

**DISCOVERING
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
AT
CURWENSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

SESSION 2

**Curwensville Christian Church
700 State Street
Curwensville, PA 16833**

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Curwensville Christian Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have individuals from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

"...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)

Key Truths:

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

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to _____

WHAT MAKES CCC A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- _____ (What Jesus Christ has done for us)
- _____ (Why we exist as a church)
- _____ (How we fulfill our purpose)
- _____ (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

The CCC Statements

CCC Church Covenant

We covenant, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit as a church

1. To walk together in _____, seeking the _____.
2. To strive for the _____ of this church in _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. To promote its _____.
4. To sustain its _____.
5. To contribute _____ to:
 - (a) The support of its _____
 - (b) The relief of the _____
 - (c) The spread of the _____
6. To seek the salvation of the lost of our world.

We also covenant as an individual member:

1. To seek the _____ of our families.
2. To seek the _____ of the lost of our world.
3. To walk in such a way that our lives reflect _____.
4. When we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with _____.

CCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

- In essential beliefs — we have _____.
“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith,

one baptism; one God and Father of all...” Ephesians 4:4-6

- **In non-essential beliefs — we have _____.**

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. ... So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ... Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. Romans 14:1,4,12,22

- **In all our beliefs — we show _____.**

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19;
1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven’s glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30;
Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4;
Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He give every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8;
1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25;
Ephesians 5:18

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God’s Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it

is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13;
Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5;
Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

8. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18;
Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

The CCC Structure

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A _____

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, ...” Acts 2:42

A top priority in a fellowship is _____

“endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Romans 14:19

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 _____

*“... since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that **there are divisions among you...**” 1 Corinthians 11:17-18*

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;” 1 Peter 3:8

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

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____

*“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a **father**, younger men as **brothers**, older women as **mothers**, younger women as **sisters**, ...” 1 Timothy 5:1-2*

*“one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence, for if a man does not know how to **rule his own house**, how will he **take care of the church of God?**” 1 Timothy 3:4-5*

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 organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____

*“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then **gifts differing** according to the grace that is given to us, ...” Romans 12:4-6*

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

AT CCC WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

*“And He Himself gave some to ... some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for **the work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ...” Ephesians 4:11-12*

OUR STRUCTURE

- THE PEOPLE ARE THE “_____”.
- THE LEADERS ARE THE “_____”.

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 (NIV)*

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- *“POIMEN”*
- *PRESBUTEROS”*
- *EPISCOPOS”*

*“The **elders** ... **Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**...” 1 Peter 5:1-2*

*“ he sent to Ephesus and called for the **elders** of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: ... Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God ...” Acts 20:17-18*