Growth Track Slam

Church 101  
 Essentials 201

Significance 301

Dream Team 401

Welcome

We are so glad you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Trinity Fellowship Church! This class is an introduction to our family. Here you will learn who we are, get a bit of our history, understand our family values, discuss our basic beliefs, and get an overview of the ministries of the church. Most importantly, you have an opportunity to join and be an active member of the Trinity family as God empowers us – including *you* - to transform the world.

Who We Are – Our Vision

***To those hungry for an extraordinary life, Trinity Fellowship Church is a healthy family pursuing God, growing stronger, and impacting the world.***

*Jesus said, “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”* John 10:10, New Living Translation (NLT)

*Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let him fill you with excitement as you serve him.* Romans 12:11, The Passion Translation (TPT)   
   
*And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.* Luke 11:9,10 (NLT)

The rich and satisfying life is one of abundance and beyond expectation – it is life in its fullness – it is *extraordinary!* Jesus came that we might experience this life. He promises that as we pursue God, we will find it!

Trinity is for those with a hunger to live the extraordinary life found in Christ. Our true, created purpose is found when we pursue God, commit to growing stronger together, and expand his kingdom by impacting the world around us.

History

Trinity Fellowship Church has an incredible, dynamic history. Trinity was birthed out of a deep desire for everything God has. While our ministries have grown and morphed over the course of our 45-year history, our DNA has never changed. We strive to hear God and follow his voice with bold action!

**1977:** Three different Bible study groups from Amarillo, Texas, come together, united by a hunger for the Holy Spirit. The group initially meets in the home of John and Donna Curry, but by the second week, the Curry’s living room is overflowing with people, necessitating a move to the Presbyterian Children’s Home.

**1983**: Pastor Jimmy Evans becomes Senior Pastor of Trinity Fellowship, bringing with him a fresh passion and direction for the church.

**1987**: Bethesda Outreach Center is founded and serves 3,000 adults and children in its first year.

**1987:** The first building project is completed, and we move into the Hollywood Road location as the church continues to grow.

**1994**: Trinity launches XO Marriage (then known as Marriage Today), reaching millions all over the world through television.

**1995**: Trinity Fellowship Association of Churches (TFAC) is founded to help pastors around the country grow healthy churches.

**2008:** The Hollywood Road facility expands, with heavy emphasis on generational ministries and a new 4,000-seat Worship Center.

**2011**: Even greater expansion comes as Trinity Fellowship North Amarillo opens its doors, becoming the first of six more Trinity locations throughout West Texas.

**2016:** Pastor Jimmy Evans transitions leadership to Pastor Jimmy Witcher, who had been a member of the church since 1993, an elder since 2001, and an Executive Pastor on staff since 2012. Before joining the church staff, Pastors Jimmy and Kim had served in many ministry areas of the church and were an integral part of developing our prophetic ministry training.

**2020:** Trinity is ready for the changes this year brings – launching the online campus and placing heavy emphasis on infiltrating our communities in innovative ways with the love of Jesus.

**2022**: Trinity develops My Nota, a discipleship app designed to help people discover their identity in God and unique created purpose.

Trinity Fellowship Church is built on a solid foundation! We are aggressively advancing God’s kingdom, inviting people to experience the love of God and embrace his Truth, making disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are a Healthy Family

The blood of Jesus unites all who follow him as brothers and sisters in God’s family. Further, Paul writes in 1 Timothy 3:15 that the Church is God’s “*very household and the supporting pillar and firm foundation of the truth.*” (TPT)

While we do not choose our biological family, we *do* get to choose our church family! Family is centered around relationships, the health of which are indicative of the family’s overall health. Being part of the Trinity family means choosing to go “all in” together as we advance God’s Kingdom. We follow the model of the early church established in Acts 2:42.

This means each member of the Trinity family commits to contributing to the church family with their energy and resources, developing mutually beneficial relationships, and operating in unity with other Trinity family members and the greater body of Christ.

**Our Government**

*I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. … He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.*

Titus 1:5,9 (NLT)

*And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care,but lead them by your own good example. And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.* 1 Peter 5:1-4 (NLT) 

Trinity Fellowship Church is Elder-governed and operates under a theocratic model, meaning our government is centered under God, with the Elders focused on hearing God and obeying his will. Our form of government is critical to our church family’s health and demonstrates our passion for unity and relationship. In this form of government, Elders are elected by the existing Board of Elders. Our Elders are appointed for life, and their decisions are made 100% unanimously. 

Trinity also has three Apostolic Elders who provide wisdom and counsel to the church leadership. These Apostolic Elders also serve to resolve any governance issues submitted to them by the Board of Elders. Our Apostolic Elders are Jimmy Evans, Brady Boyd, and Jim Laffoon.

**Community Life**

Developing healthy relationships at Trinity Fellowship Church begins with involvement in the community life of our church family. At every unique level of community life, you will find opportunities to connect and serve. Primary ways to be a part of the family include **Membership, Dream Team, Groups, Events, Classes,** and **Generations.** 

**Membership**

While everyone is welcome to attend Trinity Fellowship Church, membership is reserved for those who have determined in their heart to commit to and join the family as we, together, advance the Kingdom of God in our communities.

***Membership Responsibilities***

1. **I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward others, by refusing to gossip, and by following the leaders.**   
      
   *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.* Romans 14:19 (NLT)   
      
   *Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.*   
   Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

1. **I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit.**   
      
   *So his master said, “Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.”* Luke 14:23 (NLT)

1. **I will be submissive to authority and allow them to encourage me as I align my life with my identity in Christ.**

*Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.*

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

1. **I will serve the ministry of my church by using my gifts, talents, and resources to expand the kingdom of God within my sphere of influence while leading with a servant heart.**    
      
   *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.* 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

1. **I will engage in relationship with my church family by participating in the community life of the church.**

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.* Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

1. **I will faithfully support Trinity Fellowship Church by giving regularly.**

*“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open up the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.* Malachi 3:10-12 (NLT)

* The “tithe” is the first 10% of our increase. It belongs to God. By bringing the tithe into the storehouse, we open our lives up to the blessing and protection of God.
* The “offerings” are what we give above and beyond the tithe. At Trinity we encourage members to prayerfully consider the campus “Kingdom Builders Fund” as a place for one of their family offerings. Contributions to the Kingdom Builders Fund are used to support all of the outreach efforts of Trinity Fellowship Church and its campuses such as: Trinity Fellowship Association of Churches, NOTA,; Bethesda Outreach Center, Eastridge Ministry Center, Prison Ministry, Missions Support, and various benevolence opportunities.
* Once a year, we take up a “first fruits” offering called the Miracle Offering.

***Benefits of Church Membership***

1. **Spiritual Covering and Blessing**

The leadership of Trinity Fellowship Church, Dream Team, staff, and elders, take responsibility in praying for and pastoring the congregation and its members.

*Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.* Proverbs 11:14 (NLT)

When you commit yourself relationally to a church family, you spiritually align yourself with the blessing of God that passes down from generation to generation.

*“I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” So he is the God of the living, not the dead.* Matthew 22:32 (NLT)

1. **Support System**

Trinity is committed to cultivating an atmosphere of devoted followers of Jesus Christ that can surround and support each other. Thus, the essence of growing our members is teaching them to love – both God and others – as Jesus did. This support system is expressed through multiple avenues such as ministry (individual and group), benevolence, funeral support, and other resources that are only available to our members.

*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.* Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

1. **Opportunities for Ministry**

Trinity is a place of training and development where every believer is afforded the opportunity to grow and mature as God intended.

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.* Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)

**Dream Team**

The Dream Team is a group of incredible people working together, passionately pursuing God and serving his people. The Dream Team is a step beyond membership and is the heart of community life at Trinity Fellowship Church. This team is found at the core of all ministries. At Trinity, the staff’s primary responsibility is to equip individuals for the work of the ministry, not to *do* all the ministry. This is consistent with Paul’s instructions in Ephesians 4. It is our goal to have our Dream Team volunteers serving in every area of our church and community as their gifts, talents, and time allow.

Once all four classes of Growth Track are completed, church members are invited to apply to participate on the Dream Team. 

**Groups**

Small Groups are dynamic and fun, with the intention of creating spaces for people to grow, learn, and live life together. Our groups are based upon the “free market” model, meaning they can be centered around any common interest or activity; however, to be considered a small group, at least one of four activities must be present at each meeting: Bible study, prayer, worship, or sharing of testimonies. Each group has a leader who is a Dream Team member and is connected within the leadership structure.

**Events**

At Trinity, events exist to provide opportunities for our congregation to step further into the family and be equipped along the way. We provide events for men, women, married couples, and more!

**Classes**

Smaller multi-day events are often offered in a class or seminar format. In this setting, a specific topic is covered and can include practical applications, longer, more in-depth discussion, and personal activation. Each class is offered in person and online through Zoom.

**Generations**

We are passionate about investing in the coming generation and are committed to equipping them to advance God’s Kingdom as early and as often as possible! Within our generational ministries, we provide opportunities for kids and students to take their place within the Trinity family through weekly services, internships, camps, groups, service roles, and apologetics training. As we do this, we believe our young people will receive the tools they need to grow stronger, pursue God, and make a difference in the world around them.

We are Pursuing God

Pursuing God is the dynamic relational component necessary for every follower of Jesus to live an abundant, meaningful life and to thrive in God’s Presence. As a church family, we passionately pursue everything God has for us. We want it all!

Trinity Fellowship Church is charismatic, meaning we embrace the full move of the Holy Spirit and desire to live empowered lives with him. God has given the Holy Spirit as a gift to those who ask, and we boldly ask for him to continually fill us. We remain grounded in him and in God’s word, so we can live courageously in his will and way. We invite the Holy Spirit to every gathering, event, and weekend service as we trust his guidance and receive his outpouring.

**Sunday Services and Sessions**

We pursue God’s Presence in our Sunday services through corporate worship, receiving the teaching of the Word, and taking communion together. Our services are carefully planned and uniquely designed to help facilitate an experience with God for every individual. As we gather in God’s Presence, we build confidence and boldness in our faith. When we are built up and filled with his Spirit, we carry the hope and healing of Jesus to those around us. We also offer sessions on Sunday mornings, where individuals can receive personal prayer and healing, a prophetic word, or attend a topical class.

**First Wednesday**

First Wednesday services are family worship and prophetic nights held on the first Wednesday of each month. These services are designed for us to pursue God and allow the Holy Spirit to minister with freedom and in accordance with his word. We actively seek God’s direction through extended worship, prophetic ministry, and time in his presence.

**Personal Pursuit**

It is important that each member of the Trinity family takes responsibility for their own personal pursuit of God. We grow in maturity and in our personal relationship with him through daily Bible reading, prayer, and worship. As we read the Bible, we understand God’s nature, his perfect way, and who we are uniquely created to be in his image. As we trust God and obey his word as the source of truth in our lives, we are encouraged, equipped, and strengthened! We are excited to offer incredible resources, like:

* *The Biblecast with Pastor Jimmy Witcher,* to help you dive into God’s word. You can find it live on our Facebook page Monday-Thursday at 7:00am, on all podcast platforms, or on YouTube!
* The *More Than You Asked For* podcast with Pastors Kim and Jimmy Witcher. In each episode, our pastors discuss an aspect of living the Christian life – in marriage, business, relationships, parenting, and more. Find it on all podcast platforms or watch the “podshow” on YouTube!

* *My Nota* is a discipleship app we created to help you live life beyond what you can currently envision. Download the app for Apple or Android devices and dive in to discover the unique purpose God has for your life!
* Trinity’s worship ministry, TBRNCL, releases worship music written specifically for our church family, to help you experience God’s Presence. You can find TBRNCL on Spotify and YouTube.

We Are Growing Stronger

The Trinity Fellowship Church family is committed to growing stronger both corporately and individually. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, desiring to follow him in every area of our lives. Jesus was the perfect model for us and helps us identify the following journey of discipleship:

1. Accepting Jesus as savior
2. Being water baptized
3. Being filled with Holy Spirit
4. Living in community with other believers
5. Contributing both financially and through service
6. Self-developing
7. Reproducing

Ultimately, a disciple of Jesus is one who *hears God, believes what he says, and chooses to obey him*. In Growth Track 201, we will dive deeper into each aspect of the discipleship journey.

We Are Impacting the World

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

Trinity Fellowship Church has developed many ways that we as a corporate body of believers are impacting the world and making disciples of Jesus. In our history are significant milestones - instances where we heard God, gathered the resources he had given us, and deployed them to make global impact and expand his Kingdom. These include launching Bethesda Outreach Center, XO Marriage, Trinity Fellowship Association of Churches (TFAC), new campuses including our online campus, and our discipleship app, My Nota.

As a member of the Trinity family, you are a part of each one of these significant ministries. However, you are called to make an impact in the world around *you*! We all have a God-given circle of influence, whether at work, in school, in friendships, or family, and we should look to serve and elevate those in our circle. The best way to begin making a difference in your world is through prayer. Pray for those within your circle and ask God to show you how to serve and love them.

A great place to join with others in prayer is through ourEkklesia Action Groupat tfc.org/action. The Ekklesia, or legislative body of believers, is called to pray, asking God to move on our behalf. As part of the Ekklesia Action Group, you will receive weekly prayers, helpful information, and opportunities to take action.

As you are faithful in looking to impact your world, you will identify areas where God wants to expand your influence. You may be called to start a Groupor even a Catalyst Group, which are designed to infiltrate our communities, introducing them to Jesus. Perhaps you can identify some younger than you and in a different season of life who you are called to empower and encourage through your own God-given wisdom and experience.

What We Believe

**Our Statement of Faith**

* 1. **In our essential beliefs, we have *unity.***

The statement listed below includes our essential beliefs. These operate as load-bearing walls (or pillars) that hold up the rest of the house. In order to become a Trinity Fellowship Church member, you must agree and be in unity with our essential beliefs.    
   
*For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, on faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.* Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLT) 

* 1. **In non-essential beliefs, we have *liberty.***

Beyond our essential beliefs, there is room for members to practice hearing Holy Spirit and obeying his direction.    
   
*Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. For instance, one person believes it’s all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don’t. And those who don’t eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord’s help, they will stand and receive his approval.* Romans 14:1-4 (NLT) 

* 1. **In all our beliefs, we show charity.**

Everyone is welcome at Trinity. However, membership is reserved for those who have unity with our essential beliefs. We are committed to sharing the truth in love.   
   
*If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing.* 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NLT) 

**Statement 1 – We believe in the Trinity.**

Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible show that there is one God, and that he exists forever and in three Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God the Father is the creator and sustainer of everything. Jesus Christ is God and is the Son of God. He is the living Word of God, and through him all things were created– he is completely God and completely man. The Holy Spirit is God, and he is the Giver of life. 

**Statement 2 –** **We believe the Bible is the perfect word of God, written by God through man.**

The Bible—being both the Old and New Testaments—is the only infallible Word of God. It is the single source of all doctrine, instruction, correction, and reproof, and is the all-inclusive guidebook on how to practically live a godly life. 

**Statement 3 – We believe Christ’s death and resurrection made salvation possible.**

When Jesus died for us on the cross, he paid the penalty for all of man’s sins. Redemption is received through the personal acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord. 

**Statement 4 – We believe salvation is a free gift.**

We did nothing and could never do anything to deserve salvation. But when Jesus died on the cross, his goodness allowed us to be saved if we would have faith in him and make him Lord. 

**Statement 5 – We believe the Christian life is a life of knowing and loving Christ.**

It is the combination of the new life God gives us at salvation, and the truth he teaches us as we live it.  The Holy Spirit guides us through various circumstances in life—always revealing to us truths about him and ourselves in the process. Faithfulness is trusting him through it all and learning to submit our personal desires to his perfect will.

**Statement 6 – We believe the mission of the Church is to make disciples.**

The Church doesn’t just exist to get people into heaven, but also to train and equip them so that they are complete in Christ and able to live for him here on Earth.

**Statement 7 – We believe in baptism and the Lord’s Supper.**

These two practices were instituted by Jesus when he was on earth and are continued by his church to this day. Water baptism is the outward sign of the inner work God has already done in individual lives. The Lord’s Supper is done in honor and remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice until his return and is a sign of our participation in him. 

**Statement 8 – We believe Jesus is coming back.**

And when he comes, all those who serve him will reign with him.

**Statement 9 – We believe that biblical marriage is between a man and a woman.**

We believe the term “marriage” has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which is the joining together of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive covenant as defined in the Bible.

**Statement 10 – We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female.**

These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

***Are You Ready To Join Our Family?***

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and agree (in both word and action) with the statement of faith, values, and ideas of Trinity Fellowship Church, and with the membership responsibilities, you can choose to become a member at Trinity. 

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Trinity family through membership today, we gladly welcome you into the family and into an extraordinary life!

***Taking the Next Step: Essentials 201***

Appendix

**Trinity Fellowship Family Values**

1. **Spirit-Filled and Biblically-Directed**

God gives Holy Spirit as a gift to those who ask, and we boldly ask for him and his continual filling, recognizing that life with Holy Spirit is a fully-empowered one. We remain grounded in him and in God’s word, trusting him to instruct, guide, encourage, and equip us to accomplish all we are called to.

1. **Faith**

As we actively seek God’s direction and plans, we trust him to reveal them. We are decisive and proactive as we aggressively look to expand God’s Kingdom. Though we guard against presumption, we are not hindered by fear of circumstances or unknown factors.

1. **Kindness and Truth**

Scripture is inspired by God and reveals his objective Truth, which we boldly deliver. Though we do not allow Truth to be diluted, we adopt a kind and gracious approach in our delivery. True strength is shown when we choose to temper and control our emotions and allow kindness to reign.

1. **Radical Obedience**

Jesus learned and exercised obedience, and so must we. As active disciples of Jesus, we hear God’s word and act accordingly. We easily extend trust to God and our leaders, accepting their authority in our lives.

1. **Humility**

We regard one another as more important than ourselves, choosing to unreservedly elevate those around us. As we do, looking to serve others, we are able to allow God to elevate us in his perfect time and way.

1. **Honor**

We value one another, esteeming others above ourselves. We demonstrate respect and care for all people. Existing authorities in our lives have been established by God, and we readily submit to this authority, as it gives us direction and purpose.

1. **Generosity**

We look for opportunities to obediently and generously share and reproduce what God has given to us. We are able to do this easily as we recognize that out of his great love, God gave to us first through his son, Jesus Christ.

1. **Excellence**

We are standard-bearers for the glory of God. We carry a spirit of excellence (not perfectionism) as we steward what God has given us, continuously looking to grow and learn as we strive for his best in everything we do.

1. **Fruitfulness**

Jesus is our source. We choose to remain connected with him at all times, in order that our heart, mind, and resulting actions would glorify God and draw others to him.

1. **Lifestyle of Evangelism**

We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ, boldly sharing the love of God as his sent ones. Filled with Holy Spirit’s power, we unashamedly look to meet people at the level of their need. We are committed to making active disciples of Jesus and pursuing new, creative ways of doing so.

**Trinity Fellowship Ministries Statement of Faith**

Trinity Fellowship Church is a family that welcomes anyone to attend. Our weekend services, small groups, events, and corporate meetings are open to all.

Our Statement of Faith details our essential beliefs. To become a member of Trinity Fellowship and to serve in any capacity, it is important you understand and agree with these fundamental beliefs. As stated in Amos 3:3, “*Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?”* (NLT) We fully recognize outside of these essential beliefs sincere Christians can have legitimate disagreement, and we show great liberty in those areas. However, upon these core beliefs, we must agree to walk together.

In all our beliefs, we demonstrate charity acting with love and kindness. We believe it is God’s kindness that leads us into repentance (Romans 2:4), and so, while we maintain a standard for Christian living, we do so with love and grace offered to our fellow man.

***1. The Trinity*** 

It is the testimony of both Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both One and Triune. The Biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God, and that he is eternally existent in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 

**God the Father** – God the Father is the Creator and sustainer of all things, who created the universe in love to respond to himself. He created man in his own image for fellowship, and calls man back to himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man (Genesis 1:26). 

**The Son** – Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through him all things were made. For man’s redemption he left heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and henceforth he is forever one Christ with two natures, God and Man, in one Person (John 1:1). 

**The Holy Spirit** – The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life, who was active in the Old Testament, and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness. He imparts the life of Christ to the believer through the new birth experience and works to conform the believer to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit in the life of the believer and is evidenced by tongues, joy, praise and other inward and outward manifestations (John 14:16,17). 

***2. The Scripture***   
   
We believe that the Bible Scripture comprised of the Old and New Testaments is alone the only infallible, Holy Spirit inspired Word of God and that its authority is ultimate, final and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from, or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof. It contains all that is needed for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct. Only through the revelation and operation of the Holy Spirit does the Word of God become alive and effective in our lives. The Bible is the standard for our relational and experiential knowledge of God. Any personal ministry or prophecy must be in accord with Scripture, or if not, be considered false and rejected.

Literal word for word translations of Hebrew and Greek and the most reliable manuscripts gives us the most reliable translations in use today. Biblical scholarship therefore holds translations such as the King James, New King James, New American Standard and the English Standard Version as the most reliable for authoritative use for doctrine. While the aforementioned list of versions is not an exhaustive list of reliability or value, some other versions written with a cultural agenda are not accepted

(2 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 55:11, Matthew 24:35, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 12:6).

***3. The Atonement***   
   
Christ’s vicarious death on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, and inaugurated the New Covenant in his blood, for those who receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. His atoning sacrifice makes available healing of the body, soul and spirit, when appropriated by his saints (Hebrews 9:12, 1 Peter 3:18, Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24, Revelation 5:9).

***4. Salvation***   
   
The Bible declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God appropriated only through faith, based completely on the accomplished and finished work of Christ’s death and his resurrection. Salvation occurs when a person confesses and accepts Christ as Lord and Savior, resulting in being born again. The new birth is described as being united with Christ in his death and resurrection, so that we pass from death to life, and our identity changes from the old man to a new creation in Christ. The results of salvation include justification, reconciliation, regeneration, righteousness, and sanctification.      
   
The new life in Christ also includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance as sons of God and as citizens in his Kingdom. Salvation is an act of free will in response to God’s personal love for mankind. It is predestined only in the sense that God, through his omniscience, foreknew those who would choose him (Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, Romans 10:8-10, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 John 2:2).

***5. The Christian Life***   
   
Through the experience of salvation, our old life, inherited from Adam, is crucified with Christ and we are born again as new creations into the risen life of Christ, the second man. As new creations, we are born into the Kingdom of God as infants, and we live our lives becoming progressively more mature in our faith as we yield to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. This maturity is an experiential process of having our minds renewed by the truth that is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. As we become progressively more mature in Christ, our behavior will more and more reflect his life in us and his purposes for us. A vital part of this process is living life in the community of believers that make up the church and allowing ourselves to be built up by our relationships with other believers.   
   
The Christian life, while joyful and fulfilling, still includes trials, tests and warfare against a spiritual enemy who takes advantage of our flesh to lure us into sinful behavior and independence from God. Victory over these trials, tests and attacks is provided to us through our faith in Christ’s finished work on the cross that redeems us from the power of the enemy (Romans 12:12, Ephesians 4:14-16, Galatians 5:16-26, Philippians 2:12-13). 

***6. The Church***   
   
The church is described in scripture as the Bride and Body of Christ. The church is comprised of those who through the miracle of salvation and the new birth have been baptized by the Spirit into His Body. The command of Christ for the church is to fulfill his commission, to go unto all the world, to proclaim the good news, to disciple believers to maturity and to equip the saints for ministry. The church is governed by the office of Elder according to scripture. It is essential to the unity and wellbeing of the church that membership function under authority. Scriptural standards and patterns of church discipline and instruction are practiced by the leadership of the church (Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5-11; Titus 3:10). 

***7. Water Baptism and Communion***   
   
The Bible establishes in the Church two perpetual commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first, water baptism, is the outward sign of what God has already done in the individual’s life and is a testimony to all that the person belongs now to Jesus. It is an identification with Jesus and is affected in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Communion is a commemoration of the death of the Lord and is done in remembrance of him until he comes again and is a sign of our participation in him.  Both institutions are reserved for believers (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:19, Colossians 2:12-13, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 15:23-26). 

***8. Eschatology***    
   
We believe in the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the Saints, the Millennium, and the final judgment. The final judgment will ultimately reveal the eternal status of both the saints and the unbelievers, determined by their relationship to Jesus Christ. We affirm with the Bible the final state of the New Heavens and New Earth (John 14:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:31-34, Hebrews 9:28). 

***9. Biblical Marriage***   
   
We believe the term “marriage”, has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which is the joining together of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive covenant as defined in the Bible (“Biblical Marriage”). We believe that because God our Creator established marriage as a sacred institution between one man and one woman, the idea that marriage is a covenant only between one man and one woman has been the Biblical definition of marriage for all human history. We believe Biblical Marriage is the only definition of marriage God recognizes or accepts (Genesis 2:22-24, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Timothy 3:12, Ephesians 5:22-28).

***10. Sex & Gender***

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as biologically male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes and their corresponding genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one’s biological sex or associated gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person (Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:13-16).

***11. Statement of Faith Policy***

The Statement of Faith of the Church details the beliefs and Biblical foundations upon which the Church operates. Therefore, no elder, officer, employee, servant, agent, or any person, corporation, organization, or entity under the direction or control of the Church may commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatsoever, that would be inconsistent with, or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with, full support of this Statement of Faith.

This Church’s Statement of Faith Policy specifically prohibits the use of any property (whether real, personal, or intangible), owned by or subject to the direction or control of the Church, in any manner that would be or could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with this Statement of Faith, including but not limited to permitting any church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what could be perceived as a favorable impression about any belief that is inconsistent with this Statement of Faith.

We believe this Church’s Statement of Faith Policy is based upon God’s will for human life as conveyed to us through the Scriptures, upon which the Church has been founded and anchored. Therefore, this Policy may be amended only by the unanimous vote of the Board of Elders. To be sure, this Policy is not subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.

Essentials 201

**Introduction**

Being a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, is far more than adhering to a list of dos and don’ts; it is an intimate relationship with our loving Heavenly Father. In John 10:10, Jesus says He came so that we could live a *full* life – not a just-get-by life. Jesus wants us to live a life overflowing with the benefits of being in relationship with Him. In this class, we will discuss a few foundational truths for living a full life with Jesus Christ, Father God, and Holy Spirit.

To grow in spiritual maturity and deepen your relationship with Jesus, we encourage you to read through the books *Ten Steps Toward* *Christ* by Pastor Jimmy Evans and *Kingdom Come* by Pastor Jimmy Witcher. These resources will provide you with practical ways to walk with Christ and learn how to live in Heaven on Earth.

We invite you to open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to minister all He has for you on this journey.

**STEP ONE: Being Born Again**

*Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* John 3:5-6

To understand being born again it will be helpful to look back at the Garden of Eden and God’s creation of Adam and Eve.

***The Origin of Death***

When God created Adam and Eve, He breathed life into their nostrils and they became “living beings” (Genesis 2:7).

Genesis 3 records how Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, which caused them to be separated from God. As a result, their minds became darkened, their emotions became corrupt, their bodies began to age and decay, their relationship divided, and they passed their fallen nature on to their children and generations after them. To this day, spiritual death and the natural tendency to rebel against God are inherent in all of us as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve (Romans 7:14-21).

***The Gift of Spiritual Life***

Jesus came to save us by dying for us on the cross and paying for our sins.

*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* John 3:16-18

By believing that Jesus is God’s only Son sent into the world to pay for our sins, we are saved from sin and hell and born again of the Holy Spirit.

*What does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* Romans 10:8-11

Jesus did the hard part for us, and by believing and confessing we can freely receive salvation from God. There is nothing we can do to deserve it (Ephesians 2:1-9).

***Prayer of Salvation***

“Lord Jesus, I choose to turn toward You and make you my Lord and Savior. I believe that You are God. You came to earth. You lived a perfect life and You died on the cross for my sins. I receive Your grace and forgiveness for all of my sins and failures. Thank You for forgiving me. I also forgive myself. I choose to live my life for You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Lead me, speak to me, and give me the power to live a successful Kingdom life here on the earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer, congratulations! You are born again. You are eternally changed and your salvation is secure in Christ.

**STEP TWO: Covenant of Water Baptism and Communion**

***It is Commanded***

Once we have received Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, our relationship has been established. Now we get to begin the journey of following Jesus every day of our lives. This is truly one of the greatest joys we will ever experience!

If we are to follow Jesus, then we also are to obey Him. Obedience is crucial to living a life of freedom and blessing. It is obedience to what God says that grows our relationship with Him and proves our love for Him (John 14:15). And after salvation, Jesus gives us our first opportunity to obey Him by being *water baptized*.

*“Then Jesus came close to them and said, ‘All authority of the universe has been given to me. Now go in my authority and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age.’” Matthew 28:18-20 (TPT)*

**Water baptism is an important next step after we receive salvation!**

***What Water Baptism Means***

To be water baptized means to be *fully immersed* under water. This represents our whole being - body, soul, and spirit - coming completely under the authority and reign of Jesus. The Bible describes this transformation as being made new (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). When we go under water, our old life - who we once were before Christ - is done away with. When we come out of the water, we take hold of our new life in Christ. Because of the relationship we have with Jesus, sin and death have lost their power over our lives. We are now free to live for Him!

Being water baptized means we are publicly identifying ourselves with Christ as His followers. It is a public act that signifies a couple of private decisions we’ve made:

* To die to sin and live for Christ (Colossians 2: 11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
* To receive Christ’s death as the payment for our sins and failures

(1 Peter 3:21-22).

Our decision to make Jesus our Lord and Savior was never meant to remain private. Jesus shares with us that water baptism is a public demonstration of the decision we have already made in our hearts. Baptism declares to the world - and to the enemy - that we are unashamed of Jesus and this decision was not made lightly. As we obey and get water baptized, we are setting the precedent for how we will follow Jesus the rest of our lives.

When we are committed to Jesus, our obedience to Him will open us up to living in the benefits of the Kingdom. These benefits flow from our personal relationship with Him.

***Baptism is A Covenant of Commitment***

A covenant relationship is the most special and sacred relationship we can have. The word covenant means “to cut,” and it conveys the meaning of a permanent, sacrificial relationship (Luke 22:20). Through His sacrifice, Christ made covenant with us to establish a permanent bond between us.

Our covenant with God is the most secure relationship we will ever have. Water baptism is a tangible demonstration of what has happened between us.

***Two Big Questions***

***Q. Why is getting baptized so important?***

Baptism is important because Jesus commanded it and was even baptized Himself as an act of obedience to God the Father (Matthew 3:15-16). Just as the Father identified Jesus Christ as His beloved Son, He identifies you as His beloved son or daughter. When you make Jesus your Lord and Savior, you are accepted by the Father just as Jesus is accepted by the Father. He delights in you just as He delights in Jesus.

***Q. Can I be saved if I don’t get water-baptized?***

The thief on the cross next to Jesus recognized Him as Lord and King, and as a result, Jesus told him that he would join Him in Paradise that very day (Luke 23: 39-43). Of course, the thief couldn’t be baptized. It was physically impossible—but he got to Heaven!

Others are baptized (sprinkled) as children and are taught that their infant baptism is all that is necessary. This is problematic because no one can make the decision for you to be saved or baptized but you.

God is a gracious and reasonable God, but being water baptized is an important expression of the sincerity of our relationship with Jesus Christ and obedience to God.

***Communion is a Covenant of Relationship***

Jesus first instituted communion with His disciples just before His crucifixion, and He commanded us to do this in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

Communion reminds us of the most important element of our faith—the love that Jesus revealed to us on the cross. The curse of sin was removed from our lives as it was placed upon His own body (Galatians 3:13-14).

His blood was also shed to remove our sins so we could have an eternal and intimate relationship with God.

Communion is one of the most sacred foundations of the Christian faith. In our church, we serve communion corporately once a month, but it is available every week for those who want to take it more often.

Water baptism is the covenant seal of our relationship with Christ. It is a one-time act and does not need to be repeated.

Communion is the ongoing covenant sign of our relationship with the Lord.

**STEP THREE: Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”* Acts 1:4-8

There are many examples of Scripture where the Bible refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit and what He would accomplish in our lives.

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper…*John 14:16-17

*The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name…* John 14:26

*When the Helper comes…*John 15:26

*When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth…* John 16:13-14

*The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all…*

1 Corinthians 12:7-13

That word “Helper” is also translated as comforter. It means someone who walks alongside us to help us.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is about immersing us into an empowering relationship with the Holy Spirit so we can fully know and serve God.

***Commonly Asked Questions***

***Q. How do I receive the Holy Spirit?***

Simply by asking God and receiving Him by faith, just as you received Jesus when you were saved. He is a free gift of God (Luke 11:13).

***Q. Didn’t I receive the Holy Spirit when I was saved? Why do I have to receive Him again?***

We are born again by the Holy Spirit, as explained in Step One. The disciples in Acts 1, including Peter, were saved but were commanded to wait in Jerusalem to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are other examples in Scripture of saved people who later received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:12-17 and 19:1-6). At salvation, God baptizes us into Christ. When we ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Christ baptizes us into the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). Baptism in the Holy Spirit is about allowing Him to immerse us into His fullness and to empower us to know and serve God.

***Q. Do I have to speak in tongues to be saved or to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?***

No, there are many godly, Spirit-filled people who do not speak in tongues. Just because someone does or does not speak in tongues is not a marker of their spiritual status.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:18, *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.*

We encourage you to yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit and give Him the opportunity to impart this special gift to you.

***Q. Why do I need to pray in tongues?***

Speaking in tongues is mostly expressed as a private prayer language. Praying in tongues vastly expands our ability to pray as we should (Romans 8:26).

Praying in tongues means recognizing our mental and spiritual inabilities to pray as we should and allowing the Holy Spirit to help us.

Even though our minds may be “unfruitful” as we pray or praise in tongues, our spirits are edified and blessed (1 Corinthians 14:14-15).

*But you, my delightfully loved friends, constantly and progressively build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith by praying every moment in the Spirit.* Jude 1:20 (TPT)

***Prayer for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit***

“Father, thank You for the promise of the Holy Spirit and for sending Him into my life. I turn toward you and away from sinful ways. I choose to forgive everyone who has hurt me, has sinned against me, or has hurt my loved ones. I surrender my life to live for You. By faith, I now ask You to baptize me in Your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, I pray, come into my life and fill me. Baptize me in Your Presence and power and lead me daily. I surrender completely to You and ask You to lead me closer to Jesus and empower me to live victoriously for Him. I pray that You will impart spiritual gifts into my life and use me to glorify God and help others. I also surrender my tongue to You and pray that You will give me a personal prayer language to enable me to pray more effectively. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

***Prayer for the Refreshing of the Holy Spirit***

“Father, fill me fresh and new. I want to be continually filled to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit.”

*Don’t be drunk with wine, which will ruin your life, but be filled with the Spirit.*

Ephesians 5:18 (Easy-to-Read Version)

Significance 301

*“Everybody needs meaning because the alternative, meaninglessness, is unlivable.”*

***– Os Guinness***

**Imago Dei – Created in God’s Image**

The two most important days of your life are: The day you were born, and the day you found out why.

Knowing the reason for your existence is vital to you living a meaningful life, full of purpose, fulfillment, and significance. Discovering what you were created to do always begins with discovering who you were created to be. The first question to ask yourself then, is, “Who am I?”

The Bible, in Genesis chapter 1, gives us the answer!

*Then God said, “Let us make human beings in* ***our image****, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings* ***in his own image****. In* ***the image of God*** *he created them;* ***male and female he created them****. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT - Emphasis added)*

**You are created in the image of God.**

Of all of God’s creations, human beings are the only ones that were created in God’s image. God called all that he created *good*, but when he finished forming humans, He chose to call us *very good.* We were created with this unique distinction because we are significant!

*“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.” Acts 17:26 (NKJV)*

Imago Dei is Latin for the “image of God.” Since every human being is created in God’s image, then every human being has been given inherent dignity, value, and worth. We are made of One Blood. We are One Human race created in the image of God.

Your life matters to God. Your life is important because you were made by Him and for Him. Take a moment to think about the great detail and artistry that went into creating you.

*You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother’s womb. Psalm 139:13 (TPT)*

Your DNA is the material that carries instructions for how your body is meant to look and work. Every human’s DNA contains unique sequences – there are no repeats. According to an article published in the 2014 Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, there are 70,368,744,177,664 possible combinations for human DNA. There are more combinations of human DNA than stars in the Milky Way Galaxy.

*For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*

You were created intentionally and with a great purpose! Your meaning (the reason for your existence) was communicated by God from the beginning of time because He chose you to be in relationship with Him before the foundation of the world was set in place! Before you ever had a chance to know who you are and what you were created to do, God, your heavenly Father, already knew you and planned the good things you would do.

This truth is wonderful and powerful because it shows us that our identity (who we are) can be found when we look to God, our Creator. He is the one who made us and He is the one who gives our lives meaning.

**Responsibility – Created for God’s Purpose**

But *why* were you created? And why were you created in the image of God?

The creator has the responsibility to define the purpose of his creation. This is true of every created thing. Consider an automobile. The creator of the vehicle defines its purpose. Is it an off-road truck? Is it a fuel-efficient commuter? Is it a large capacity family transporter? The creator defines the purpose, and the creator’s definition of purpose is *objective* truth.

Anyone else, besides the creator, can only share their *subjective* opinion on the purpose of the creation – but it can never be objective truth. Just as it does not make sense to take the fuel-efficient commuter up a mountain trail, we cannot define our own purpose because we did not create ourselves. Our purpose comes from God, who created us and knows everything about us.

*“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples,and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 28For in him we live and move and exist” Acts 17:24-28 (NLT)*

**You were created to carry responsibility.**

*…neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and* ***there were no people******to cultivate the soil****. Genesis 2:5 (NLT -Emphasis added.)*

*The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to* ***tend*** *and* ***watch*** *over it.   
Genesis 2:15 (NLT-Emphasis added)*

The word here for “tend” and “cultivate” is the same, and it means to work and serve. The word here for “watch” means topreserve.

**Putting it Together.**

You and I were created to work, serve, and preserve God’s creation! This is the purpose of our creation and how we find our individual purpose.[[1]](#footnote-1) This responsibility brings dignity to our lives!

We do this when we choose to exercise the influence God has given us in various areas of creation. The areas of his creation that we are created to care for are Family, Church, Business, Arts & Entertainment, Science & Medicine, Media, Government and Education.

Knowing our identity and taking responsibility unlocks the elevated, abundant life and allows us to live in the purpose God has given us – to reign and rule! (*Genesis 1:27)* Walking in this responsibility is a choice. And it is our choices that determine how effective we are in all those spheres of influence. As image bearers of God, we rule and reign as he does – with Love and Truth.

**Finding our significance begins with learning how to love – first God then others.**

*And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40 (NASB 2020)*

As we are learning how to love God and others we can study the life of Jesus because he was the visible image of the invisible God.

*“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16 (NLT)*

*“And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.” 1 John 5:20 (NLT)*

**Transformation**

**Only God’s truth brings transformation. His truth is expressed through his written Word and his personal presence.**

*We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus. We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. ­­­­2 Corinthians‬*

The more time we spend in the Presence of God, the more we are transformed into the image of God. And not just any image but the specific aspect of himself that he created us to share with the world.

“*God’s grace turns out men and women with a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ – not milksops.*” Oswald Chambers, author of My Utmost for His Highest

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.   
Psalm 119:105 (NLT)*

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans‬ (*

It is important to remember we are created in the image of God, and He is not created in the image of man. When we try to remake God into our image, we are fashioning an idol that will lead us away from our purpose and significance.

*Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32 (NLT)*

You don’t get free by focusing on the thing you’re trying to get free from. You get free by focusing on the truth that sets you free - His name is Jesus!! To know the truth is to love and spend time with him.

**Spending time in the Bible.**

One of the best ways to spend time in God’s Presence is to engage with him as you read through the Bible. Scripture opens us up to God’s direction and correction – plus it has HUGE benefits on our life! The Center of Bible Engagement compiled extensive research findings by Arnold Cole, Ed.D. & Pamela Caudill Ovwigho, Ph.D. into a document titled “[**Understanding the Bible Engagement Challenge: Scientific Evidence for the Power of 4**](https://bttbfiles.com/web/docs/cbe/Scientific_Evidence_for_the_Power_of_4.pdf).”

The study polled 40,000 people ages 8 to 80 seeking to see how people were engaging in Scripture. People who engaged with their Bibles one time per week – including at weekend church services – had minimal impact on their lives. People who engaged two or three times had minor improvements. The real revelation was how significantly the data shifted on the fourth day! People who engaged at least four days per week found:

1. Feeling lonely drops 30%
2. Anger issues drop 32%
3. Bitterness in relationships drops 40%
4. Alcoholism drops 57%
5. Sex outside of marriage drops 68%
6. Feeling spiritually stagnant drops 60%
7. Viewing pornography drops 61%
8. Sharing your faith jumps 200%
9. Discipling others jumps 230%

**Finding your significance.**

You were created on purpose for a purpose. The search for significance and purpose is found as you (1) love God, others, and yourself, (2) spend time in God’s Presence allowing him to transform you, and (3) begin to exert your influence in the areas he has called you to. True significance is found as you embrace who God created us to be and allow that expression of himself to touch the world around us.

**Practical Steps to Transformation**

1. **Read the Bible!** We offer “The Biblecast” every Monday-Thursday at 7:00am on Facebook live, YouTube, and as a podcast. You can begin your day by reading the Bible with Pastor Jimmy Witcher. He will guide you through a short ten-minute section of scripture! If you miss the live broadcast at 7:00am, you can catch up later in the day on YouTube or wherever you stream podcasts.
2. Read, declare, and memorize the attached “I am” statements.
3. Listen to the “Father’s Love Letter” recording. (<https://www.fathersloveletter.com/>)

**Graphical user interface

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Dream Team 401

**Introduction**

The Dream Team is a group of incredible people working together, passionately pursuing God and serving His people. The Dream Team is at the core of all ministries of Trinity Fellowship.

**As a member of the Dream Team, you are a leader at Trinity Fellowship.**

**Qualifications for Leadership**

***1 Timothy 3:8-13 (TPT)***

*And in the same way the deaconsmust be those who are pure and true to their word, not addicted to wine, or with greedy eyes on the contributions. Instead, they must faithfully embrace the mysteries of faith while keeping a clean conscience. And each of them must be found trustworthy according to these standards before they are given the responsibility to minister as servant-leaders without blame.*

*And the women also who serve the church should be dignified, faithful in all things, having their thoughts set on truth, and not known as those who gossip.*

*A deacon’s heart must be toward his wife alone, leading his children and household with excellence.**For those who serve in this way will obtain an honorable reputation for themselves and a greater right to speak boldly in the faith that comes from the anointing of Jesus!*

**Biblical qualifications for Dream Team Leaders:**

1. **Pure and true to their word**
2. **Faithful with a clean conscience**
3. **Not addicted to wine (or other addictive behavior)**
4. **Not pursuing dishonest gain**
5. **Firm in their faith and not wavering**
6. **Faithful in marriage**
7. **Manage children and household well**

**Leadership is always a service role.**

**Responsibilities of Dream Team Members**

**To serve faithfully on the Team of your choice.**

**Matthew 20:25-28 (TPT)**

*Jesus, knowing their thoughts, called them to his side and said, “Kings and those with great authority in this world rule oppressively over their subjects, like tyrants.**But this is not your calling. You will lead by a completely different model. The greatest one among you will live as the one who is called to serve others,**because the greatest honor and authority is reserved for the one with the heart of a servant.**For even the Son of Man did not come expecting to be served by everyone, but to serve everyone, and to give his life in exchange for the salvation of many.”*

**To honor the other leaders on your team.**

**Hebrews 12:10 (TPT)**

*Our parents corrected us for the short time of our childhood as it seemed good to them. But God corrects us throughout our lives for our own good, giving us an invitation to share his holiness.*

**To support the ministries of Trinity Fellowship with both your words and actions.**

**James 2:22 (TPT)**

*Can’t you see how his action cooperated with his faith and by his action faith found its full expression?*

**Matthew 6:21 (TPT)**

*For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure.*

**To extend grace to others.**

**1 Peter 4:10 (TPT)**

*Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God’s grace.*

**To share the love of God to the unreached in our community.**

**Matthew 28:19-20 (TPT)**

*Now go in my authority and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age.*

**To be a witness of the power of God to those who come across your path.**

**Acts 1:8 (TPT)**

*But I promise you this—the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be filled with power. And you will be my messengers to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—even to the remotest places on earth!*

**Dream Team On-Boarding Process**

1. **Complete the Growth Track (101- 401).**

1. **Become a member of Trinity Fellowship.**

1. **Complete the Dream Team Leadership Application and select the Dream Team of your choice.**

1. **Complete and clear the screening process for background checks prior to service.**

1. **Participate in a one-on-one interview with a Dream Team Coach.**

1. **Upon approval, receive your Dream Team Badge and begin serving on the Dream Team!**

1. James Strong, A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2009), 84. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)