

## KEY TRUTHS:

1. The church is a **family**.
2. God expects you to be a **member** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a **spiritual orphan**.

## THE GOAL OF THIS SESSION:

That I will commit myself to **Jesus** and to the **First Baptist Church** family.

## **Who Should Be Baptized?**

Every person who has **believed** in Christ.

## **Why Should I Be Baptized?**

1. To follow the example set by **Jesus**.
2. Because Jesus Christ **commanded** it.
3. It demonstrates that I really am a **believer**.

## **What's The Meaning of Baptism?**

1. It illustrates Christ's **burial** and resurrection.
2. It illustrates my **new life** as a Christian.

## **Why Be Baptized By Immersion?**

1. Because **Jesus** was baptized that way.
2. New Testament baptisms were by **immersion**.

## ***What Is The Lord's Supper?*** (I Cor. 11:23-26)

1. It is a **simple** meal.
2. It is a **reminder**.
3. It is a **symbol**.
4. It is a **statement of faith**.

## ***Who Should Take The Lord's Supper?***

Only those who are already **believers**.

(Mark 14:22-26)

## ***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 man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."

I Cor. 11:27-28

By...

1. Self-Examination
2. Confessing my sins (I Cor. 11:27, I John 1:9)
3. Recommitment
4. Restoring Relationships  
Rom.12:1, Matt. 5:23-24

# OUR STATEMENTS and STRATEGY

"WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT  
TO THE GREAT **COMMANDMENT**  
AND THE GREAT **COMMISSION**  
WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!"

## First Baptist Wimberley Core Values: Who We Are!

1. **Holiness** is our response to God with our whole person. He has called us to be holy as He is holy.
2. **Prayer** expresses the reality that we are completely dependent upon God.
3. **Biblical Authority** depends on the inerrant Word of God to guide every area of our lives.
4. **Partnerships** are a part of the bigger movement of God; therefore, we will partner wherever God invites.
5. **Stewardship** is all that we are and all that we have is His.
6. **People and families** matter to God; therefore, they matter to us.
7. **Community**--together we are better than one.
8. **Unity** reflects the heart of God and brings His blessing.
9. **Environments** that are relevant, creative, and fun, create space for God to move.
10. God delights in **leadership** modeled after the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.
11. **Transparency** trusts the Lord and informs people.

# OUR STRUCTURE

## *The Nature of the Church Determines Its Structure.*

1. **Jesus** is the head of the church.
2. The church receives its guidance from **the Bible**.
3. The source of the church's power is the **Holy Spirit**.
4. The church is a **family/fellowship** . "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship..." A top priority of fellowship is **unity** and **bond of peace**.

A good structure must promote unity and down play **division**.

"Voting" tends to **polarize**.

5. The church is a **family**.

So we operate on the basis of **relationships** rather than a myriad of rules.

The focus of the church must be **ministry** not **maintenance**.

Our structure is based on the premise:

~ The People are "**Ministers**."

~ The Pastors are the "**equippers**." Every member of First Baptist Wimberley is to be involved in ministry. Many ministries of the church are conducted by Ministry Teams and Groups.

We function on the basis of **spiritual gifts** not some elected office.

## Three Parts of the Christian Life

Believing “Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31 (LB)

Belonging “You are a member of God’s very own family... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian!” Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Becoming “From the very beginning God decided that those who came in to him...should become like his Son...”

Rom. 8:29 (LB)

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them,” Matt. 18:20

## Why have a Membership Covenant?

What makes a member of the Body is connection to Christ, and if I'm connected to Christ, I have to be connected to His people.

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and sincere hearts.” Acts 2:44-46

Following Jesus is about being together in community and enjoying the benefits of membership.

1. Identification as a genuine believer. Eph. 2:19; Rom. 12:5
2. Provides a spiritual family for support and encouragement. Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 10:24-25
3. Offers a place to discover and use giftedness in ministry. 1 Cor. 12:4-27
4. Grants the spiritual protection of Godly leaders. Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28-29
5. Offers accountability necessary to grow. Eph. 5:21
6. Imparts the opportunity to be part of something far greater than oneself.

**At First Baptist Wimberley, we recognize the need for formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:**

1. **A Biblical Reason:** Christ is committed to the church. "Christ loved the church, and He gave Himself up for her." Eph. 5:25

2. **A Cultural Reason:** It is an antidote to our society. We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...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.

3. **A Practical Reason:** It defines who can be counted on. Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Membership defines our family.

4. **A Personal Reason:** It produces spiritual growth. The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family. What is Expected of Me as a Member? At First Baptist Wimberley we do not ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Commitment.