

DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS 101

**STUDENT SYLLABUS
SESSION 1**

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Christian Life And Development Seminars

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

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

Discovering Church Membership is divided in four sessions of an hour each and was taught and written by Reseda's Senior Minister, Dr. Dewayne Winrow, who began his ministry with the church in July of 1975.

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 the _____

WHAT MAKES THE RESEDA CONGREGATION A 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)

Session One

The Reseda Church 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 VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Who We Are and What We Are About

OUR VISION STATEMENT: WE ARE A CHURCH BRINGING LIFE TO THE WORLD.

The church is called to be the Body of Christ on the earth. Therefore, we are called to fulfill His mission and ministry to the world. Jesus says, "I am come that you might have life, and to have it more abundantly." His promise of LIFE can be practically described as follows:

OUR MINISTRY STATEMENT: WE ARE COMMITTED TO ...

- L – Loving God and Others
- I – Inspiring personal growth and development
- F – Family enrichment through renewed fellowship with God and Others
- E – Empowering members to lead under in the power of the Spirit

OUR CORE VALUES: WE VALUE ...

- Unity of believers
- Diversity in Community
- Vanguard church leadership
- Cell-based church development

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: WE ARE COMMITTED TO BRINGING LIFE BY MISSIONS OF ...

- R = Reconciling the Lost
- E – Encouraging the next generation
- A = Assisting the poor
- C = Caring for the sick/ feeble
- H = Helping the hurting

OUR SUMMARY OF PURPOSE (MOTTO)

Why We Exist As A Church

The **purposes** of our church are grounded in a single statement of faith based on two key scriptures:

“WE BELIEVE A GREAT _____ 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 Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt. 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.” Matt. 28:19-20

FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PURPOSE:

Why We Exist As A Church

- To “Love God with all your heart” is “**WORSHIP**”, which means to **CELEBRATE** God.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is the **MINISTRY** of God’s love .
- To “Go...make disciples” is “**CONNECTING**” to people relationally for the **MISSION** of witnessing.
- To “Baptize...in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” is “**COMMUNICATE**” God’s Character to incorporate people into **MEMBERSHIP** within the family of Christ.
- To “Teach them to observe all things I have commanded...” is to **COMMIT** members to **MATURITY**.

RESEDA CHURCH EXISTS:

Therefore: We exist . . .

1. To _____ God’s presence.
2. To _____ The message for discovering Membership in the Body of Christ.
3. To _____ members to Habits leading them to spiritual maturity.
4. To _____ members for the Ministry of demonstrating God’s love
5. To _____ to fulfill the Missions of sharing God’s love.

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP IS: EXPRESSING MY LOVE TO GOD

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." Matt. 4:10

"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Jn 4:23-24

The Celebration: Five Sacred Vessels of Worship

- **Singing** (Eph. 5:19)
- **Praying and Meditating** (Acts 2:42) (Hab. 2:20)
- **Presenting the Word** (Romans 12:1-2) (John 17:17)
- **Giving: Tithes and Offerings** (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- **Observing the Lord's Supper** (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

The Design of True Worship: Worship is to be ...

- a _____ of the believer's faith
- a _____ of the believer's faith
- a _____ of the believer's faith
- a _____ of the believer's faith (Romans 12:1-2)

RBCoC Worship Style

"Celebration"
Psalm 122:1

"Inspiration"
Isaiah 40:31

"Preparation"
Eph. 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE THE MESSAGE FOR DISCOVERING MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP IS: _____

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." Eph. 3:10

"Anyone who calls on the name of 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 him?" Rom. 10:13-14 (LB)

THE BASIC TENETS OF THE GOSPEL STORY

We were created ...

For a personal relationship with God
To be in charge of His creation

To be free acting agents in God's likeness

We choose ...

To reject the faith relationship to be self-reliant

To have experiences of both good and evil.

To be separated from the paradise of God's grace.

Therefore, we were made subject to corruption,

But God ...

So loves the world that he gave His Son to redeem us

Commends His love to us, while we are still in rebellion

The Purpose of Church Cells (Membership Groups) is
Evangelism resulting in Reproduction

We believe our church must grow LARGER and SMALLER 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." Matt. 24:14

Membership in the Reseda Church means participation in _____ and _____

III. WE EXIST TO COMMIT MEMBERS TO THE HABITS LEADING THEM TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

DISCIPLESHIP IS: DEVELOPING THE HABITS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity...**" Heb. 6:1

"Grow in 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." Eph. 4:11-13

Two Manifestations of Discipleship:

- Possessing _____ of Faith, Acts 2:41-42
 - Worship
 - Bible Study
 - Fellowship
 - Prayer

- Practicing the _____
 - Grasping the Word
 - Quiet Time: Prayer and meditation
 - Tithing of Time/ Talents/ Treasure
 - Fellowship with Believers

Discipleship Results in: _____ called _____.

**MORE WILL BE DETAILS WILL BE COVERED IN
DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY CLASS #201**

IV. WE EXIST TO CONNECT MEMBERS FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEMONSTRATING GOD’S LOVE

MINISTRY IS _____

*“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples — **that you have love for one another.**”* John 13:35
1 John 3:16-17, Matt. 25:34-40, Heb. 13:16, Rom. 12:13

The heartbeat and backbone of the Reseda church is our _____ Every member needs to be a part of one for...

Three basic reasons:

- Enable members to identify and use their spiritual gifts
- Empowers members to minister of the Body of Christ
- Exemplifies scripturally the meaning of responsible membership.

*“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... **All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”*** 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

At RBCoC...

- Every member is a: _____
- Every task is: _____
- Every member is a “10” in: _____ of service

V. WE EXIST TO COMMISSION MEMBERS TO FULFILL THE MISSIONS OF SHARING GOD’S LOVE

WITNESSING: _____

The Biblical Approach to Missions:

- It is first _____, not informational, why?
 - The nature of unbelief is rebellion, not ignorance
 - The consequence of unbelief is spiritual blindness (inability to see)
- It is called _____ Making friends with sinners to “Lead” them to Christ.
- It is based on principle of the _____: to infect one with divine truth, one must be affected by God’s Love
- It is a _____ approach to evangelism – a team ministry of “net casting” rather than a single person endeavor.

We fulfill this purpose in two ways: through ...

THE CELEBRATION: Conducting _____ assemblies that celebrate divine accomplishments, and...

The CELL GROUPS: Cultivating spiritual development in _____ to lead small group missions that REACH the community.

There are five aims / Targets of our R.E.A.C.H.: The five Global/ Universal Evils of the world

1. Spiritual alienation
2. Ignorance and Illiteracy
3. Poverty and hunger
4. Sickness and disease
5. Captivity and Oppression

Therefore, Our Missions of R.E.A.C. H. are:

- R** - Reconciliation/ Restoration of the Lost
- E** - Encouragement/ Education of the Youth
- A** - Assistance/ Advice of the Poor
- C** - Care / Comfort of the Sick and Feeble
- H** - Help / Healing of the broken-hearted

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 Pet. 3:9

2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 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.**”* Col.

2:19 (GN)

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

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- *“God isn’t interested in numbers.”*
- *“Our church wants quality not quantity.”*
- *“Large churches are impersonal”*

OUR SUMMARY OF FAITH

What We Believe

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

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Eph. 4:4-6

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

“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 an 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 _____.**

*“...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 Cor. 13:2 (Ph)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. ABOUT THE CHURCH: THERE IS ONE BODY

The church is called the body of Christ, which indicates that the relationship between Christ and the church is inseparable. The relationship between Christ and the church is established by the covenant of faith. Saving faith gives birth to a community of believers that obtains its identity and architecture from its founder, who is Christ. The church is the kingdom of heaven as an earthly colony, and therefore, it can neither be denominational (one of many) or interdenominational (receptive of all faiths). The true church only adheres to the heavenly vision of the family of God, and it rests only upon the one foundation of the authority of Christ and His Apostles.

2. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT: THERE IS ONE SPIRIT – SPIRIT OF GOD

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. The Holy Spirit draws sinners to Christ and equips believers for personal growth and service to the church. 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 gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. Christians, 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

3. ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN HOPE: THERE IS ONE HOPE – LIFE EVERLASTING

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secured in that salvation through God's power by their faith. The security of one's salvation is established through "putting on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:14ff). Spiritual security is also to be found in the nature of salvation itself: God does not charge the believer with sin, but consider a believer to be holy and without blame in His sight. The grace of salvation may be forfeited by departing from faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. This represents a direct reversal of how salvation is received—surrendering one's life to Christ as Savior and Lord.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; Galatians 5:1-3;
1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-17;

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

4. ABOUT DIVINE AUTHORITY: THERE IS ONE LORD – JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent with the Father. Jesus Christ is the manifestation of the grace of God. He lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplishes salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in and submitting to Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between God and us. He will return to earth to consummate history.

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

5. ABOUT CHRISTIAN FAITH: THERE IS ONE FAITH – THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. We follow the complete Word of God, rightly divided, as our guide from here into eternity. We adhere to the Old Testament as a necessary foundation for understanding the Truth of Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament, which is the all-sufficient rule of faith for believers. We consider human creeds of men to be not only forbidden by the Scripture, but are unnecessary. Believers have one rule of faith, which is the teachings of Christ and His Apostles.

Salvation is by grace through faith. Salvation by grace means that our salvation is the sole provision of God; it cannot be morally merited or humanly achieved by any action of man. It is granted based upon what God has done through Christ for us. Salvation is a unmerited gift proceeding out of God's love toward us. It is only received through a free will response from us that is called faith. Not all faith is acceptable to God. Only

faith that accepts and responds to Jesus as Lord can be described as saving faith. Saving faith is complete trust in the Person of Christ as the Son of God. It is natural faith transformed by the Word of Christ into obedient faith.

6. ABOUT SALVATION: THERE IS ONE BAPTISM – THE NEW BIRTH

Faith initiates the new birth process called regeneration, and develops towards the completeness of saving faith. Under the power of the gospel message, faith produces acceptance of the Gospel Message, admission of sinfulness, acknowledgement of Christ as Lord, and a spiritual birth into the family of God through the obedience of faith in baptism. Baptism reflects the reality of mature faith, which is faith that wills to respond to the Will of God. The one baptism is faith giving birth to a true believer.

We are committed to telling and re-telling the biblical story. God created humans to have fellowship with Him, but they defied God by sinfully going their own way. As a result, we need God's saving grace to end our alienation from Him. Salvation comes only through God's saving grace - not human effort. God's saving grace must be received personally by obedient faith - repentance of sin, confession of faith in Jesus as Lord, and baptism for the remission of sins.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5;
Romans 10:9-10, 14-17; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5, 17; John 3:3-5
Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:17

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

7. ABOUT THE TRIUNITY: THERE IS ONE GOD – FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

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