Discovering Church Membership

C.L.A.S.S. 101



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Cliffdale Community Church

**Welcome To Discovering Church Membership**

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

**Discovering Church Membership** is divided into four sessions of an hour each and is taught by our founding pastor, Morris Barnett, who began the church in November of 1996.

**THE BASIS FOR THE CLASS:**

*“…You are a member of God’s very own family… and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Ephesians 2:19*

**KEY TRUTHS**

* The Church is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* God expects you to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

of a church family.

* A Christian without a church home is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:**

… That I will commit myself to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**WHAT MAKES A CLIFFDALE FAMILY?**

Four things unite us:

* + Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
	+ Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
	+ Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
	+ Our Structure (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

**SEMINAR OUTLINE**

**Session One:** **Our Salvation**

* + What it means to be a Christian
	+ The Symbols of Salvation

**Session Two:** **Our Statement**

* + Our Purpose Statement
	+ Our Faith Statement
	+ Our Lifestyle Statement

**Session Three:** **Our Strategy**

* + The Story of our Beginnings
	+ Who we are trying to Reach (Target)
	+ Circles of Commitment / 4 Covenants
	+ The C.L.I.F.F.D.A.L.E. Strategy

**Session Four:** **Our Structure**

* + How our church is structured
	+ Our Affiliation
	+ What it means to be a Member
	+ What now? The C.L.A.S.S. Program

**Session One**

**OUR SALVATION**

 *“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, 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)

**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 in possessions.

 …Some look for happiness in pleasure.

 …Some look for happiness in prestige.

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!” Jeremiah 31:3*

*“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ …because of His love. God already decided that through Jesus Christ, He would make us His Children - this was God’s pleasure and purpose.” Ephesians 1:4-5 (GN)*

**2.** We were created to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a personal relationship with God and to

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all of the rest of God’s creation! This makes us special!

*“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said…live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.” Genesis 1:27-28 (LB)*

*“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:17*

*Jesus said, “I have come in order that you might have life – life in 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 Life and Peace Purpose

*Romans 8:1 Romans 8:6 Romans 8:28*

Help With Weakness Confidence Security

*Romans 8:26 Romans 8:31 Romans 8:39*

Power & Strength Fulfillment Freedom

*Philippians 4:13 Philippians 4:19 John 8:32*

**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 – no matter what”

 “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*

*“If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth.” 1 John 1:8*

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

*“The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God. Isaiah 59:29(LB)*

*“All have sinned and fall short of God’s glorious ideal. Romans 3:23*

When our relationship with 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 are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death.” Proverbs 16:25*

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

 “My mother was a Christian so…”

 “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”

 “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”

 “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”

 “I’ll be religious and go to church.”

**III. What’s the Solution?**

*Jesus 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 the world 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 ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THE SIN PROBLEM!**

*“The wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

*“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.” Romans 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 Timothy 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 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 one in charge 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*

*“Jesus says, ‘Listen, I stand at the door and knock, If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in….’” Revelation 3:20*

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

“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 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 as a Christian.”

*“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13*

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED**

**I. 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.’” Matthew 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*

**II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?**

**1.** It demonstrates Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and resurrection.

*“Christ died for our sins…He was buried…and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

*“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.”*

*Colossians 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 Corinthians 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 we also may live a new life!” Romans 6:4*

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?**

Because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_was baptized that way.

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

Every baptism in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_was by immersion.

*(Example) “…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*

The word “BAPTIZE” meant “to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_water.”

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

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

The founders of several 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, 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 2:14

*“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 CLIFFDALE, 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 behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their children 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 Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal faith in Christ.

At Cliffdale, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

**V. WHEN WHOULD 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…you may…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.”

**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 symbols 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 Corinthians 11:23-26)

1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**(vs. 23)** *“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread….”*

2. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**(vs. 24)** *“…and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is broken for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’”*

3. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**(vs. 25)** *“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’”*

4. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**(vs.26)** *“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.”*

**II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER?**

Only those who are already \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Mark 14:22-26

*“For anyone who eats and drinks with recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.”*

1 Corinthians 11:29

**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 or drinks of the cup.”* 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

1. Self-examination 2. Confessing my sins

 1 Corinthians 11:27 1 John 1:9

3. Recommitment 4. Restoring Relationships

 Romans 12:1 Matthew 5:23-24

**IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD’S SUPPER?**

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord’s Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since it is a ‘supper’ it may seem more appropriate to observe it at an evening service.

Since our Sunday morning service is designed so you can bring your non-believing friends, we only take the Lord’s Supper at that service about twice a year. Instead we observe it at our midweek service, at retreats and banquets, and in our Life Groups.

SESSION TWO

THE CLIFFDALE STATEMENTS

*“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church.*

 *I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”*

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

**OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*Why we exist as a Church*

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

“WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AND THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH?”

**The Great Commandment**: *“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart…soul…and 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.’”* Matthew 22:36-40

**The Great Commission:** *“Jesus said, ‘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.’” Matthew 28:19-20*

* To “Love God with all your heart” is **Worship**
* To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is **Ministry**
* To “Go…make disciples” is **Evangelism**
* To “baptize” is to **Incorporate into Fellowship**
* To “Teach them…all things” is **Discipleship**

CLIFFDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Presence (Worship)

2. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Love (Ministry)

3. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_God’s Word (Evangelism)

4. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Family (Fellowship)

5. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s People (Discipleship)

**I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE**

Worship:

*“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”* Matthew 4:10

*“…the Father seeks worshipers…and His worshipers worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* John 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship:

* Singing (Ephesians 5:19)
* Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)
* Praying (Psalm 95:6)
* Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
* Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
* Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)
* Meditating (Habakkuk 2:20)
* Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Cliffdale Community Church Worship Style

“Celebration” “Inspiration” “Preparation”

 Psalm 122:1 Isaiah 40:31 Ephesians 4:11-12

**II. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD’S WORD**

Evangelism:

*“His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.” Ephesians 3:10*

*“Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him?*

*And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”* Romans 10:13-14 (LB)

Why our Church Must Never Stop Growing

**1.** BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*“The Lord…is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance.”* 2 Peter 3:9

2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13

**2**. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*“Go out into the country…and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.”*

Luke 14:23(LB)

*“…you will be my witnesses.”*Acts 1:8

**3.** BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*“Under Christ’s control, the whole Body is nourished…and grows as God wants it to grow.”*

Colossians 2:19 (GN)

*“(Jesus) I will build my church.”* Matthew 16:18

**Unbiblical excuses for not growing:**

 \*\* “God isn’t interested in numbers.”

 \*\* “Our church wants quality not quantity.”

 \*\* “Large churches are impersonal.”

We believe our church must grow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_at the same time.

“*And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and THEN the end will come.”* Matthew 24:14

**III. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD’S PEOPLE**

Discipleship:

*“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity…”* Hebrew 6:1

*“Grow in the grace and 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

**IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD’S LOVE**

Ministry:

*“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples-that you have love for one another.”* John 13:35

1 John 3:15-17; Matthew 25:34-40; Hebrews 13:16; Romans 12:13

The heartbeat of Cliffdale is our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Every member needs to be a part of one.

*“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities…and there are different kinds of service of God (ministry)…*

*All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”*

 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27(LB)

**AT Cliffdale Community Church (CCC) …**

Every member is a: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Every task is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Every member is a “10”: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

*What we believe*

**In essential beliefs-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

**In non-essential beliefs-we have liberty:**

*“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 and account of himself to God…So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”* Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

**In all our beliefs-we show love:**

*“…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 (Ph)

**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 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 believer from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truths, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives 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 5:10*

**4.** **About the Bible:**

The Bible is God’s Word to us. It is 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 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 (repentance) 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; 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 their salvation for eternity. If you are genuinely saved, you cannot “lose” it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not 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 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 Corinthians 2:7-9*

**OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT**

*What we practice*

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

**Bible as our sole authority:**

*“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.”* 2 Timothy 3:15

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

**Autonomy of each local church:**

*“Christ is the head of His body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life…”* Colossians 1:18

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

**Priesthood of every believer:**

*“Christ loves us, and by His death, He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God.”* Revelation 1:6 (GN)

*“You are…the King’s priest…God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.”* 1 Peter 2:9 (GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

**Tithing:**

*“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord. It is holy to the Lord*.” Leviticus 26:30

At Cliffdale we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

**Immersion**

*“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ…”*  Colossians 2:12 (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion under water-the way Jesus was baptized, “*you were also raised with Christ…”* Colossians 2:12(GN)

**Spirit-led living**

*(Jesus said) “I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

**Telling others about Christ**

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reasons for the hope that you have.”*

1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

**SESSION THREE**

**THE CLIFFDALE STRATEGY**

*(Paul) “I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means*

*I might win some to God. I do all this for the sake of the Good News.”*

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

**WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?**

*“…Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.”* 1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

\*\* He is likely in the armed forces

\*\* He likes what he does

\*\* He’d rather be in large group than a small one

\*\* He is skeptical of “organized” religion

\*\* He likes contemporary music

\*\* He thinks he is enjoying life more now than he did five years ago

\*\* He prefers the casual and informal over the formal

\*\* He is overextended in both time and money

\*\* He wants help in raising his children in today’s society

**5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT**

**Ministry**

**Committed to Maturity**

**Mat**

**Committed to**

**Membership**

**Committed To Attendance**

**Uncommitted**

Cliffdale’s objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

**THE FOUR CCC COVENANTS**

**1.** The Membership Covenant…is a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“You are members of God’s very own family…and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”*Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

*“We are all parts of Christ’s body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others.”*

Romans 12:4-5 (LB)

**2.** The Maturity Covenant…is a commitment to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

necessary for spiritual growth.

*“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* 2 Peter 3:18 (LB)

*“Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”* 1 Timothy 4:7 (Ph)

**3.** The Ministry Covenant…is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God and others.

“*God has given each of you special abilities: be sure to use them to help each other…”*

1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

*“There are different kinds of service to God…together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.”* 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 (LB)

**4.** The Missions Covenant…is a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the

Good News with others.

*“…you will be my witness for me…to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1:8 (GN)

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect.”* 1 Peter 3:15

**Why Do We Have These Covenants?**

We BECOME WHAT WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**THE C.L.I.F.F.D.A.L.E STRATEGY**

**9 Principles That Make Our Church Unique**

**C** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:7)

**L** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (John 13:34-35)

**I** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:22)

**F** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

**F** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 5:37)

**D** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 22:36-40)

**A** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 5:42) (GN)

**L** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:7)

**E** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:5-6)

**SESSION FOUR**

**THE CLIFFDALE STRUCTURE**

***“****For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace…*

*Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Corinthians 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 Nature of The Church Determines Its Structure**

**1.** The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship”* Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace*.” Ephesians 4:3

*“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.”*

Romans 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14;

2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2

IMPLICATIONS: 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 Corinthians 11:17-18

“VOTING” tends to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

At Cliffdale we only vote on:

\*\*Annual budget

\*\*Purchase of land or buildings

\*\*Calling the Senior Pastor

\*\*Changes in the church constitution

**2.** The church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.”* 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_NOT

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters.”* 1 Timothy 5:1-2

*“(A pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?”* 1 Timothy 3:4-5

**3.** THE CHURCH IS A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18

We are a Body-not a business! We are an organism-not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“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.”* Romans 12:4-6

In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism “ministry” is the focus.

AT CLIFFDALE WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND MINIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*“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…”* Ephesians 4:11-12

**OUR STRUCTURE**

* The People are the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* The Pastor’s are the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

**4.** The Church is A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Jesus’ favorite description of the Church) John 10:1-30; Matthew 26:31; Matthew 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*

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

* + “POEMEN”
	+ “PRESBUTEROS”
	+ “EPISCOPOS”

*“To the elders I say…Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseer*… 1 Peter 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 flocks of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God…”*

Acts 20:17-18, 20

See also Titus 1:5-7; Timothy 5:17

**OUR AFFILIATION**

When Cliffdale church began, four groups of churches gave our church financial support to help us get started:

* Village Baptist Church

A local church in the Fayetteville area

* The New South River Baptist Association

100 churches that fellowship together to reach Cumberland County for Christ

* Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

3,800 churches that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state

* The Southern Baptist Convention

40,000 churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions

These 4 groups gave our church $70,000 in support to help us get started with no strings attached!

We now whole heartedly support these 4 groups in helping start many other new churches.

**What is SBC (Southern Baptist Convention)?**

* It is the largest association of Christian churches in North Carolina and in the USA.

One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC. (40,000 churches and 15 million members – more than most other denominations combined.)

* It is the most diverse association of churches. SBC churches include every race, nationality and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the US.
* It is one of the fastest growing groups. The SBC baptizes over 1000 new Christians a day in the US.

**WHY NOT JUST BE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?**

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there are in most other denominations. Each is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

* Every SBC church chooses its own pastor
* Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets
* Every SBC church determines its own programs

**What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?**

**1.** It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made creeds. The Bible is our only authority.

**2.** It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary sending organization in the world. Through the SBC’s “Cooperative Program” we help support over 7,500 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.

**WHAT DO “BAPTISTS” BELIEVE**

See the acrostic on pages 18 & 19.

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER**

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

At Cliffdale we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:

* **A Biblical Reason:** Christ is committed to the church.

*“…Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.”* Ephesians 5:25

* **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 …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.
* **A Practical Reason:** It defines who can be counted on. Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business must have a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.
* **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 Cliffdale we never 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 Covenant.

**Cliffdale Community Church**

**Membership Covenant**

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized,

 and being in agreement with Cliffdale's statements, strategy, and structure,

I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Cliffdale church family.

**In doing so, I commit myself to God and the other members to do the following:**

**3.** **I will serve the ministry of my church**

 ...**by discovering my gifts and talents**

*“Serve one another with the particular gifts*

 *God has given each of you”* **1 Peter 4:10**

 ...**by equipping to serve by my pastors**

 *“ [God] gave...some to be pastors and teachers*

 *to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built*

 *up.”* **Ephesians 4:11**

 ...**by developing a**

 **servant’s heart**

… *“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ*

*Jesus: Who…[took on] the very nature of a servant.”* **Philippians 2:3-4, 7**

**1.** I **will protect the unity of my church**

*“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together*” **Romans 14:19 Ph**

**…acting in love toward other members**

*“Having a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.”*

**1 Peter 1:22 TEV**

**...by refusing to gossip**

*“Do not let any unwholesome*

*talk come out of your mouths,*

 *but only what is helpful or*

*building others up according to their needs.”*

**Ephesians4:29**

**...by following the leaders**

*“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give and account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.”* **Hebrews 13:17**

*Signed*  *on*  ***.***

 *(Name) (Date)*

*Print name:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

*Signed*  *on*  ***.***

 *(Name) (Date)*

*Print name:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***



**4.** **I will support the testimony of my church**

**...by attending faithfully**

*“Let us not give up meeting together ...but let us encourage one another.”* **Hebrews 10:25**

 **...by living a godly life**

*“Whatever happens, make sure that your*

*everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.”* **Philippians 1:27 Ph**

**...by giving regularly**

*“Each of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.”* **1 Corinthians 16:2 LB**

“*A tenth of [all your] produce… is the Lord’s,*

*and is holy.”* **Leviticus 27:30 NCV**

**2. I will share the responsibility of my**

**church**

**...by praying for its growth**

*“To the church….We always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.* **1 Thessalonians 1: 1-2 LB**

**...by inviting the un-churched to attend**

*“The Master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full’”* **Luke 14:23**

**...by warmly welcoming those who visit**

*So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.”* **Romans 15:7**

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Signed*  *on*  ***.***

 *(Name) (Date)*

*Print name:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Signature Date**

**Print Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_