
  - b. Present yourself to the church at the end of a worship service
  - c. Get involved as God leads you: utilize "Pathways to Service at KGBC"
6. Explain the giving card – 10% missions – Virginia Baptists, CBF, SBC