



**WELCOME** TO  
CHURCH



DISCOVERING  
GOD'S  
PURPOSE  
FOR  
CHURCH



## Welcome to Maranatha

This *Study Guide* was compiled in conjunction with a five-week sermon series entitled *Welcome to Church*. Each lesson in this *study guide* corresponds with a week of that series. You can find the series on our website at <https://go.mbccolumbus.org/welcome2church>

What is church? Is it a building or is something more? And why does the church exist? What is its main purpose and how does it carry out that purpose in the world? This series takes an in-depth look at Acts 2 and seeks to answer these questions as we look at the founding of the New Testament church. We'll discover that the church exists for the glory of God, and that everything we do individually and corporately, must move that direction. Second, we'll see that Christ is the head of the church, and that our conviction regarding his humanity, deity, ministry, death, and resurrection are essential for saving faith; faith that unites us together with him and with one another. Finally, we'll evaluate the unique purposes that God has given to his church to fulfill. Those commands are meant to guide our focus as we eagerly wait for his return.

It is important to understand that we don't get our concept of the church from contemporary culture. We don't look at what's "working" around us and seek to implement the "best practices" of our day. Our mandate for doing church comes from God Himself, and thus our confidence lies in the authority and sufficiency of the Word of God. We believe that as we follow the principles given to us in the Bible, that God will build his church and the "gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). It is this commitment to the sufficiency of Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit that guides our study.

It is also important to understand that God has united us together "in Him." That is especially vital to recognize in our "do-it-yourself" culture. Independence is not an option. Spiritual maturity, growth, and ministry only happen as we are connected to the body. All that God has commanded us to do finds a connection back to the church. Our prayer, evangelism, discipleship, occupation, and even parenting can only be accomplished effectively when we exist in community with other believers.

We look forward to getting to know you through the course of the next several weeks, and we pray that this class will be helpful for you as you get to know us as well. We not only want to cover some of the foundational concepts of the church, but we also want to begin some conversations that will help to answer any questions that come to mind.

Thanks for joining us!

## WEEK 1: THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH



---

### What is the church?

The church is not the \_\_\_\_\_, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.

### The reason for this study?

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ our purpose. (Phil 3:1; 2 Pt 1:12-15)
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ new members.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ our ministry.

### Our Ultimate Priority as a church (and as people) is to \_\_\_\_\_ God!

**Romans 1:18–21 (ESV)** - <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**Revelation 4:11 (ESV)** - <sup>11</sup> “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

**Christ came to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s glory.**

**Luke 2:29–32 (ESV)** - <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and **for glory to your people Israel.**”

**The church exists to \_\_\_\_\_ the glory of God.**

**Ephesians 1:5–6 (ESV)** - <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the **praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

**Ephesians 1:11–14 (ESV)** -<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory.** <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory.**

**Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV)** - <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## How does the church seek to bring glory to God?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - BOW (John 4:23-24)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - BUILD (Ephesians 4:11-12)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - B.L.E.S.S. (Matthew 28:19-20)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - BELONG (Ephesians 4:1-3)



## Our commitment to Christ. (Acts 2:22-41)

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ (vv. 22-24, 32-36).

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, **a man attested to you by God** with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you **crucified** and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God **raised** him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “**Sit at my right hand,** <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ <sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him **both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of faith and repentance (v. 38)

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ of believer’s baptism (v. 38).

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit (v. 38).

### 5. \_\_\_\_\_ from the world (v. 39-40)

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

### 6. \_\_\_\_\_ as a body (v. 41)

<sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

# Creating a testimony

## OLD LIFE (Before Christ)

1. What were you like before Jesus saved you?
2. What did you believe about the world and your existence in it?
3. What were your major sources of satisfaction apart from Jesus? Where did you find your hope? What occupied the bulk of your attention, priority, time, and resources?
4. When did you recognize your needs for Jesus? What were the circumstances? Who was involved in this process?
5. Overall, what was the problem in your life? Why did you need salvation? Choose a verse that speaks to this problem and how Jesus provides the solution.

*Your answers to the questions above:*



## **The Gospel (the story of Jesus working in your life)**

1. What did God do to bring you to the point of repentance and faith?
2. Who is Jesus, and why did he come to earth? (Choose a verse or two to support your answer)
3. What did God do through Christ to solve your sin problem? (Choose a verse or two to support your answer)
4. Why do you believe in the gospel of Jesus?
5. What has the gospel has accomplished in your heart and life?

*Your answers to the questions above:*

## **NEW LIFE (your life with Jesus)**

1. How has Jesus transformed your life and helped you overcome various sins? How has he given you new joy, new priorities, and a new focus?
2. What are you like now that Jesus has saved you?
3. What benefits have you received through Christ in the gospel? (Choose a verse or two to support your answer).
4. How is the gospel currently at work in you? How is God sanctifying your life? What area is He trying to refine?
5. What is at stake for those who don't believe in Jesus, and why should they believe in Him?

*Your answers to the questions above:*

## WEEK 2: What is the Church?



---

### What is the church?

**Week 1:** The church is not the \_\_\_\_\_, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 2:** The church is not about \_\_\_\_\_, it's about \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Our Ultimate Priority as a church (and as people) is to \_\_\_\_\_ God!**

**Psalm 19:1 (ESV)** - <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**Isaiah 55:12 (ESV)** - <sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**Revelation 5:13 (ESV)** - <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

## What does it mean to glorify God?

John 17:4 (ESV) - <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ his worthiness.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ on his power.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ to his authority.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ for his pleasure.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ in his likeness.
6. To \_\_\_\_\_ for his presence.

**Recognize that you exist for Him. He does not exist for you!**

## How do we experience God?

Psalm 34:8 (ESV) - <sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

1. He opens our eyes to the **truth**.
2. He answers our **prayers**.
3. He gives us his **peace**.
4. He reveals his **grace**.
5. He awakens our **hearts**.
6. He changes our **life**.
7. He fills us with **joy**.
8. He energizes our **ministry**.
9. He inspires our **faith**.

## What do we need to believe about Jesus?

1. He was fully \_\_\_\_\_ . (Acts 2:22)

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, **a man attested to you by God** with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know

2. He was fully \_\_\_\_\_ . (Acts 2:22)

3. He was \_\_\_\_\_ . (Acts 2:23)

<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you **crucified** and killed by the hands of lawless men.

4. He was \_\_\_\_\_ . (Acts 2:24)

<sup>24</sup> God **raised** him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

5. He is at the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (Acts 2:33)

<sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

6. He is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:34-36)

<sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “**Sit at my right hand**,<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’<sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him **both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

## Our corporate expression of faith. (Acts 2:42-43)

Acts 2:42-43 - <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

1. Students of the Bible (v. 42).
2. Participate in regular fellowship (v. 42; Heb 10:25).
3. Share in communion (Acts 2:42, 46).
4. Engage in corporate prayer (Acts 2:42).
5. Devoted to active ministry (Acts 2:43)
6. Display of unusual love (Acts 2:44-45)

## WEEK 3: The Role of Worship and Discipleship



### What is the church?

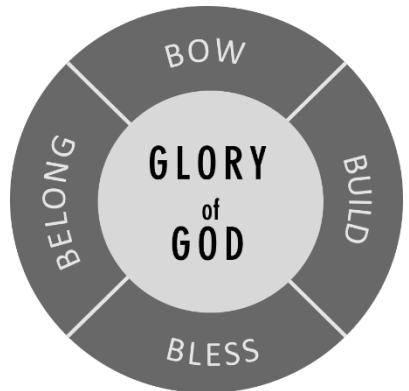
**Week 1:** The church is not the \_\_\_\_\_, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 2:** The church is not about \_\_\_\_\_, it's about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 3:** The church is not about the \_\_\_\_\_, it's about the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Four-fold Purpose of the Church (Acts 2:42-47)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - BOW
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - BUILD
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - B.L.E.S.S.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - BELONG



# What is worship?

**Acts 2:42–43 (ESV)** - <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

1. Worship is \_\_\_\_\_ to God. (v. 42)

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)** - 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2. Worship is \_\_\_\_\_ God. (v. 42)

a. Teaching (see the appendix for our statement of faith)

b. Fellowship

c. Communion

d. Praying

3. Worship is \_\_\_\_\_ God. (v. 46-47)

**Acts 2:46–47 (ESV)** - 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



## What is discipleship?

**Acts 2:43–46 (ESV)** - <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And **all who believed were together** and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple **together** and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

1. Discipleship is \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. (v. 43-46)

Discipleship and fellowship are meant to be understood together.

It asks the question, “How does love for God change my life?”

**Mark 3:14 (ESV)** - <sup>14</sup> And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach.

2. Discipleship is \_\_\_\_\_ the body. (v. 43-46)

**Hebrews 13:2 (ESV)** - <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**1 Peter 4:9 (ESV)** - <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

**Romans 12:13 (ESV)** - <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV)** - <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**Galatians 5:13 (ESV)** - <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

**Colossians 3:16 (ESV)** - <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)** - <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

3. Discipleship is \_\_\_\_\_ together.

**Philippians 2:19–22 (ESV)** - <sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

## WEEK 4: How do we engage the world?



### What is the church?

**Week 1:** The church is not the \_\_\_\_\_, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 2:** The church is not about \_\_\_\_\_, it's about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 3:** The church is not about the \_\_\_\_\_, it's about the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 4:** Church is about the \_\_\_\_\_ that strengthens the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Four-fold purpose of the Church



\_\_\_\_\_ is living with the \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_ is leading every person one \_\_\_\_\_ closer to Jesus



\_\_\_\_\_ is living like Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ is actively pursuing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole.



## Mission Unstoppable (Acts 2:47)

Acts 2:47 (ESV) - <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1. Begins with an encounter with \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV) - <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2. As simple as \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

Acts 3:8–9 (ESV) - <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and **praising** God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and **praising** God,

Acts 2:11 (ESV) - <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them **telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.**”

Acts 16:25–34 (ESV) - <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying** and **singing** hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken..... <sup>31</sup> And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house..... <sup>34</sup>... And he **rejoiced** along with his entire household that he had **believed** in God.

3. Seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ through \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 5:12–14 (ESV) - <sup>12</sup> Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. <sup>13</sup> None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

4. Strengthened by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body.

John 17:20–21 (ESV) - <sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

## How can we bless the world in a tangible way?

**B** \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

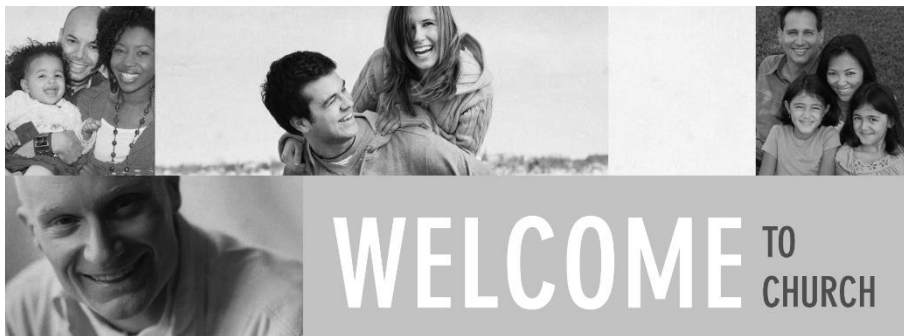
**L** \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK 5: What is the purpose of Membership?



### What is the church?

**Week 1:** The church is not the \_\_\_\_\_, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 2:** The church is not about \_\_\_\_\_, it's about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 3:** The church is not about the \_\_\_\_\_, it's about the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 4:** Church is about the \_\_\_\_\_ that strengthens the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Week 5:** Church is about \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ as his body.

### Four-fold purpose of the Church

**WORSHIP** is living with the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

**DISCIPLESHIP** is leading every person one \_\_\_\_\_ closer to Jesus.

**EVANGELISM** is living like Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ the world.

**UNITY** is actively pursuing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole.



**BOW**



**BUILD**



**BLESS**



**BELONG**

# The \_\_\_\_\_ of our oneness

1. Jesus gave \_\_\_\_\_ for oneness. (Acts 2:22-24)

**Acts 2:22–24 (ESV)** - <sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

2. The church gave \_\_\_\_\_ for oneness (Acts 2:42-47)

**Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)** - <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

3. What will you give for oneness?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:17)

**Romans 1:17 (ESV)** - <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

b. \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 5:13)

Galatians 5:13 (ESV) - <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Samuel 15:22)

**1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV)** - <sup>22</sup> And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 3:18-22)

**Philippians 3:18–21 (ESV)** - <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

## The \_\_\_\_\_ of our oneness

1. It affirms my \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ. (Col 2:6-15)
2. It places Christ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of my life. (Col 1:18)
3. It is God’s design for \_\_\_\_\_ growth. (Eph 4:11-16)
4. It is the conduit for \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
  - a. Baptism
  - b. Communion
  - c. Discipline
  - d. Spiritual gifts
  - e. “one another” commands



**The \_\_\_\_\_ of our oneness**

1. Reminder of his \_\_\_\_\_

2. Reminder of his \_\_\_\_\_

---

# A P P E N D I X

---

## Doctrinal Statement:

THIS STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE expresses what we believe Christians must affirm. It is not meant to represent all that Christians should believe but includes the essential truths that Christians must not deny.

### Scripture:

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Tim 3:16-17; Mark 13:31; 2 Peter 1:20; John 8:31; John 20:31; Acts 20:32)

### Trinity:

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit); that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they fulfill distinct but harmonious offices as illustrated by the work of creation, providence, and redemption. (Gen 1:21; John 1:1; Matt 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19-20; Eph 4:5-6)

### God the Father:

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:21-22; Matt 23:9; John 3:16; John 6:27; Rom 1:7; 1 Tim 1:1-2; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Rev 1:6)

### God the Son:

We believe in Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man: God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and existing from eternity. We believe that he was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles and came as the Word of God. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; John 20:28; Rom 9:5; Rom 8:32; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30-31; Matt 20:28; Eph 1:4; Acts 1:11; Rom 5:6-8; Heb 7:25; Heb 9:28; 1 Tim 3:16; 1 Tim 3:16)

## **God the Holy Spirit:**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 14:16-17, 26-27; John 15:26-27; John 16:9-14; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 3:16; 1 Cor 6:19; Gal 5:22-26)

## **Humanity:**

Humanity is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation, that they might have fellowship with Him. In the beginning humans were innocent of sin and were endowed by their Creator with freedom of choice. Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union in the covenant of marriage that establishes the only God-ordained pattern of sexual relations between a man and a woman. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not interchangeable, but rather complement each other in mutually enriching ways.

By his free choice Adam rebelled against God, bringing sin into the human race. As a consequence of Adam's sin, all human beings are estranged from their Maker, yet are still responsible to Him. All humanity is subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and, apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. All people are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ. Nevertheless, because they still possess the divine image, every person of every race has full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7,18-22; 3:1-24; 9:6; Psalms 1:1-6; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jer 17:5; Matt 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:12-18; 8:29-30; 1 Cor 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Eph 2:1-22; Col 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

## **Sin:**

Through the temptation of Satan, Adam and Eve chose to disobey the command of God and fell from their original holiness and righteousness. Now the entire human race inherits a corrupt nature that is opposed to God and His law, and chooses to disobey just like Adam and Eve. Therefore, all humans are under condemnation. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to the mind, will, body and affections. Unregenerate humanity lives under the dominion of sin and Satan, and is thus in opposition to God. (Gen 3; Rom 3:9-20; Eph 2:1-3; Eph 4:17-19)

**Salvation:**

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again; that salvation is only by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ; is not by works so that no one can boast; and that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and are forever declared children of God. (John 3:5-8; Eph 2:8-9; Heb 20:19-25; John 10:28)

**Regeneration:**

We believe that regeneration is the work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit's work in regeneration is not the result of water baptism or of any outward ritual. It is a change of heart brought about by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, in which sinners respond in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. And true Biblical faith means more than simply believing certain facts. It means accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and committing one's entire being to Him as Lord. It calls for a total response involving the believer's mind, emotions and will. (Jer 31:31ff.; Ez 11:19; John 1:12-14; 3:3ff.; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Eph. 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3)

**Justification:**

We believe that justification is the act of God by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins and confess Him as Lord. It is granted apart from any human virtue or good works and involves the Father laying our sins on Christ and granting Christ's righteousness to us. (Genesis 15:6; Luke 24:44-48; John 3:16; 5:24; Acts 13:39; Rom. 1:17; 3:21-28; 4:1-25; 5:1, 8-10; 1 Cor 6:11; Gal 3:24)

**Sanctification:**

We believe that sanctification is the ongoing experience, beginning in regeneration, by which believers are set apart for God's purposes, and are enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the power of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in them. Growth in grace should continue throughout the believer's life. (Jn 17:17,19; Acts 20:32; Rm 6:1-23; 8:1-17; 13:11-14; 1 Cor 1:2; 6:19-20; Gal 2:20; 5:22-25; Eph 4:11-16; Phil 2:12-13; Col 3:1ff.; 1 Thes 5:23-24; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 12:14; James 2:14-26; 1 Pt 1:13-16, 22; 1 Jn 1:6-2:11)

**Church:**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship.

We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. We believe that the church has been given the two ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's supper as a means of symbolizing the new birth and remembering the body and blood of Christ till he comes. (Eph 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Eph 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Heb 10:23-25)

### **Future Events:**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the righteous in heaven and the endless suffering of the wicked in hell. (Matt 16:27; Mark 14:62; Acts 1:11; Phil 3:20; 1 Thess 4:15; 2 Tim 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor 4:5; 1 Cor 15; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Rev 20:4-6)

### **Creation:**

We believe that God created the world from nothing and governs all things at all times in all places. Creation, according to the design of God, was good and exists to call attention to his divine power and attributes. God doesn't let the world exist, but causes the world to exist. He upholds the universe by the word of His power, and He holds the world together in himself. (Gen 1:1-2; Ps 24:1; Gen 1:3-31; Rom 1:19-20; Col 1:16-17)

## **Other distinctives of the Maranatha Baptist:**

- 1. The Local Church** – We believe that the church is to be led by qualified men called pastors and deacons whose qualifications are found in 1 Tim 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. The congregation also plays a vital role in affirming the decisions of the leaders. We also believe in the autonomy of the local church.
- 2. Missions and evangelism** – We believe that God has called the members of the church to engage in gospel ministry in the local community and around the world (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).
- 3. Spiritual gifts** – We believe that God has given a spiritual gift to every believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13). Thus, every believer is commanded to use their gift to serve the body of Christ on a regular basis. We believe that the "sign" gifts that are often associated with the early church, are no longer functioning in the same way as they were in the NT.

4. **Israel and the Church** – We believe that God will keep His unconditional promises to Israel – made to Abraham, Moses, and David – and we believe that the church has not replaced Israel in God’s future plan. However, the Church can now participate in the promises of Israel through faith in Jesus Christ. (Romans 11:1)

## Spiritual Gifts Inventory

	(3pts) Much	(2pts) Some	(1pt) Little	(0pts) None
1. I am willing to learn executive skills such as planning, organizing and delegating.				
2. There are times I sense that a particular teaching is unbiblical.				
3. I enjoy sharing the message of the Gospel as I understand it.				
4. I am accepting of persons deeply troubled and in crisis.				
5. I have assurance that God answers prayer.				
6. I feel deeply moved when confronted with the urgent needs of others.				
7. I get much satisfaction from hosting people in my home.				
8. I am concerned to read, study and learn Biblical truths.				
9. I find it easy to motivate others to follow through on a ministry project.				
10. I hurt for others who are poverty stricken, sick, a stranger, or imprisoned.				
11. I am concerned to verbalize Biblical truths which build, encourage and comfort others.				
12. I am ready to commit myself to care for the spiritual health of a group of believers.				
13. I usually have a readiness to take on helping roles.				
14. I have a strong conviction that Biblical truths should be understood accurately.				
15. I have a reverence for God and His will for my life.				
16. I do well in evaluating the results from studies on the effectiveness of church programs.				

	(3pts) Much	(2pts) Some	(1pt) Little	(0pts) None
17. I receive affirmation from others that I am able to distinguish between truth and error.				
18. I wish to relate to non-Christians so I can share my faith.				
19. I am sensitive and sympathetic to persons who seem to be suffering.				
20. I feel joy in persisting in prayer for specific needs.				
21. I am willing to maintain a lower standard of living to benefit God's Word.				
22. I am comfortable opening my home to others regardless of its cleanliness.				
23. Paul's concern (Col 1:10) that I "increase in the knowledge of God" is very important.				
24. I would enjoy guiding a group of people to achieve their desired goals.				
25. I desire to do acts of love and kindness regardless of the outcome.				
26. I enjoy sharing a hymn, lesson or Bible study so that all believers might learn.				
27. I sense a need to select disciples and equip them to serve one another.				
28. I would rather play a supportive role in the background than be "up front."				
29. I enjoy knowing the meaning of key words in Scripture.				
30. I effectively solve problems using Biblical principles.				
31. I am able to organize ideas, people, things, and time for more effective ministry.				
32. I am able to tell when people have a hidden agenda or ulterior motives.				
33. I am at ease in sharing how Christ is my Savior and Lord				
34. I am willing to provide encouragement, counseling, or advice to those who seek it.				
35. I encourage others to depend on God's resources and guidance.				
36. I consider all that I own as resources of stewardship to God.				
37. I am willing to use my personal belongings to serve others outside my family.				

	(3pts) Much	(2pts) Some	(1pt) Little	(Opts) None
38. I am moved to study Scripture so as to be unashamed in accurately handling it.				
39. I often assume responsibility when no official leader is designated.				
40. I am content to serve those who are suffering, neglected, and outcast.				
41. I prefer preaching which explains the Bible and applies it to life.				
42. I enjoy having responsibility for the growth of a group of Christians.				
43. I am satisfied to express my skills by supporting those who are in charge.				
44. I believe that the teaching-learning process is vital to local church growth.				
45. Others often ask me for ideas for implementation and approach to ministry.				
46. I am able to lead a committee or group in making decisions together.				
47. I see the difference between truth and error.				
48. I am concerned to communicate my personal relationship with Christ to others.				
49. I have compassion towards those who are broken-hearted, addicted, or oppressed.				
50. I am comfortable around people who pray a lot for others.				
51. I am concerned that the money I give be used as efficiently as possible for God.				
52. I take pleasure with an open heart in using our home to serve people in need.				
53. I desire to share with others the Biblical insights I discover.				
54. I am willing to persuade others to move towards Biblical objectives.				
55. I am cheerful, available and involved in hospital, prison, or similar visitation.				
56. I am not afraid to speak boldly about the sin I see in the world.				
57. I am concerned to guard others from those who are enemies of Christ.				
58. I am content to perform menial jobs or those jobs considered unimportant by others.				



	(3pts) Much	(2pts) Some	(1pt) Little	(0pts) None
59. I have a strong concern to relate Biblical truths to life.				
60. I am concerned that interpersonal relationships be peaceful and without partiality.				
61. I am able to recruit Christians to express use their gifts and participate in ministry.				
62. I judge well between the inadequate and the acceptable, and between good and evil.				
63. I enjoy being an instrument of God in "drawing the net" so unbelievers receive Christ.				
64. I verbally encourage the weak, wavering or troubled.				
65. I trust in the presence and power of God to do the impossible.				
66. I give cheerfully that God's work be extended and helped.				
67. I am happy to add someone to our family temporarily in order to provide for their needs.				
68. I learn Biblical truths easily.				
69. I usually know where I am going and can influence other Christians in that direction.				
70. I work joyfully with people ignored by the majority.				
71. Speaking God's truth by instructing and warning others is my normal approach to life.				
72. It is important to be in close community with those whom I serve and guide.				
73. I enjoy administrative tasks like record-keeping, editing, copying, filing, mailing, ordering, etc.				
74. I have the ability to concisely instruct listeners in the clear meaning of the Scripture.				
75. I apply Biblical truths effectively in my life.				
76. I am effective in delegating responsibility to others.				
77. I have insights that help me discern any errors in a Biblical lesson given by another.				
78. I share joyfully what Christ has done for me.				
79. I verbally challenge spiritual apathy.				
80. I have a conviction that God is active in my daily affairs.				
81. I give things freely and with delight because I love God.				

	(3pts) Much	(2pts) Some	(1pt) Little	(0pts) None
82. I have a knack for helping guests feel at home in our church.				
83. I readily acquire and master facts and principles of Biblical truths.				
84. Normally my Christian character and lifestyle seem to motivate others to follow me.				
85. I would enjoy visiting hospitals or elderly homes so that I could be blessing to others.				
86. I communicate truths of God in a clear, compelling fashion that expresses urgency.				
87. I sacrificially give of myself for new believers or those who are wandering in their faith.				
88. Ushering, cleaning, building, or supporting tasks are my preference for ministry.				
89. I explain well the New Testament to others.				
90. I am able to make good decisions in life which lead to positive results.				
91. I am able to plan action goals for ministry with others.				
92. I am able to identify false teaching.				
93. Unbelievers understand what I mean when I explain the gospel.				
94. I would feel comfortable encouraging others to overcome complacency and live intentionally.				
95. I believe God will keep His promises in spite of circumstances.				
96. I am able to earn enough money so that I can actively give to the Lord's work.				
97. I am comfortable with graciously providing food and lodging to those in need.				
98. I have the ability to discover Biblical principles for myself.				
99. Others follow me because I knowledge or skills effectively used in serving my church.				
100. I have the ability to spare other people from the consequences of bad decisions.				
101. I proclaim God's truth in an inspiring and enthusiastic way.				
102. I am able to challenge others by guiding them through selected Bible passages.				
103. I am able to assist others who teach or fill a supporting role in the church.				

	(3pts) Much	(2pts) Some	(1pt) Little	(0pts) None
104. When I communicate Biblical truths to others, it leads to change in their lives.				
105. The choices I make for activities in Christian service usually work well.				
106. I can win wide acceptance from church members because of effective procedures.				
107. I can see through phonies before their character is evident to others.				
108. I remain spiritually strong in the company of unbelievers and seek to win them to Christ.				
109. I am able to counsel effectively the perplexed, guilty, or addicted.				
110. I have received from God an unusual assurance that he would fulfill some purpose.				
111. I manage money well in order to give liberally to God's work.				
112. I show a genuine graciousness towards each guest at my home.				
113. I have insights into Biblical truths that bring conviction to my mind and heart.				
114. I am able to adjust my leadership style so it is appropriate for the those working with me.				
115. I am able to speak cheerfully with prisoners, or lonely shut-ins.				
116. I have been able to warn others of the consequences of sin through Biblical teaching.				
117. I am able to restore persons who have wandered from Christian community.				
118. I can assist key leaders by taking some of their responsibilities.				
119. I can make difficult Biblical truths understandable to others.				
120. My recommendations for various ministries are welcome by those in leadership.				

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the numbers in the following table (on the next page) to tally your results. Across the row are the question numbers you should use to produce the totals at the end of the row. For example, add the results from questions 1, 16, 31, 46, 61, 76, 91, and 106 to get the total for Row A.

Write the score for each question then tally the total across														Row	Total		
1		16		31		46		61		76		91		106		A	
2		17		32		47		62		77		92		107		B	
3		18		33		48		63		78		93		108		C	
4		19		34		49		64		79		94		109		D	
5		20		35		50		65		80		95		110		E	
6		21		36		51		66		81		96		111		F	
7		22		37		52		67		82		97		112		G	
8		23		38		53		68		83		98		113		H	
9		24		39		54		69		84		99		114		I	
10		25		40		55		70		85		100		115		J	
11		26		41		56		71		86		101		116		K	
12		27		42		57		72		87		102		117		L	
13		28		43		58		73		88		103		118		M	
14		29		44		59		74		89		104		119		N	
15		30		45		60		75		90		105		120		O	

Row							
<b>A</b>	Administration	<b>E</b>	Faith	<b>I</b>	Leadership	<b>M</b>	Service
<b>B</b>	Discernment	<b>F</b>	Giving	<b>J</b>	Mercy	<b>N</b>	Teaching
<b>C</b>	Evangelism	<b>G</b>	Hospitality	<b>K</b>	Prophecy	<b>O</b>	Wisdom
<b>D</b>	Exhortation	<b>H</b>	Knowledge	<b>L</b>	Shepherding		

**ADMINISTRATION** - The special ability of working with and through followers toward achieving Biblical goals and organizational objectives.

**DISCERNMENT** - The special ability to distinguish between truth and error, good and evil, the Spirit of God and the spirit of Antichrist.

**EVANGELISM** - The special ability to act as a productive instrument of God in soul winning.

**EXHORTATION** - The special ability to come alongside another in need of encouragement, challenge or earnest advice.

**FAITH** - An unusual ability to trust in the presence and power of God and to act on this trust.

**GIVING** - The special ability to earn money, manage it well and wisely give for the Lord's work.

**HOSPITALITY** - The special ability to provide an open home to those in need of food, lodging and fellowship, or a refuge to a bruised individual.

**KNOWLEDGE** - The special ability to master God's revealed truths in Scripture.

**LEADERSHIP** - The special ability to set goals and to motivate others toward their accomplishment in the Body of Christ.

**MERCY** - The special ability to aid the suffering or undeserving, and to spare them from punishment or penalties justly deserved.

**PROPHECY** - The special ability to cause the authoritative word of God's truth to shine (II Peter 1:19, I Cor. 14:3). It includes congregational preaching and lay utterances which explain and apply God's revelation for correction and edification.

**SHEPHERDING** - The special ability to effectively guide, feed, and protect a flock of followers in Christ – also known as pastoring.

**SERVICE** - The special ability to provide timely assistance that releases other Christian workers for direct spiritual ministry.

**TEACHING** - The special ability to give a detailed understanding of Biblical truths to those willing to learn.

**WISDOM** - A special ability to use knowledge effectively coupled with a reverential awe of God.

**PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY:**

1. The church exists to help you discover your spiritual gift and put it to work.
2. The best way to find your spiritual gift is to begin serving in various ways.
3. Your spiritual gift is meant to encourage the body and help us all grow in likeness to Christ.
4. We are commanded to imitate Christ who perfectly embodied all of the gifts. Thus, every Christian should serve, teach, show mercy, lead, evangelize, and exhort within the appropriate context. We do this effectively as we learn from those who are gifted in each area.

## Examples of how you can serve in your area of giftedness

<p><b>1. Teaching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Awana</li> <li>b. Sunday school</li> <li>c. Children’s ministry</li> <li>d. Small group</li> <li>e. Vacation Bible school</li> <li>f. Youth Ministry</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Office work</li> <li>b. Maintain property</li> <li>c. Facility repair</li> <li>d. Classroom setup</li> <li>e. Building projects</li> <li>f. Transportation</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Mercy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Visit shut-ins</li> <li>b. Hospital visitation</li> <li>c. Preparing meals</li> <li>d. Encouraging missionaries</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prayer meetings</li> <li>b. Prayer team</li> <li>c. Strategic planning</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Hospitality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Welcome center</li> <li>b. Host special speakers</li> <li>c. Assimilation team</li> <li>d. Facebook engagement</li> <li>e. Invite guests to your home</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Summer missions trips</li> <li>b. Neighborhood outreach</li> <li>c. IFI ministry</li> <li>d. Muslim outreach</li> <li>e. Gospel training</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Website maintenance</li> <li>b. Sermon upload / podcast</li> <li>c. Planning various ministries</li> <li>d. Ministry director</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. Shepherding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Small group ministry</li> <li>b. Deacon ministry</li> <li>c. Discipleship</li> <li>d. Follow up ministry</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Discernment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Strategic Planning</li> <li>b. Nomination committee</li> </ul>	<p><b>10. Giving</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Finance committee</li> <li>b. Bookkeeper</li> </ul>



