

FOUNDATIONS





WEST DIGHTON

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Helping People Find Their Way Back to God

FOUNDATIONS

WELCOME TO

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN 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.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS

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

Key Truths:

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

What is the difference between being a Christian and being a member of a church family?

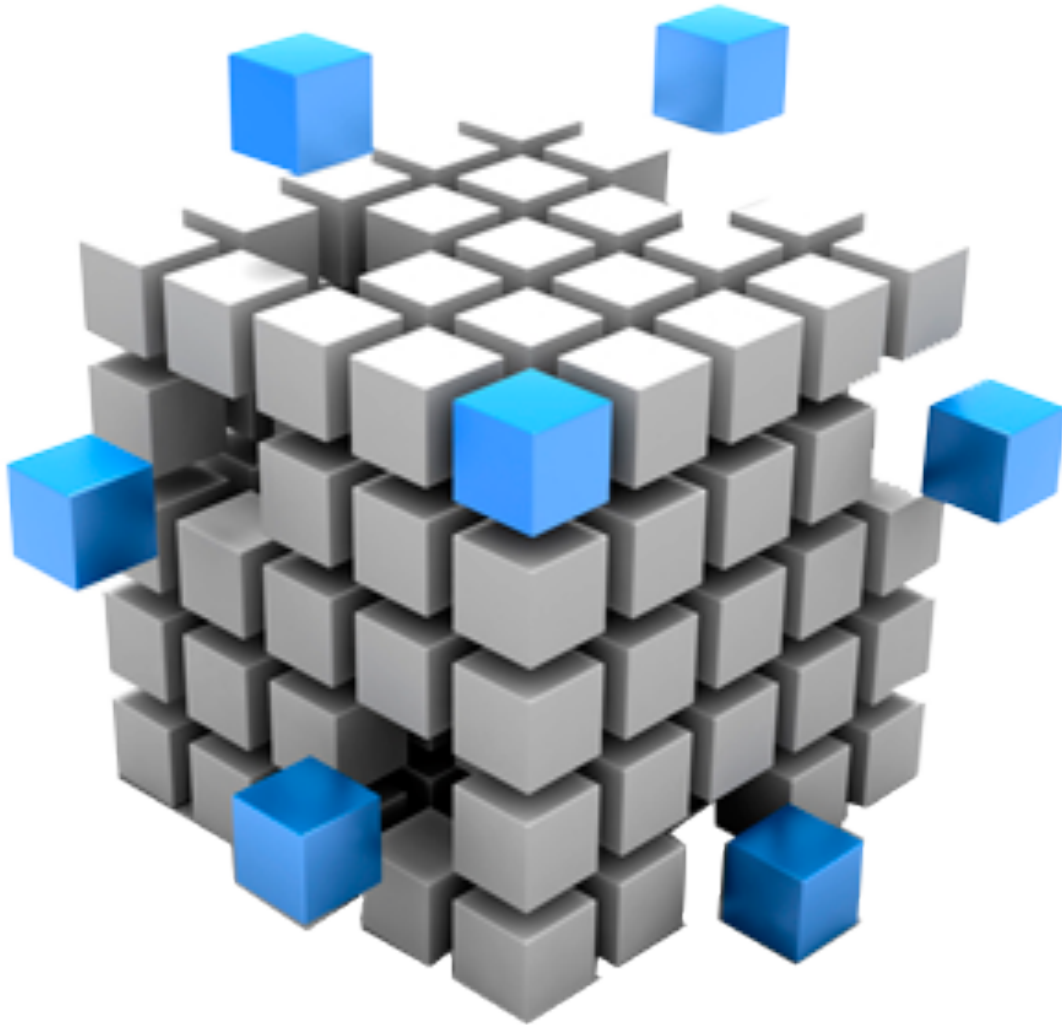
THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I will commit myself to_____ and to the_____.

Why do we ask for these commitments?

Because we become_____
_____.

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 _____ OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship..." Acts 2:42 (ESV)

What is fellowship?

"Two _____ on the _____.

Fellowship is when you get to know other people because you're headed in the same direction.

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 then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Rom. 14:19 (ESV)

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

REGARDING VOTING at WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- “Voting” tends to divide not unify. plus the majority is often _____.
- The church is not a _____ the church is a _____. God is in charge and it is our job is to find out what God wants us to do and then do it.

So at WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH, we will be examining that structure as part of the vision process. What we should vote on as a congregation? What should we simply come to a consensus on? What we should leave the ministry leaders to decide?

II. THE CHURCH IS A_____.

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

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

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF_____
NOT_____.

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters...1 Tim. 5:1-2 (ESV)

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)

1 Tim. 3:4-5 (ESV)

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 _____ not an _____!

THEREFORE, WE WILL MOVE TOWARD FUNCTIONING ON THE BASIS OF_____ NOT ONLY ELECTED OFFICES.

“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, “_____” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “_____” is the focus.

OUR STRUCTURE IS DESIGNED SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

“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 PASTOR IS THE “_____”.

**Every member is a
_____!**

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

The pastor's job is *NOT* to do all the
_____.

_____ times in the Bible the phrase "one another" is used to refer to Christians ministering to one another.

God never meant for _____ to meet everyone's needs.

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 Tim. 5:17

STATEMENTS



I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 1Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

We have these statements so we can do just that. Be of one mind. If you choose to join WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH, these are the things that should resonate with you.

CORE VALUES

1. _____-Focused

The Word of God is our ultimate authority. Mature followers of Jesus Christ must know God's Word and how to read, interpret, and teach Scripture. WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH prioritizes clear Biblical teaching and emphasizes the great sense of urgency for the church to know Scripture and understand the truths of the Bible. The time one is in the Scriptures directly impacts their relationship with God and the ability to obey His commands.

2. _____Dependent

God's vision for WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH will be fulfilled only if we remain on our knees, recognizing that apart from the work of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, nothing of lasting value will happen. We can only accomplish much only by relying on God's power and not our own.

3. _____-Centered

The centrality of all we do revolves around the gospel message. The gospel is the message that we have been commissioned to share with anyone who hears. As Paul clearly states in Romans 1:16 ...[the gospel] *is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...*

CORE VALUE GOALS

4. _____-Targeted

All people are precious in the sight of God. Through creative and intentional efforts, WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH will seek to build bridges to people outside the church in an effort to extend the hope and love that can be found only in relationship to God through Jesus Christ. We recognize that much of the Scripture portrays God's passion for the poor and needy and endeavor to have our passions in line with His.

We exist to _____ God's word.

"[God's intent was that] through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." Ephesians 3:10

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? Romans 10:13-14 (ESV)

5. _____-Focused

Following the example of Jesus and the New Testament model, we will advance the cause of Christ through the intentional training of disciples and church leaders. We

recognize that transformation is a work of God's Spirit from the inside out. The goal of transformation is to be imitators of Jesus, to live a life of servanthood and promote an ongoing cycle of discipleship.

Discipleship means helping believers _____

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

"Grow in grace and the 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."
Ephesians 4:11-13

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- **The Word of God** We believe that God has revealed Himself through the Bible. We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the only Inspired, Inerrant, Infallible, and Authoritative Word of God.
- **God** We believe in One God, infinite in Wisdom, Goodness, and Love. We believe that He is eternally existent in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- **Jesus** We believe that Jesus Christ is the only-begotten Son of God. We believe that for us and our salvation He took on human form, that He was born of a virgin, that He lived a sinless life, that He performed miracles, that He died on the cross for our sins, that on the third day He was bodily resurrected, and that He ascended to the right hand of God the Father. We believe in His second coming in power and glory.
- **Salvation** We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful mankind, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential.
- **The Holy Spirit** We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit. He takes the things of Christ and reveals them to us, renewing, comforting and inspiring our souls. We believe that only by His indwelling power and fullness are Christians enabled to live a godly life in this present sinful world.

- **Last Things** We believe that Jesus Christ will raise up all the dead, give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers, and condemn unbelievers to eternal punishment.
- **The Church** We believe that the unity of the Church can only be brought about by a common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

ABOUT UNITY AND LIBERTY

These are things we believe are essential. These are things we need to be united in thought and purpose on. In the essentials we have unity.

"There is one body and one Spirit, there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all."

Ephesians 4:4-6

There are some things you're going to differ from other people on. We consider a lot of these to be non essentials and in those there's liberty. In those we can have diversity.

"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 to himself to God. So whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God." Romans 14:1,4

In essential things we have _____. And in all things we have _____.

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of West Dighton Christian Church is:

*Helping people find their way back to God
and grow in their relationship
with God and others.*

This is based in the Great Commission

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

and Great Commandment

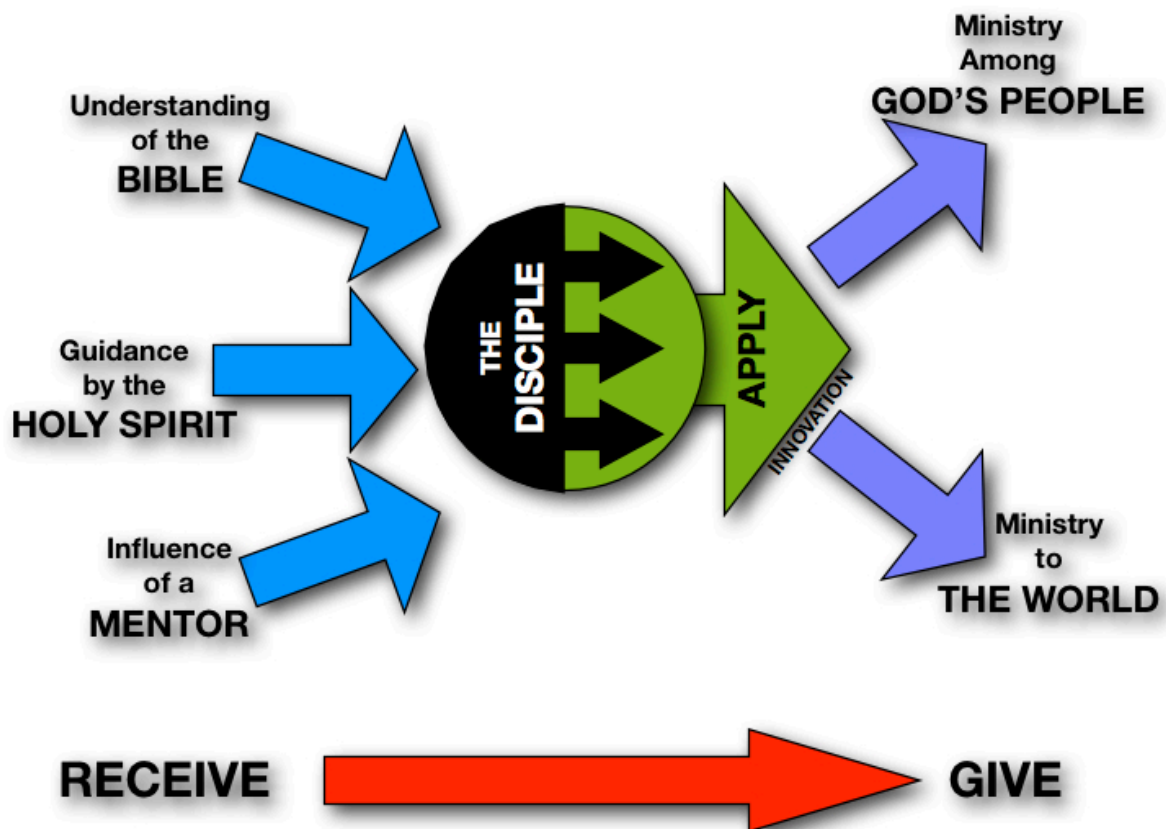
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22: 37-39

OUR VISION STATEMENT

THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

At West Dighton Christian Church we believe that following Jesus means that there can be real change in a person's life and his/her life should then result in fruitful ministries. It kind of looks like this.

transformational & missional
discipleship



As we place ourselves under the influence of the Bible, Holy Spirit and other Christ-followers our lives can be transformed as we apply the things we learn to our lives.

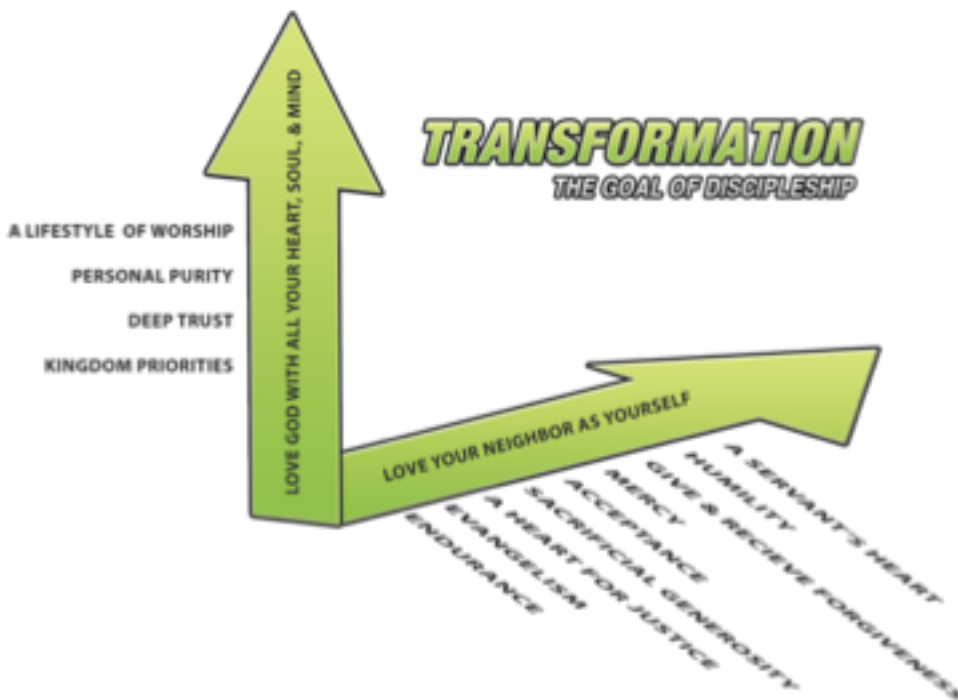
This transformation affects our character, behavior, and relationships. A changed life results in partnering with God in his mission to reach the world.

This manifests itself in serving others within the Body of Christ BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY to those outside the Body of Christ. Disciples multiply themselves through mission.

What exactly does a “devoted follower” or a “disciple of Jesus” look like? Unfortunately a follower of Christ is often described by what they _____ rather than who they _____ Following Jesus is more than doing religious things - it is allowing God to fundamentally transform us in every aspect of who we are.

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matthew 22:37-39).

So being a follower of Jesus must have to do with loving God and others. Below is what WDCC believes a Christ-follower should look like. However, this is a target. In order to be fully transformed in these areas takes a lifetime but we are determined to start the journey of glorifying God by becoming more and more devoted to him.



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

We are to develop...

1. A lifestyle of _____ (Rom 12:1-2, Psalm 95:6)

2. Personal _____ (1 John 3:3, 2 Tim 2:22, Mt 5:27-28, Phil 4:8)

3. A deeper _____ in God (risk-taking disciples) (Psalm 9:10, Prov 3:5-6, Josh 1:5-9, Mt 13:44-46, Heb 11:8-10)

4. Kingdom _____ Prov 30:8-9; Mt 6:10, 33, John 2:17; Phil 3:20, 4:11; 1 John 2:15-17

Love your neighbor as yourself."

We are to develop...

5. A _____ heart (relationships) Matthew 20:27-28, 23:11; Mark 10:45; 2 Cor 4:5 Phil 1:4

6. _____ Rom 12, Phil 2:3-5; 1 Peter 5:5 **7. A capacity to give and receive _____** Matthew 6:14-15;

Mark 11:25; Luke 6:35; Eph 4:32

8. A love of _____ Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:7

9. An attitude of _____ 1 Sam 16:7b; Rom 15:7; James 2:1-9

10. A life of _____ 2 Sam 24:24; Luke 14:33; 1 John 3:16-19; 1 Cor 4:2; 1 Timothy 6:6-7, 17-19; 2 Cor 8:7, 13-14, 9:10-11

11. A heart for _____ (protecting the disenfranchised) Isa 58:6-10; Jms 1:27, Mt 25:31-46

12. A lifestyle of _____ that balances gentleness and urgency John 4:35; 2 Cor 6:2; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Peter 3:9 Philemon 6; Heb 9:27

13. _____ Rom 5:3-4, 15:4; Gal 6:9; Heb 12:1-3; James 5:7-8

AREAS WE FOCUS ON



CONNECT Connection to God and others is an essential part of following Jesus. At WDCC we desire to connect to God through worship, prayer and service among other things. We connect to each other through

fellowship, hospitality, authentic relationships, welcoming each other and sharing life together.

- Enfolded Ministry
- Hospitality Ministries
- "Foundations" CLASS (membership)
- Church Retreats
- Church dinners/fellowship ministries



GROW The idea of a Christian coming to faith in Jesus and not growing is foreign to the teachings of the Bible. At WDCC we put a lot of emphasis on growing in discipleship. We seek to grow by drawing close to Jesus

by studying the Scriptures, stepping out in risky faith, personal and corporate devotions and by seeking to gain a Christian world view.

- Sunday School
- Women's & Men's Ministries
- Youth Ministries
- Small Groups
- Worship Services
- "Elements" CLASS
- "Discovering Your Dark Side" CLASS



SERVE A transformed Christian life should reorder our priorities. Before we believed our priorities were centered on me, myself and I. At WDCC we strive to follow Jesus in obedience by serving others. the apostle Paul put it this way: "... Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." – Phil 2:4.

- Gift Discovery CLASS
- Various Church Ministries
- Teaching
- Administration
- Youth
- Children
- Worship
- Leadership



GO Despite the importance of connecting, growing and serving, the Bible puts much emphasis on going. At WDCC we believe we were created for 'mission.' That God wants to use people like us to share the gospel - a message of hope and belonging that can revolutionize a persons life giving them a purpose that has impact far beyond this life and into eternity.

- "Share Jesus Without Fear" CLASS
- Outreach events
- Missional Small Groups
- Mission's Ministry
- Local missions
- Short Term Missions Trips

SALVATION



So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28 (NIV)

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 _____
_____.

Some look for happiness by _____
_____.

Some look for happiness by _____
_____ & _____.

**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

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will Eph. 1:4-5 (NIV)

2. WE WERE CREATED TO _____ A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO MANAGE ALL OF THE REST OF GOD'S CREATION!

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. "Gen. 1:27-28 (NIV)

"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

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

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

“All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory.” 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 is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death Proverbs 16:25 (ESV)

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 _____ 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.

SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN? It means to

_____.

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN “MYTHS”

“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

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD. (Remember, the prayer isn't a magical formula. The prayer doesn't save you. God is listening to your heart for faith.)

"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



1. 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

**Baptism doesn't make you a Christian, It's an
outward _____ of an inward
_____.**

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It _____ CHRIST'S BURIAL 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



TO REPEAT: 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?

1. BECAUSE _____ WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

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

2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE _____ WAS BY IMMERSION.

“...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

3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO _____ WATER”.

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water”.

4. IT BEST _____ A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

The founders of various 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 WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN 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 WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though some 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.

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.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. You don’t have to but it is strongly suggested. Later you will be given a certificate of your baptism. We try to take your picture and place it on your certificate.. This is to help you remember your baptism.

THE LORD'S SUPPER



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

3

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?

The Bible doesn't say. The Bible doesn't give a rule about how often. Anytime you hear a rule like, "You ought to take the Lord's Supper every Sunday" it's a man-made rule. It's not in the Bible. Or, "You ought to take it once a month". It's a man-made rule. It's not in the Bible. Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. In Acts 2 they took it in their homes.

MEMBERSHIP



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

_____.

At WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A _____ REASON: CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE
CHURCH

"...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it."

Eph. 5:25

II. A _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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 WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches anyway. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward the other members, refusing to gossip and accepting people as they are

2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, by inviting the unchurched to attend, by warmly welcoming those who visit. The difference between being an attender and member is like being on a cruise. If you're an attender you're just along for the ride. If you're a member you're actually a crew member on the cruise. Now that you join the church it's your job to reach out and bring others in.

3. I will endeavor to grow by:

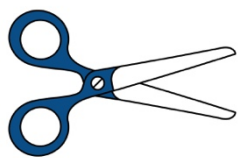
Supporting the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life, and by giving regularly.

I will take part in a small group/Sunday school/bible study on a regular basis that I may know and love people and so that they can know and love me. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve and by developing a servant's heart.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

There are five requirements for membership here at WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH. You must fulfill all five before you can be a member of this church.

1. Trust Jesus for your salvation.
2. Be baptized by immersion (under water) after you committed your life to Christ?
3. Completed the 'Foundations' Class?
4. Meet with the leadership of the church to share your salvation story.
5. Agree to and sign the doctrinal statement of WEST DIGHTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH



INFORMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBERS

EMAIL

CHILDREN (names and ages)

Previous or current church membership?

[] I give my permission to publish the information above in the church directory.

[] Please do not include the following information in the directory

Other items

My spiritual gifts (if known)

Abilities and talents

I've attended WDCC for _____ years/months