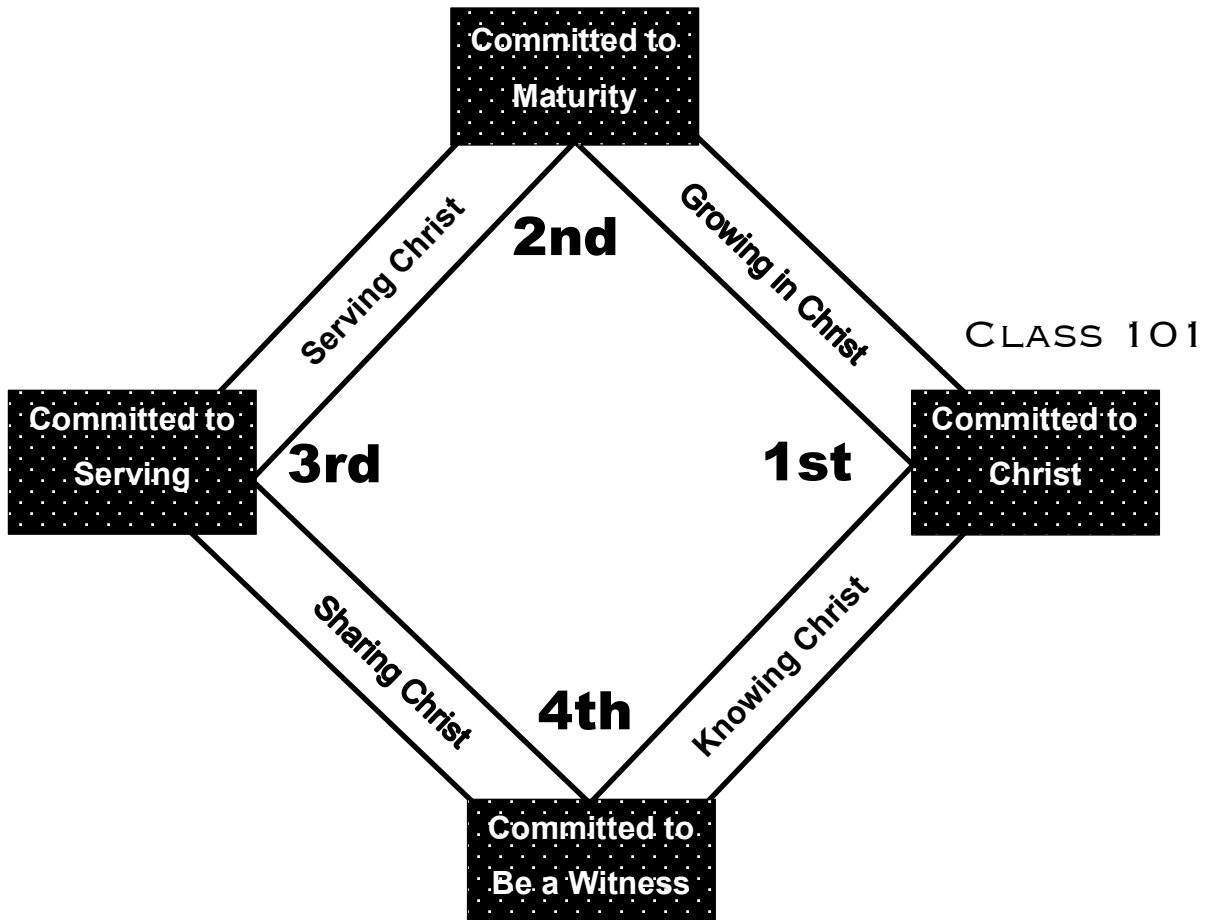


# CLASS 101

## WELCOME TO TRINITY



## **THE GOALS OF CLASS 101:**

That you will understand what the church is, what the purposes of the church are and how you are to be connected to the church. Then, with this understanding, you will take the next step in your relationship to Christ and the church.

### ***What brings everyone together and keeps us together?***

1. Our common **Salvation**: What God has done for us
2. Our common **Purposes**: Why we exist as a church
3. Our common **Strategies**: How we fulfill our purposes
4. Our common **Structure**: How we are organized
5. Our common **Commitments**: How we express our Christianity together

## **CLASS 101 OUTLINE:**

### **Session 1: What is the church?**

*What Christians are and what we are supposed to do*

### **Session 2: How We Seek to Be the Church**

*Our strategies to fulfill God's purposes*

### **Session 3: What Is Trinity Like?**

*Who we are and becoming a partner with us and God*

## SESSION ONE

### WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

#### ***What Christians are and what we are supposed to do***

*For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are **Christians**; we are one in Jesus Christ! Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)*

#### **I. WHAT THE CHURCH IS**

1. The Church is comprised of people who have made a commitment to receive Jesus Christ as their \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” Acts 2:41*

2. The Church is a group of people who \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus

*“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it”. Matthew 16:18*

## II. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

It is important to understand what the church is. This enables us to know what we are supposed to be doing, how we should be organized to do it and how we should relate together in the church. Along with the statements found in the Bible, God has also given us some pictures describing what the church is. Each picture tells us something about how God feels about the church and correspondingly, how we should feel about the church and other Christians.

### A. The Church Is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27*

*“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Revelation 19:7*

What kind of feelings do a groom and bride have for each other?

### B. The Church Is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.... The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” and the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”...There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:12,25-27*

Using the comparison of a body, how should we view others in the church?

### C. The Church Is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

*“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and **members of God’s family.**” Eph. 2:19*

*“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your **father.** Treat younger men as **brothers,** older women as **mothers,** and younger women as **sisters,** with absolute purity.” 1 Tim. 5:1-2*

What kinds of feelings and actions characterize a healthy family’s relationship to each family member?

### III. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

A. Every Christian is \_\_\_\_\_ a part of the church.

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13*

B. Every Christian should be a \_\_\_\_\_ part of the church.

*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16*

### IV. OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CHURCH

God has given the Church two symbols of our relationship with him. As a Christian, we not only share a new life with God, but we also share this new life with others in the church. There are two experiences that we share that mark us as Christians. These two experiences are called ordinances. An ordinance is an outward practice that is a symbol or picture of an inner, spiritual experience.

#### A. BAPTISM

1. Baptism is a required part of Jesus' Great Commission for being a Christian

*“Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt. 28:19,20*

2. The Meaning of Baptism

Baptism is a symbol or picture of three important truths:

a. Baptism pictures our \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus

We have **died** with Jesus, our sins were **buried** with Jesus and we have been **raised** into a new life with Jesus.

*“Christ **died** for our sins...He was **buried**...and He was **raised**.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

*“Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized **into his death**? We were therefore **buried with him** through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life**.” Rom. 6:3-4*

b. Baptism pictures our sins being \_\_\_\_\_ away

Ananias speaking to Paul: *“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and **wash your sins away**, calling on his name.” Acts 22:16*

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the **washing of rebirth** and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5*

c. Baptism pictures our \_\_\_\_\_ God's family

*“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into **one body**.” 1 Corinthians 12:13*

There are actually two baptisms referred to in the Bible:

→ Baptism of the **Spirit** = becoming a part of the **universal** Church, God's family of all Christians. This happens at the moment you become a Christian by the Holy Spirit.

→ Baptism of **water** = publicly identifying with a **local** church to show that you belong to God's family. This you choose to do.

3. A Person Is Baptized \_\_\_\_\_ they have believed

*“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized.” Acts 8:12*

The Bible teaches that a person is baptized only once. Therefore, only a person who is old enough to understand how to become a Christian and has made a true commitment to Jesus should be baptized.

4. A Christian is baptized by \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism by immersion means to place a person completely under the water. Here are some reasons why we do it this way:

a. The word “baptism” in Greek (the original language) means to dip, immerse or submerge, as to “baptize” a piece of cloth into a dye and color it.

b. Jesus and the first Christians were baptized by immersion

*“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went **up out of** the water.” Matt. 3:16*

*“Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came **up out of** the water...” Acts 8:38-39*

c. Immersion is the clearest picture of our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

## **B. The Lord’s Supper (Communion)**

1. The Lord’s Supper: a time to \_\_\_\_\_ what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross for our sins

*“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this **in remembrance** of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, **in remembrance** of me.’” 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

2. The elements are symbols

a) The bread symbolizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

This reminds us that Jesus was human, just like we are, and that when he died, he suffered and experienced great pain for us and died a real death.

b) The cup symbolizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and what he accomplished for us.

This reminds us that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and this penalty meant that he had to die in order to give us God's forgiveness and new life. By his blood, Jesus instituted the New Covenant to take the place of the Old Covenant.

### 3. Who Can Take the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a time for all Christians to remember what Jesus did. Therefore, anyone who is a Christian can take Communion.

*"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples."* Mark 14:22

### 4. How Often We Should Take Communion?

The Bible doesn't tell us how often to have the Lord's Supper. The early church observed it every Sunday at the end of a meal together. The important thing is that we should have it often enough to make it a meaningful time of remembrance, but not so often that it becomes a meaningless ritual. At our church, we observe it once a month.

## V. THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

### A. God's Ultimate Purpose: to glorify, or bring honor, to God

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

*1 Corinthians 10:31*

What are some ways that we can do that?

### B. God's Purposes for the Church

1. The key guiding principle:

\_\_\_\_\_ 's Purposes = \_\_\_\_\_ Purposes

→ For the \_\_\_\_\_

→ For our own \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Basis of God's Purposes

#### **The Great Commandment:**

*"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.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

*Matt. 22:37-40*

### **The Great Commission:**

*“Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Matt. 28:19-20*

We bring glory to God by doing four main actions that become our purposes:

#### **1. We Love God**

*Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38*

What are some ways we can do this from the following verses?

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. Psalm 29:2*

*This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.*

*1 John 5:3*

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

#### **2. We Love People**

*And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:39*

What are some ways we can do this from the following verses?

*Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

*Hebrews 10:24*

#### **3. We Serve Others**

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*

What are some ways we can do this from the following verses?

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12*



*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16*

#### 4. We Reach Out to Others with the Good News of Jesus

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt. 28:19-20*

What are some ways we can do this from the following verses?

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8*

*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

*1Peter 3:15-16<sup>NLT</sup>*

### C. Personalizing the Purposes

God’s purposes are not merely to just be for the church; they are also to be our own personal purposes. We are the church; therefore God’s purposes for the church are God’s purposes for each Christian. A church that is pleasing to God makes sure each of God’s purposes are being fulfilled in its ministries. In the same way, a Christian who wants to please God makes sure that each of the four purposes is being fulfilled in their own life.

*Love God:*

- be faithful to attend and participate in the worship service each week
- develop a devotional life of worship each day
- read and study the Bible regularly—personally and in a small group
- seek to obey God in every area of your life

*Love People:*

- help meet the needs of others when you are able
- make the church family a special part of your life

*Serve Others:*

- discover your spiritual gifts and abilities and develop them
- find a place of ministry to serve in the church

*Reach Out to Those Who Don’t Know Christ:*

- develop relationships with the unchurched
- seek to witness to them about God’s good news