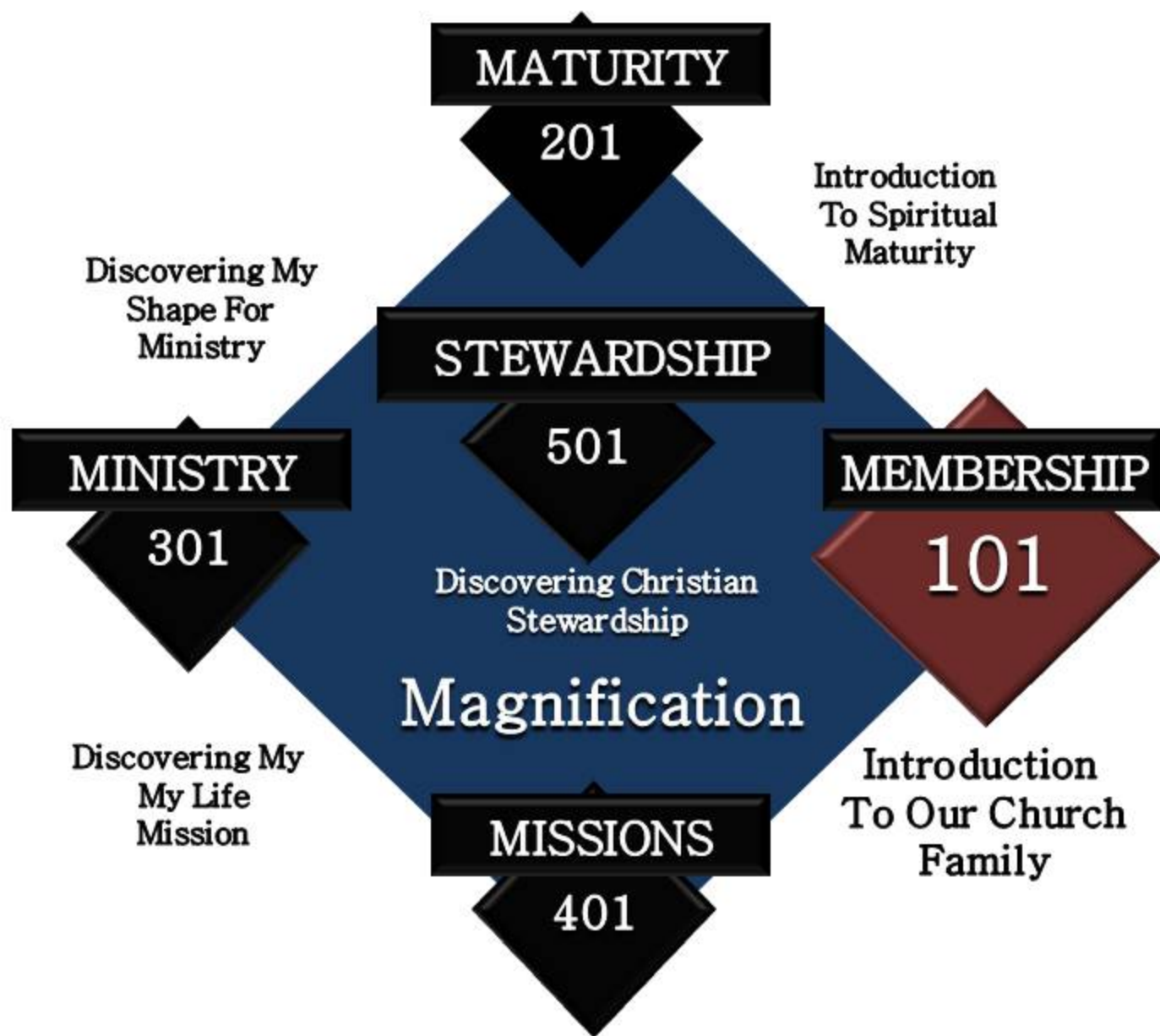


CLASS 101

Introduction To Our Church Family



DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS 101

Facilitators:
Dr. Michael W. Wesley Sr.
Pastor
&
Mrs. Venita A.B. Wesley

From the Pastor

On behalf of the Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Family, the men and women of leadership, and me, we extend to you a warm and happy welcome as you become one of us.

I want to take this time to share with you a passage of scripture from the New Testament. In the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians (2:19), the apostle is telling us that although a church building is sometimes referred to as God's house, in reality, God's house is not a building but a beautiful temple made up of believers in Christ Jesus.

Believers who were once lost, but now found, believers who were once blind, but are now able to see, believers who are no longer "strangers or foreigners," but having the same rights and privileges as other citizens in God's Kingdom.

Keeping in mind that all the while God is living in us and through us, He shows Himself to a watching world. Let us all be prayerful and mindful that our conversation and character must be of a holy nature, which is Christ Jesus. People will be able to see that God is love and that Jesus is Lord as we live in harmony with one another and with what God says in His word.

Furthermore, don't be afraid to ask questions that is what we're here for to help, to assist and to counsel. If you have any questions, comments, ideas or problems, don't hesitate to bring it to the attention of our teachers, department or ministry heads, officers, or myself.

Once again, welcome to one of God's great families. God loves you and so do we!

Dr. Michael W. Wesley, Sr.
Pastor
Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Catching the Pastor's Vision

Objective:

To gain an insight and understanding of how to embrace and run with the vision of the senior pastor.

Where does the vision come from?

The origin of everything is God. He will place a passion in the heart of a person for people. In the passion, God gives vision. If we are going to have a ministry and operate in the authority that God has given to us, then we must first have passion. We must have a burning desire to fulfill whatever task God has assigned for us to do in our lives. No matter what, I must know my task.

Who is the vision given to?

The vision comes from God and is given to a set man. As God speaks to the passion already in the man, He gives him a vision. This places a burden on the man because his drive in life is to fulfill the vision of God. As the vision becomes larger, God anoints him, appoints him and places people around him to help fulfill that vision.

Nehemiah 4:6-15

God gave Nehemiah a passion for his people. He got a report that the walls were down and God stirred up a passion in Nehemiah for His purpose. His passion was that the walls of the city were down. He got a burden. Walls were built for protection of everything in the city. Today, the walls are torn down. We are to build up the wall of Kingdom Principles. We are to teach and preach the Kingdom in every sphere of life so that all the people may live out those principles in their lives. Without the walls of the Kingdom, the city is undefended against its enemies. Today, we see marriages ending in divorce, both in and outside the church. We see citizens of other kingdoms (Muslims) leading the people of God. There is a leadership crisis in our society; there are third trimester abortions and financial despair. The youth are crying for direction and love. Society is crumbling, all because the Kingdom Walls are torn down.

Nehemiah the Visionary

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king. When the news came about the walls, he got a burden, prayed and God gave him a new assignment. He practically became a prophet and a pastor of the church of Jerusalem.

As those running with a vision, we must remember one word of wisdom. The vision get smaller and smaller as it is communicated down. God saw the nation, the pastor saw a city, and the people saw torn down walls. We must be careful not to think we see more than God's set man. We must bring the details to the vision and make it all that God desires it to be.

Carrying the Vision

The main problems with the visions are distractions. As long as we are off focus we will never fulfill the vision of God. The visionary understands that the work is so valuable that, even in our love for him, we can unintentionally be getting off task. The greatest problem comes from the words of those around us. We as carriers of the vision must be careful not to allow murmuring, complaining, down talking, etc. to get us off track and off focus. The deepest hurts come not from those who talk on the outside, but when those on the inside begin to rise against the vision.

Amos 3:7

God reveals his secrets to His servants, the prophets. The church cannot do anything until the prophet of the house speaks. If it is not spoken, then it's not yet for the appointed time.

Nehemiah 4:13

Nehemiah set the people according to their tribes, with swords, spears and bows. The pastor did not get encumbered with all of the day-to-day activities of the vision. He spoke to the noble leaders and then the people. The visionary speaks to the leaders and then the people. His job is to stay before God and impart to the leaders to help equip the saints to fulfill the vision. (Eph 4:11-12)

Nehemiah did not set the people on the wall without any tools. They had what they needed to get the job done. He put them in position because he understood that with the walls being down, the voice would try to come through the wall. So he put a counseling man right there. He knew there were a million children that needed to hear and he spoke unto his leaders so that they would stand in the gap. We don't need to mix ourselves. We are a pure seed. He gave them what they needed: God had already gifted them

As leaders and members, we bring our gift to serve the vision. The vision lies in the man — the visionary. Your gifts belong to the vision of the house to bless the house and make the vision come to pass.

People are placed in positions based on talents primarily. They are placed because of faithfulness. Even within faithfulness, a time of proving was necessary. Nehemiah put some on the lower part of the wall first. That is where menial tasks are...scrubbing toilets, emptying trash, etc. the proving comes after three months to a year. This is a time of watching what is going to be said. If they are anxious to get "their" turn, they may not be ready to assume added responsibility. If people are looking for their turn and want their own, then they are slaves. A slave works to be free. They want to be free to do their own thing with their gifts. These are the same gifts that God gave to fulfill the vision.

Faithful saints will do the same things the visionary needs done to accomplish the vision. The saints are the hands, arms, legs and shoulders of the body. When God's established order is in place, challenges come to the lower places of the wall. That is the place where we need to be most on guard. In the lower place, I have a sword and a brick. I build and defend at the same time

Historical Highlights Of Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church 1891 — 2012

The church that was the marvel of the City of Birmingham was Shiloh Baptist Church under Rev. T. W. Walker. This church was organized May 3, 1891 as a result of preaching supported by a society known as the "Christian Relief Association." The original structure was one story. Later, the spirit filled young church built on Nineteenth Street and Avenue G. It was a striking structure with a capacity of 3000. At that time, it was the largest congregation in the city. Often when the house was filled to capacity, a good part of the streets were filled with persons who were anxious to approach near enough to hear. Of course the Pastor was the source and center of this successful church. He was fortunate in drawing about him some very business-like people; J. W. Sampson and J. M. Ross.

On September 19, 1902, Shiloh was headquarters for the 22nd Annual National Baptist Convention of Negro Baptist Preachers. The keynote speaker was Booker T. Washington. He had just finished his address when a choir loft cry of "fight" was misinterpreted as "fire" erupted into a stampede in which 120 persons died.

In 1915, our Church housed a school, grades kindergarten through fourth. Teachers were Mrs. T. W. Walker, Ms. Julia Driver, Ms. Alice Bell, Ms. Adele McCall, and Mrs. Annie Peters.

After Rev. Walker left the church, Rev. Albert Garner (1918 — 1935) became the Pastor of the congregation. Under his administration the following officers served: J. W. Sampson, James A. Taylor, F. L. Brown, R. T. Parker, J. W. Rhome, J. R. Banks, S. A. Ball, D. S. Bee, A. J. Cook, Steiner Taylor, G. V. Givens, W. M. Anthony, and S. W. Wiggins. The church's site was rezoned for business. It was sold and the church located on Fourteenth Street and Avenue G. Two temporary structures, one for storage and one for worship were constructed. The basement of the brick structure was ready for worship in 1927.

Rev. Walter Wilson (1936— February 1949) our third Pastor, liquidated the church indebtedness and planned for the upper level construction. The depression and other factors caused the name of the church to become Greater Shiloh.

Rev. Allen Thomas (July 1949 — 1988), our fourth Pastor, was a dynamic productive leader who proved that God specializes in things that seem impossible. The upper level of the church was completed with Opening and Dedication Services held October 22 — 29, 1961 and Cornerstone Laying November 26, 1961. Spiritual, financial and numerical growth continued. The church was forced to move to our present location at 1616 — 18th Place Southwest, as a result of the Medical Center expansion. Dedication and Opening services were May 4, 1969.

The church continued to prosper under the leadership of Rev. Allen Thomas until his health began to fail. At that time (1985) God inspired the church to call Rev. Michael W. Wesley, Sr. as Assistant Pastor. He served faithfully in this capacity until the retirement of Rev. Thomas (1990). The spirit moved in on the hearts of the officers and members to continue leadership of the young dynamic, spirit-filled, multi-talented servant.

Under the leadership of Rev. Wesley (1988 -), who in 2006 became Dr. Wesley having earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Louisiana Baptist University and Theological Seminary, the church has continued to grow. The hallmark of his leadership has been vision and strategic focused. The new century has been a period of transition.

- Goal - Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church had definitely regained its outward, missionary focus. We have transitioned from an internally focused church to an outward focused church that is very concerned for others, the lost, the disadvantaged as well as those at the other end of the spectrum that also need God.
- Approach — Our approach to ministry has transitioned from a program and personality driven church to a purpose driven model of church. The five purposes of God as outlined in the scriptures are what drives the church.
- We have launched the development of and the implementation of an annual Leadership School designed to provide current and future church leaders with understanding and skill for various ministry opportunities.
- We have adopted another Biblical Process Model that has made a vast difference. We now use a model called C.L.A.S.S. We seek to attract lost people through both. They are encouraged to move through a series of discipleship classes: (Class 101: Discovering Church Membership; Class 201: Introduction to Spiritual Maturity; Class 301: Introduction to Your SHAPE; and Class 401: Discovering My Life Mission) to grow their understanding and become equipped to serve in an area of ministry.
- November 30, 2008 we moved into a new 37,000 square foot multi-million dollar facility.
- Worship Style — We have transitioned from a strictly traditional style of worship to a blended contemporary worship style. We have changed the instrumentation of instruments and style music used. There is also an increase in a variety of contemporary music, some even bordering on jazz or gospel rock, thus a blend of both. We are also using video screens.
- This strategic planning process has led to phenomenal growth. Our new strategic plan is, “The next five, our best five”. These words represent our church family’s personal intention to give God the best that we have over the next five years. There is a clarion call of urgency for us to focus our collective efforts to see to it that God’s will is carried out to the very last detail.
- The vision is outlined in our five year master plan. We will cause change in countless numbers of people lives. We will continue to pursue those who are far removed from God, lead them into a saving relationship with Him and help them become lifelong devoted followers of Jesus. In addition, the physical look of our campus will change as we will engage in capital projects that include some of the following: provide much needed additional parking; expand the seating capacity of our sanctuary; add additional classroom spaces; enlarge our chapel; provide a new bus for transportation; increase storage spaces; purchase additional property; see to it that appropriate affordable housing is constructed on the adjacent property; establish and build a community center and medical center.

- Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church's future is extremely bright. We will continue to make transitions and phenomenal growth. Here are a few reasons our future looks so bright:
 - Core Ministry — Strong preaching and clear teaching will remain at the center of what draws and will continue to draw people to faith in Christ.
 - Approach — We will continually refine our approach.
 - Target — We are no longer just an African American Church, we have already become multicultural. Television will also be a tool used to help reach our target audience.
 - Schedule — We will add more weekend services as the growth takes place.
 - Structure — We are using lay directors to direct the five biblical functions of the church as defined in our vision statement and the teams that fall under each. We will ordain or hire pastors who can shepherd these teams.
 - Small Groups — Affinity small groups will become the main source of delivering curriculum and causing people to live in community with each other.

With the continued guidance of God, a strategic focus, a love for lost people and a willingness to empower others to carry out the work of ministry, we will maintain that missionary zeal. We have gained a momentum that we must now harness and allow it to power us through the next few years.

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

Discovering Church Membership is divided in four sessions of an hour each and was taught and written by Saddleback's founding pastor, Rick Warren, who began the church in January of 1980.

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is _____
2. God expects you to be _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is _____

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to the _____

WHAT MAKES GREATER SHILOH A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
- **Our Strategy** (How we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

Session One

Our Salvation

“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “*WHY?*” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “*What is the meaning of life?*”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. GOD MADE ME TO _____ ME!

God says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love!*” Jer. 31:3

“*Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...**because of His love.** God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God’s pleasure and purpose.*” Eph. 1:4-5 (GN)

2. WE WERE CREATED TO _____ A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO _____ ALL OF THE REST OF GOD’S CREATION! THIS MAKES US SPECIAL!

“*So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said,...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.*” Gen. 1:27-28 (LB)

“*God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*” 1 Tim. 6:17

Jesus said, “*I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!*” John 10:10

3. WHEN WE KNOW AND LOVE GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS IN OUR LIVES:

Clear Conscience
Rom. 8:1

Life & Peace
Rom. 8:6

Help with Weakness
Rom. 8:26

Purpose
Rom. 8:28

Confidence
Rom. 8:31

Security
Rom. 8:39

Power & Strength
Phil. 4:13

Fulfillment
Phil. 4:19

Freedom
John 8:32,36

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for #1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: _____

"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." 1 John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal." Romans 3:23

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives — marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.

"There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death." Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- "My mother was a Christian so..."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work real hard and earn it."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, *"I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!"* John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

"The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

"God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8

"God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind." 1 Tim. 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ **THAT GOD HAS NOT BEEN FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS.**

*"If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9*

2. _____ **THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN ON EASTER, AND IS ALIVE TODAY.**

*"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9*

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

3. _____ **GOD'S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON'T TRY TO EARN IT.**

*"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** — not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9*

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. _____ **JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AND BE THE DIRECTOR ("LORD") OF YOUR LIFE.**

*"To all who **receive** Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who **believe** this are reborn! — not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God!" John 1:12-13*

"Jesus says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...'" Rev. 3:30

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY _____

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

2. BECAUSE CHRIST _____ IT.

*"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and **make them my disciples**, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and **then teach them** to obey everything I have commanded you.'"* Matt. 28:19-20

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A _____

*"...many of the people who heard Him **believed** and were **baptized**."* Acts 18:8

*"We know that we have come to know Him, if we **obey** His commands."* 1 John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S _____, _____, AND RESURRECTION

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

*"For when you are **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ."* Col. 2:12

2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY _____ AS A CHRISTIAN.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Cor. 5:17

*"**By our baptism then**, we were **buried** with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!**"* Rom. 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer — it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

BECAUSE _____ WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE _____ WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..."* Acts 8:38-39

THE WORD "BAPTIZE" MEANS TO _____ WATER".

The Greek word *baptizo* means, "to immerse or dip under water".

IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther... "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin... "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley... "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS _____ IN CHRIST.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized..." Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized..." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

At Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a "*baptism of confirmation*" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were "confirmed" as children.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel “good enough”!

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

You will be provided a letter that will detail items needed. However the church does furnish baptismal gowns for both male and female candidates. Bring a change of clothes, towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing rooms.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. At the beginning of the service, Pastor Wesley or a designee will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. Pastor Wesley or a designee will briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

SPECIAL NEEDS?

All of our Pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 COR. 11:23-26)

1. IT IS A _____

"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread..." (vs. 23)

2. IT IS A _____

"...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.'" (vs. 24)

3. IT IS A _____

"In the same way, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.'" (vs. 25)

4. IT IS A _____

"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back." (vs. 26)

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already _____ (Mark 14:22-26)

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself." 2 Cor. 11:29

III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." 1 Cor. 11:27-28

By...

1. Self-Examination
1 Cor. 11:27

2. Confessing My Sins
1 John 1:9

3. Recommitment
Rom. 12:1

4. Restoring Relationships
Matt. 5:23-24

IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He said "...this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19b). Paul further instructed us by writing "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord, ye do show (that is you remember) the Lord's death until He comes." (1 Cor. 11:26). Jesus did institute it on a Thursday night. Since it is a 'supper', it may seem more appropriate to observe it at an evening service.

However, we usually take The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month at each of the Sunday morning services. Other times we may observe it would include Special Services, Convocations, in the future perhaps at our midweek service, at retreats, banquets and in small groups.

Session Two

The Greater Shiloh Statements

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As A Church

Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church's Mission Statement:

The Mission of Greater Shiloh Baptist Church is to Reach, Teach, and Baptize throughout the world, beginning in our community, fulfilling The Great Commission by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit until Jesus returns.

Vision Statement:

We will fulfill this mission through Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, Fellowship & Worship. The results will be Spiritual, Numeric, Ministry, & Mission growth.

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

"We believe a great commitment to the great _____ and the great _____ will grow a great church!"

The Great Commandment: "Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matt. 22:36-40

The Great Commission: "Jesus said, '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.'" Matt. 28:19-20

- To "Love God with all your heart" is "**WORSHIP**".
- To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is "**MINISTRY**".
- To "Go...make disciples" is "**EVANGELISM**".
- To "Baptize..." is to "**INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP**".
- To "Teach them...all things" is "**DISCIPLESHIP**".

GREATER SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To _____ God's Presence (Worship)
2. To _____ God's Love (Ministry)
3. To _____ God's Word (Evangelism)
4. To _____ God's Family (Fellowship)
5. To _____ God's People (Discipleship)

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP: _____

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." Matt. 4:10

"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Jn 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

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

GSMBC Worship Style

"Celebration"

Psalm 122:1

"Inspiration"

Isaiah 40:31

"Preparation"

Eph. 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM: _____

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." Eph. 3:10

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" Rom. 10:13-14 (LB)

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. **Because** _____

*"The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9*

2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 9:12-13

2. **Because** _____

*"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full**." Luke 14:23 (LB)*

"...you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

3. **Because** _____

*"Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow**." Col. 2:19 (GN)*

"(Jesus) I will build my church." Matt. 16:18

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal"

We believe our church must grow _____ and _____ at the same time.

"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and THEN the end will come." Matt. 24:14

III. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP: _____

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity...**" Heb. 6:1

"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"(God has given)...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 until we all...become mature...like Christ." Eph. 4:11-13

More details will be covered in
Discovering Spiritual Maturity CLASS #201

IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

MINISTRY: _____

*"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples — **that you have love for one another.**"* John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17, Matt. 25:34-40, Heb. 13:16, Rom. 12:13

The heartbeat of Greater Shiloh is our _____
Every member needs to be a part of one.

*"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... **All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**"* 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

At GSMBC...

- Every member is a: _____
- Every task is: _____
- Every member is a "10" in: _____

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

- **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..." Eph. 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 charity.**

*"...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 Cor. 13:2 (Ph)*

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. ABOUT GOD

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

Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19;
1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus 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.

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

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 give every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8;
1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25;
Ephesians 5:18

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

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.

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

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.

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

What We Practice

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

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." 2 Tim. 3:15

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

"Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life..." Col. 1:18 (GN)

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In relating to our "daughter churches" that we sponsor, we encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God...” Rev. 1:6 (GN) “You are...the King’s priests...God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.” 1 Pet. 2:9 (GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer Bible reading.

TITHING

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Lev. 26:30

At Greater Shiloh we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

IMMERSION

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

Christ...” Col. 2:12 (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion under water — the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

(Jesus said), “I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18)

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

Session Three

Greater Shiloh Strategy

(Paul) “I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News”

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

"...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Cor. 9:22 (LB)

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



Greater Shiloh's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

THE FOUR GSMBC COVENANTS:

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT...

is a commitment to _____ and _____

"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

"We are all parts of Christ's Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others." Rom. 12:4-5 (LB)

2. THE MATURITY COVENANT...

is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth?

"Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit." 1 Tim. 4:7 (Ph)

3. THE MINISTRY COVENANT...

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others.

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..." 1 Pet. 4:10 (LB)

"There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it." 1 Cor. 12:5,27 (LB)

4. THE MISSIONS COVENANT...

is a commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

"...you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (GN)

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

WHY DO WE HAVE THESE COVENANTS?

WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE _____

THE GREATER SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH STRATEGY

13 Principles That Make Our Church Unique

G_____ (Luke 5:31-32; Matthew 11:28-30)

R_____ (John 10:10; I John 5:13; Matt 17:20)

E_____ (I Peter 2:9; Rom 12:4-8; John 1:12-13)

A_____ (Acts 5:42; Hebrews 13:21)

T_____ (II Timothy 2:21; Proverbs 3:5-7)

E_____ (Romans 10:9-10, 13; Colos 1:28-29)

R_____ (James 1:22)

S_____ (I Corinthians 9:22-23)

H_____ (I John 5:13; Romans 8:16)

I_____ (Romans 15:7)

L_____ (Matthew 22:37-40; John 3:16; 13:34)

O_____ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

H_____ (Luke 5:36-38)

Session Four

The Greater Shiloh Baptist Church Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Cor. 14:33,40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A _____

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..." Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3

"So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11,
Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33,
John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18,
Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS _____

"(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you..." 1 Cor. 11:17-18

"Voting" tends to _____

At Greater Shiloh, we only vote on:

- Annual budget and legal trustees
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling the senior pastor
- Changes in the church constitution

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____

"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds." 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____

*"Don't reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**..."* 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)

*"(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God's church**?"* 1 Tim. 3:4-5

III. THE CHURCH IS A _____

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!

We are an organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____

NOT _____

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:4-6*

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

AT GREATER SHILOH WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE _____
AND MINIMIZE _____

*“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...” Eph. 4:11-12*

OUR STRUCTURE

• THE PEOPLE ARE THE “_____”.

• THE PASTORS ARE THE “_____”.

Currently there are _____ different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.
And the number keeps growing.

IV. THE CHURCH IS A _____

(Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____

*“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then **take care** of my sheep.’” John 21:16-17*

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- “POIMEN”
- PRESBUTEROS”
- EPISCOPOS”

*“To the **elders** I say...Be **shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers**...” 1 Pet. 5:1-2*

*“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God...” Acts 20:17-18, 28*

See also Titus 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 5:17

OUR AFFILIATION

The Number One Conference of The Mount Pilgrim District Association

The Number One Conference is the group of churches that we are a part of within the Birmingham cluster of churches known as the Mt. Pilgrim District. Mt. Pilgrim sponsors local educational conferences, community projects, and other events on behalf of its members.

The Alabama Baptist State Convention

This convention is the Statewide Convention that unites more than 1,500 churches that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state. The State of Alabama is divided into four major geographical areas: Northeast District, Northwest District, Southeast District, and Southwest District. Each major District has within it smaller districts that provide Christian Education and training to its member churches.

The National Baptist Convention USA

It is the oldest and largest religious convention of the African American churches in the United States that cooperates together in worldwide effort of missions, preaching, teaching, and healing. The convention's membership is estimated at 7.5 million members.

The Willow Creek Association (WCA)

This association is a worldwide network of over 9,800 churches from more than 90 denominations that works to equip and encourage Christian leaders to build biblically functioning churches that reach increasing numbers to unchurched people with the gospel.

WHY NOT JUST BE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?

We *are* an independent church! Every Baptist church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there are in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- *Every Baptist church chooses its own pastor*
- *Every Baptist church owns its own buildings and assets*
- *Every Baptist church determines its own programs*

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF AFFILIATING WITH THE ASSOCIATIONS?

1. It allows us to **identify with other Christians** around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made "creed". The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to **participate in the largest missionary organization in the world**. Through the SBC "Cooperative Program" we help support over 7,500 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “*attenders*” and “*members*” can be summed up in one word: _____

At Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church 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 loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Eph. 5:25

**II. A CULTURAL REASON:
IT 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 and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

**III. A PRACTICAL REASON:
IT DEFINES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON**

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.

**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.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant:

1. To attend worship every week unless you are sick or out of town.
2. To pursue at least one means of growing your faith in addition to the weekly service.
3. To serve in one area of ministry, according to your gifts.
4. To grow toward the tithe, giving in proportion to your income.

THE GREATER SHILOH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

"Live in complete harmony with each other — each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Rom 15:5 (LB)

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." Eph. 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." 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 visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thess. 1:2

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full." Luke 14:23 (LB)

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Rom. 15:7 (LB)

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

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

"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..." Eph. 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..." Phil 2:3-4, 7

IV. 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." Heb. 10:25

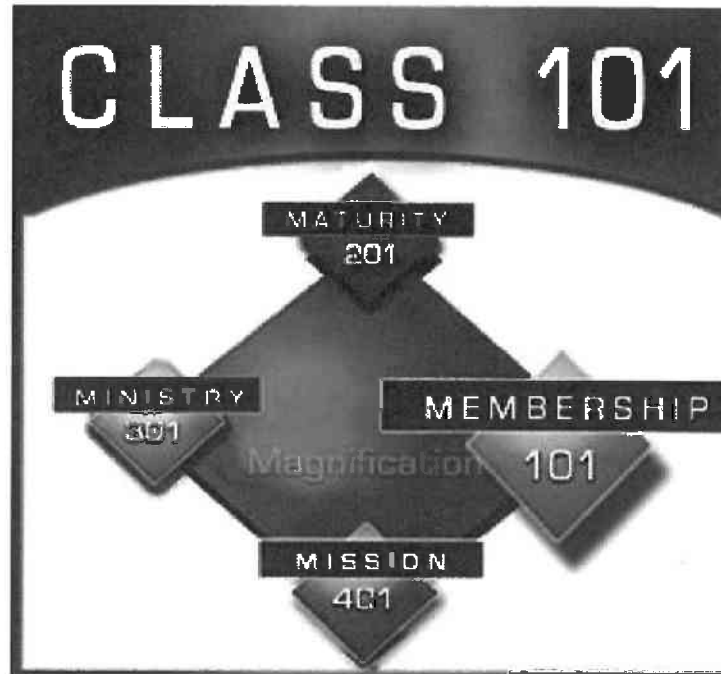
"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil. 1:27 (Ph)

WHAT NOW?

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Cor. 16:2

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

GREATER SHILOH'S PROGRAM TO HELP YOU GROW CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE SEMINARS



GO ON TO SECOND BASE!

AN OVERVIEW OF C.L.A.S.S.

100 Level Seminars:

To lead people to Christ and **membership** at Greater Shiloh

200 Level Seminars:

To grow people to spiritual **maturity**

300 Level Seminars:

To equip people with the skills they need for **ministry**

400 Level Seminars:

To enlist people to the worldwide **mission** of Sharing Christ

THE G.R.E.A.T.E.R S.H.I.L.O.H QUIZ

SIMPLE STRUCTURE

The People are the

The Pastors are the.....

Why do we have a simple structure?

ACEPTANCE

In the essentials, we have.....

In the non-essentials, there is.....

In all things we show

The heartbeat of Greater Shiloh is our

DEFINED PURPOSES

Can you say the Greater Shiloh Statement?

Can you name our Four Purposes?

DEFINED TARGET

Who are we trying to reach?

Can you name the 5 Levels of Commitment?

LAY MINISTRY

At Greater Shiloh "Every member is a _____"

Currently, how many lay ministers do we have operating?

What class should I take to find out the ministry that's best for me?

Who can begin a new ministry at Greater Shiloh?

ENCOURAGING PREACHING

What is the difference between Sunday morning and midweek messages?

BUILD UP BEFORE BUILDING OUT

Can you name the three phrases of our building campaign?
How much land did we purchase?
When will we move into our building?

ADVERTISING

Who are we trying to impress with our ads?

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Why don't we sing more old hymns on Sundays?
Where do we usually take communion?

KEEP ON GROWING

Why must Greater Shiloh never stop growing?
What does the phrase, "grow larger and smaller at the same time" mean?

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

