



*NewLife Series*  
**EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, MISSIONS**  
**English, Tagalog & Cebuano Versions.**

**By Pastor Bien Llobrera**

**BOOK 4**

*Baptism & Church Membership*

**LESSON 1**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM**

**INTRODUCTION**

For many people baptism is a very emotional topic. This topic causes many angry debates. We should never be emotional, and we should never engage in angry debates. God's Word, the Bible, will help us to know the truth, and the truth will set us free from false teachings and wrong traditions (John 8:32). Let us, therefore, approach the topic of baptism with open mind to know the truth from God's Word.

**CHRIST'S COMMAND**

1. We begin by emphasizing that water baptism is important because our Lord Jesus Christ clearly commanded it. Let's study Matthew 28:19-20. If our Lord commanded baptism (please encircle the correct answer):

- (a) TRUE FALSE We must obey His command regarding baptism.
- (b) TRUE FALSE It is optional to obey His command regarding baptism.

2. Please study Matthew 10:32-33.

- (a) If you confess (declare) before people that you are His follower, what will Christ do to you?

(b) If you deny (refuse to declare) before people that you are His follower, what will Christ do to you:?

3. Christ commanded water baptism as the proper way to confess (declare) your faith in Him. (encircle the correct answer.)

(a) TRUE FALSE Only those who have received Christ as Lord and Savior are qualified to be baptized.

(b) TRUE FALSE If you have received Christ as Lord and Savior and yet you refuse to be baptized, you are actually denying Christ before people.

4. Many people ask, "I have been baptized as a baby. Do I need to be baptized again?" (encircle around your answer.)

(a) YES NO As a baby, did you have the ability to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior? Did you have the ability to pray and invite Christ to come into your heart?

(b) YES NO Since you did not have the ability to receive Christ when you were a baby, were you qualified to receive baptism as a baby?

### **CHRIST'S EXAMPLE**

5. In baptism we follow the example of Christ Himself. According to Luke 2:22, when Christ was a baby, His earthly parents brought Him to the temple (please encircle correct answer):

(a) TRUE FALSE To present (dedicate) Him to the Lord.

(b) TRUE FALSE To baptize Him.

Please read Luke 3:21-23. According to this scripture, Jesus was baptized when He was 30 years old.

6. Today, we follow the example of Christ. When Christ was a baby, He was presented or dedicated to the Lord. Today we also dedicate babies to the Lord. When Christ was already an adult (30 years old), He was baptized in water by John the Baptist. He was baptized not because He was a sinner but in order to give us an example; His baptism was the beginning of His public service to God. This does not mean that we must wait until we are age 30 to be baptized; it means that we must reach the age when we already have the ability to personally and intelligently receive Christ as our Lord and Savior. Like Christ, our baptism is also the beginning of our new life of wholehearted service to God.

### **OTHER EXAMPLES**

7. The example of John the Baptist. Please study Mark 1:4-5.

- (a) Before John the Baptist baptized the people, what did he require them to do regarding their sins?
- (b) TRUE FALSE Repentance is necessary before baptism. A baby does not yet have the ability to repent; therefore, the baby is NOT qualified to be baptized? (encircle the correct answer.)

8. The example of the Ethiopian eunuch. Please study Acts 8:26-38. (Encircle correct answer)

- (a) TRUE FALSE Before Philip baptized the eunuch, Philip explained the Gps[e; to him first (Acts 8:35)
- (b) TRUE FALSE Before you were baptized as a baby, nobody explained the Gospel to you because you were still not capable of understanding it. Therefore, you were NOT qualified to be baptized as a baby.
- (c) TRUE FALSE But now that you are of age and someone has explained to you about Christ and you have believed. Therefore you are now qualified to be baptized?

**MEANING OF BAPTISM**

9. The meaning of baptism includes the following truths, as shown in the acronym B-A-P-T-I-S-M. In this book we shall study these truths one by one, in order to prepare you for baptism and church membership.

- Believe
- Accept;
- Prove
- Testify
- Instruct
- Stewardship
- Membership

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

10. Please carefully study the two statements below, then encircle the statement that expresses your honest feelings at this time.

- YES NO I am convinced that my baptism as a baby was not valid. I want to obey Christ’s command regarding biblical water baptism.
- YES NOT I still have questions but I am willing to continue studying this book.

**MEMORIZE:**

*Matthew 28:19-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:19-20*

## DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.

### THIS WEEK

Meet with your Bible study leader:

- (1) To have Daily Devotional Time together;
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## LESSON 2

### BELIEVE

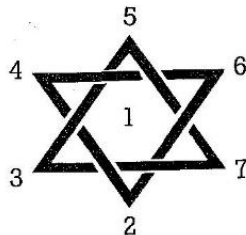
BAPTISM is a public testimony of our faith in Christ. Therefore, the first requirement for baptism is that we must be clear about what we BELIEVE about Christ.

1. In Matthew 16:13-16 Christ asked his disciples two questions.

- (a) What was the first question, and what were some of the answers given by the disciples?
- (b) What was the second question, and what answer did Peter give?

2. Different religions believe different things about Christ. The Church of Christ (Manalo) says Christ is only a man; Jehovah's Witnesses say that Christ was the first and highest creation of God; Mormons say Christ was a man but he became God later on.

But who is Christ according to you? True faith in Christ includes knowing and believing SEVEN TRUTHS revealed in the Bible about Christ. To help us remember these truths, we'll place them on a diagram, the six-pointed Star of David.



**TRUTH 1: CHRIST IS GOD.**

**Center of the Star**

3. Before Christ was born in the world, He was called the WORD. What are three facts about the WORD in the beginning? Let's read John 1:1.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

4. How do the following verses show that Christ is God?

Isaiah 9:6

John 20:28

**TRUTH 2: CHRIST BECAME A MAN**

**Point #2**

5. According to John 1:14, what happened to the WORD (Christ)?

6. By what kind of birth did Christ come into the world? (Luke 1:30-35; Matthew 1:20-23)

**TRUTH 3: CHRIST LIVED A NORMAL HUMAN LIFE BUT WITHOUT SIN.**

**Point #3**

7. As a human being, what process of development did Christ experience? (Luke 2:52)

8. According to Hebrews 2:18; 4:15 was Christ exempted from temptation? But was He overcome by temptation; did He commit sin even once?

**TRUTH 4: CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS.**

**Point #4**

9. When Christ was born, by what names did the angels call Him? (Luke 2:10-11)

10. As Savior, what did Christ do? (1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8)

**TRUTH 5: CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD.**

**Point #5**

11. What happened to Christ three days after He died on the cross? (Matthew 16:21; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4)

12. Why is the resurrection of Christ important? (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

13. Because Christ rose from the dead, what hope does He give to us? (1 Corinthians 15:20-21, 51-57)

**TRUTH 6: CHRIST ASCENDED TO HEAVEN.**

**Point #6**

14. Forty days after Christ rose from the dead, what happened to Him? (Acts 1:3, 9-11)

15. What position did Christ take after He went back to heaven? (1 Peter 3:21-22)

16. What important ministry is Christ doing now in heaven until His Second Coming? (Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:24-25)

**TRUTH 7: CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN**

**Point #7**

17. Before Christ went back to heaven, what did He promise to His disciples? (John 14:3)

18. What did the angels assure the disciples after Christ ascended back to heaven (Acts 1:10-11)

19. What will happen at the Second Coming of Christ? (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Philippians 3:20, 21)

Note: In NewLife Book 5 you will study about Christ more in detail. You will also study about the Trinity, where you will find the answer to this question: “If the Father is God, and Christ is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, how many Gods do you have? Three?” The answer: There is only one God, but there are Three Persons united together in this one God. But in preparation for your baptism, the important thing is for you to know that the true Christ of the Bible possesses the seven important attributes or qualities which we studied above.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

20. This week, try to recite the seven truths about Christ from memory.

**MEMORIZE:**

*John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. - John 1:1*

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### LESSON 3

#### ACCEPT, PROVE

The meaning of baptism includes the following truths, as shown in the acronym below:

**Believe**  
**Acept;**  
**Prove**  
**Testify**  
**Instruct**  
**Stewardship**  
**Membership**

The first requirement for baptism is to BELIEVE in Christ. There is a second requirement. One important action must accompany our belief: we must ACCEPT Christ into our heart.

#### **ACEPT**

1. According to John 1:12 genuine faith in Christ involves what two actions?
2. In Revelation 3:20 Christ gives us a clear picture of what it means to believe and accept Him as Savior and Lord. Please write the meaning of this verse in your own words.
3. What does it mean to accept Christ? Let's use three illustrations.

***Illustration 1:*** Inside our heart there is a throne. Before we accepted Christ we sat as the king/queen on that throne. When we accept Christ, we get off that throne and surrender that throne to Him so that He becomes the Lord and King from now on.

- *Question: Have you truly surrendered the throne of your heart to Christ? YES NO (Encircle your answer.)*

***Illustration 2:*** Before we accepted Christ we occupied the driver seat of our life. When we accept Christ He becomes our driver, so that He is now in control of the steering wheel, in charge of the direction and purpose of our life.

- *Question: Have you surrendered the driver seat and steering wheel of your life to Christ? YES NO*

*(Encircle your answer.)*

**Illustration 3:** House and keys. When we accept Christ we do not put Him in the guest room. We give Him the whole house and all the keys to all the rooms and closets of our life. By giving Him all the keys we give Him the full authority to clean out everything that is not pleasing in His sight and to bring in only those things that meet His approval.

- *Question: Have you given Christ the whole house of your life together with all the keys? YES NO*  
*(Encircle your answer.)*

4. In John 2:23-25 we are told that many people believed in Christ. But did Christ believe in them? No; Christ saw the real attitude of their hearts, that they did not truly believe in their hearts.

- *Question: You claim to believe in Christ; but does Christ believe in you? Have you truly accepted Christ as Savior AND Lord of your life? YES NO*  
*(Encircle your answer.)*

## **PROVE**

5. This is the third requirement for baptism: PROVE. It is easy to claim that you have accepted Christ. But where's the proof? A person who has truly accepted Christ will experience the following initial proofs:

### (a) WORD OF GOD.

Just as a physical baby cries for milk, what does a newborn spiritual baby cry for? (1 Peter 2:2)

According to Christ, if you truly believe in Him, what will you do? (John 8:31)

If you are truly born again you will be hungry for God's Word, your spiritual milk. If you have sincerely received Christ as your Lord, you will desire to know and obey His teachings.

### (b) PRAYER.

What does the Holy Spirit enable the true Christian to say to God? (Galatians 4:6).

When the Holy Spirit comes into a person's heart, He will motivate and enable that person to cry out to God "Abba, Father". This crying out to God is prayer. Prayer is the Christian's spiritual breath. In the physical life, the first impulse of a newborn baby is to cry... this starts physical breathing. Similarly, the first action of a new spiritual baby is to cry out in prayer.

### (c) CHANGED LIFE.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, what happens to a person when he becomes a true Christian?

What is the attitude of a true Christian regarding sin? (2 Timothy 2:19)

Have you sincerely repented of every known sin in your life? Have you turned your back on sin, in order to follow Christ without reservation?

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

6. You claim that you have received Christ as Lord and Savior. Please share how you have experienced the initial proofs mentioned above since you became a Christian.

### **MEMORIZE:**

*2 Timothy 2:19 – Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” – 2 Timothy 2:19*

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## **LESSON 4**

### **TESTIFY**

Believing in and accepting Christ are personal and private transactions between you and the Lord alone. However, Christ commands that faith in Him must be confessed publicly (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9,10). The fourth requirement of baptism is to TESTIFY publicly of our faith.

### **PROOF #1: WATER BAPTISM**

1. Water Baptism is the initial public testimony of a Christian (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-41). The meaning of baptism is described in Romans 6:1-4: Water baptism is a public testimony of your identification with Christ’s death and resurrection.

(a) When you are immersed (submerged) in water, what are you testifying to the world regarding your old life of sin? You are testifying that your old life of sin is dead and that now you are burying it.

(b) When you come out of the water, what are you testifying to the world regarding the kind of life you will live from this day on? You are testifying that from now on you will live your new life in Christ for the will of God alone.

(c) Through water baptism, you also testify to the world that you are now joining as a member of the family of God in the local church. From Acts 2:41, 47, describe what the early Christians did after they were baptized.

## **PROOF #2: LORD'S SUPPER**

2. The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is another way that Christians give a public testimony of their faith in Christ. Whereas water baptism is done only once never to be repeated, the Lord's Supper is done as often as the local church decides to do it. 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 describes the proper way to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

(a) There must be heart preparation. Participants must make sure that they are in right relationship with God and with one another. What are Christians instructed to do in preparation for the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) There must be confession of all sins before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

(b) The Lord's Supper is a memorial (a way of remembering) the body and blood of Christ offered for our redemption on the cross; it is also a way of looking forward to His Second Coming. Please read 1 Corinthians 11:26.

(c) There must be a spiritual appropriation of Christ's body and blood. Just as the physical mouth takes the physical elements of bread and wine (grape juice), even so by faith we must receive anew Christ as our spiritual bread and drink for our souls. How does Christ describe our relationship with Him when we take Him as our bread and drink? (John 6:56-57; 15:5)

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

- Some questions about baptism.

Question 1: What is the proper mode of baptism – immersion, pouring, sprinkling?

Answer: Some churches sprinkle water on the head of the baptismal candidate; others pour water. Based on the meaning of the Greek word BAPTIZO (submerge) and based on the truth being symbolized (death, burial and resurrection), we believe that the proper mode of baptism is by immersion.

Question 2: How soon should a new believer be baptized?

Answer: In the Book of Acts believers were baptized immediately on the day that they believed in Christ (Acts 2:42). But today, because people are confused about the true meaning of baptism, believers are encouraged to go through baptismal instruction (such as this one) before they are baptized.

Question 3: What is the difference between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit? What is the relationship between these two baptisms?

Answer: The baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to the coming in of the Holy Spirit to indwell the believer who has been born again by faith in Christ (John 3:5; Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Review NewLife Book 1, Lesson 6. Water baptism is the outward testimony that a person has believed in Christ (Acts 2:41; 16:31-34). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the seal that God gives to a person who has truly believed in Christ (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

Question 4: What do I need for the day of baptism?

Answer: On the day of baptism remember to bring with you an extra set of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag in which to put your wet clothes.

- Question about the Lord's Supper:

Question: What really happens to the bread and wine (grape juice) during the Lord's Supper?

Answer:

- a. Roman Catholics believe in TRANSUBSTANTIATION, which means that the bread and wine really turn into the body and blood of Christ.
- b. Some Protestant churches believe in CONSUBSTANTIATION, which means that the bread and wine do not undergo any change; rather, the body and blood of Christ become spiritually present in and with and around the bread and wine.
- c. Evangelical churches, such as Baptists, believe that the Lord's Supper is a COMMEMORATION (MEMORIAL), which means that the bread and wine do not undergo a change; they are merely symbols that help us to remember the body and blood of Christ offered on the cross for our salvation. We believe that COMMEMORATION is the correct interpretation of 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

5. MEMORIZE:

***Romans 6:4 - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. - Romans 6:4***

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**LESSON 5**

**INSTRUCT**

After water baptism, what next? From our acronym, the fifth thing to know before baptism is the need for INSTRUCTION in discipleship: how to live as a true follower of Christ. Christ is not looking for mere converts. He is looking for disciples. Disciples are life-long learners in the school of Christ.

**DISCIPLESHIP**

1. In Christ’s Great Commission in Matthew 28:20:

(a) What did He command His followers to do after baptizing a new believer?

(b) What does Christ mean when He said that believers must be taught “to observe all that I commanded you”?

Discipleship instruction involves not only helping a believer to know all of God’s Word in his head; he also must be taught and trained to do, to obey, to apply God’s Word in daily life.

**STAGES OF GROWTH**

2. There are three stages in the growth of a disciple. Please carefully study 1 John 2:12-14; then write the words that the Bible uses to describe the three stages of growth:

Stage 1 (vss. 12,13b) \_\_\_\_\_

Stage 2 (vss. 13b,14b) \_\_\_\_\_

Stage 3 (vss. 13a,14a) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Each stage of growth has its own characteristics. Look carefully again at 1 John 2:12-14; then write the characteristics of each stage of growth:

a. Baby (1 John 2:12,13)

- (1) Needs assurance of forgiveness;
- (2) Needs assurance of relationship with God as heavenly Father.

b. Youth (1 John 2:13,14)

- (1) Needs to grow strong in faith;
- (2) Needs the Word of God to abide in his heart;
- (3) Needs to overcome sin and Satan.

c. Parent (1 John 2:13,14)

Needs to know God in a deeper way as the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer, the Beginning and End of all His creation.

4. The *NewLife Discipleship Studies* will help you to discover what a disciple should know and do, and what qualities to have at every stage of discipleship. Discipleship training is a process that goes on throughout your life, and it involves the following:

- Personal study: Please describe what you are currently doing for personal study.
- Cell Group: Please tell us where and when you meet with your Cell Group. If you are not yet a member of a Cell Group, ask your leader to recommend a Cell Group you may join.
- Worship Service: Please tell where and when you attend a worship service on Sunday. If you are not yet attending, ask your leader to take you with him to his worship service.

**MEMORIZE:**

*Colossians 2:6-7 - As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. - Colossians 2:6-7*

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## LESSON 6

### STEWARDSHIP

We continue our study of BAPTISM, following the acronym *B-A-P-T-I-S-M*.

Believe  
Accept  
Prove  
Testify  
Instruct  
Stewardship  
Membership

In this lesson we will study about STEWARDSHIP. Many people avoid attending church or Bible study because they say, “The church is all about money, it’s a business.” We have to admit, there are many so-called religions and religious leaders who misuse religion for their selfish financial and material gain. In fact, the Bible warns against this sin and calls it the way or error of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11). But Christ teaches clearly that if you want to be a true disciple, you need to have a new attitude toward money and wealth. You need to learn to practice STEWARDSHIP – this is the sixth truth you need to know before baptism.

1. In your opinion:
  - (a) What is stewardship?
  - (b) Who is a steward?

A steward is a person who has been put in charge over someone else’s property. A steward is not the owner; he has been assigned to manage the property according to the instructions of the owner. Stewardship is the work that a steward does.

2. According to the Bible who is the Creator and Owner of everything? (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1-2).
3. Who was placed by God as manager or steward over all creation? (Psalm 8:4-8)

4. When sin entered the world, human beings no longer remained as stewards; they began to act as if they were the owners of God's creation. Their priorities changed from heavenly to earthly. According to 1 Timothy 6:10 what is the root of all evil

Please note: LOVE of money – not money itself – is the root of all evil.

5. To live as true disciples of Jesus we must overcome this root of all evil. To help us overcome the love of money, what does Christ command us in Matthew 6:19-21?

How do we lay up treasures in heaven? By practicing STEWARDSHIP – by living the lifestyle of a steward. As Christian stewards we seek to answer this question: How can I use my life, time, energy, talent, money and everything I own for the glory of God and for the good not only of myself but also of others?

### **THE TITHE**

6. How do we begin to learn to be good stewards? We begin with our money, the most symbolic of all material possessions. Since the love of money is the root of all evil, how do we break this love of money? Let's carefully study Malachi 3:8-11.

(a) How much of your income does God command you to bring to His storehouse (the temple in the Old Testament; the church in the New Testament – Malachi 3:10)

(b) What does God promise when we faithfully give our tithes (ten percent of our income)? (Malachi 3:10-11)

(c) If we withhold the tithe, what kind of people do we become in God's eyes? (Malachi 3:8)

(d) If we rob God of His tithes, what terrible thing will happen to us? (Malachi 3:9; Haggai 1:6)

7. The Bible uses the picture of sowing and reaping to demonstrate the principle of tithing. When you give the tithe to God, God will return it to you in multiplied blessings. This is like sowing and reaping. When the farmer sows the seed in the earth, the earth gives back the seed in multiplied harvest. But suppose that this year the farmer refuses to sow his seed; instead, he eats all the seeds. Can that farmer expect to harvest again? If we don't give to the work of the Lord, can we expect God's blessing in return?

8. Some people object: "The law of the tithes is only in the Old Testament. It is no longer commanded in the New Testament." That is true. But the principle of giving and receiving, sowing and reaping never changed in the New Testament. Please summarize the meaning of the following verses in your own words:

Luke 6:38 .....

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 .....

9. Stewardship begins with money, but stewardship includes everything – our life, time, our talents, our jobs, everything. What does God command us to do with our life and everything that we have? (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**THREE REASONS**

10. We give for three reasons:

- To support the ministries and needs of the church.
- To support the work and ministry of church workers and missionaries.
- To help people in need, particularly of fellow believers.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

11. When you give your tithes and offerings, you are telling God the following (encircle the correct answer):

- YES NO God, I acknowledge that You are the Creator and Owner of everything.
- YES NO God, I accept that I don't own anything; I am only your steward and manager.
- YES NO God, I recognize that You give me life and health and strength and the ability to work and to earn a living.
- YES NO God, I believe in Your promise that when I am faithful in giving the tithes and offerings, You will multiply Your blessings upon my life.
- YES NO God, I believe that even when my income is small, when I give the tithes and offerings I will not run out but You will surely supply what I lack.

**MEMORIZE:**

*Luke 6:38 – Give, and it will be given you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. – Luke 6:38*

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- (2) To review your memory verses.
- (3) Together you will study:

**LESSON 7**

**MEMBERSHIP**

MEMBERSHIP in a local church is the seventh truth that you need to know in preparation for baptism. Today, specially in big cities where there are many wonderful churches, many Christians practice “church-hopping”. They think church membership is optional. In fact, in big cities some churches no longer keep a strict membership roll. According to the Bible, what are some reasons why church membership is necessary?

**REASON #1: YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER**

1. The moment you were born again, your name was automatically written in the membership roll of the Church in heaven. In your own words, briefly summarize the meaning of the following verses:

Luke 10:20 .....

Hebrews 12:23 .....

Revelation 20:15 .....

**REASON #2: YOU NEED A SPIRITUAL FAMILY**

2. In the Bible the Church is described by three names; Family of God, Body of Christ, the Kingdom of God. From the start, you must always keep in mind that the Church is NOT a physical building. Strictly speaking, you do not GO to church; you COME TOGETHER as a church. The building (whether it is a small chapel or a big cathedral) is just a physical structure in which God’s family, Christ’s Body, God’s kingdom, gather together to worship God and to build up one another. In the Book of Acts the church usually gathered in a home. Also, the first

Christians did not put up church buildings. The first Christians were people always on the move; they were a “movement”, and this is how they grew and spread rapidly throughout the then known world. It was when they started erecting permanent buildings that they lost much of their growing power. We need to constantly remind ourselves that the church is WE THE PEOPLE OF GOD; the church is NOT the building that we gather in.

Now, let’s look at the first name of the church: FAMILY of God.

(a) We are born again into the FAMILY of God. Please summarize John 1:12-13 in your own words.

(b) The names of all Christians are written in heaven. But Christians meet on earth as families called local churches. Just as every person needs a family in the physical life, even so in the spiritual life every Christian needs a spiritual family. What is Christ’s new commandment for all true Christians? (John 13:34-35)

(c) Joining a local church family is the practical action of obedience to this command of Christ in John 13:34-35. What is another command that Christians ought to obey? (Hebrews 10:24-25)

### **REASON #3: YOU ARE PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

3. The Bible also describes the Church as the BODY OF CHRIST. The Body of Christ gathers and functions together as a local church.

(a) We are baptized by the Spirit into the BODY of Christ. Please summarize 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 in your own words.

(b) In the physical life, have you ever seen parts of the physical body floating around separately from a body – floating feet, floating hands, floating eyes, floating ears, etc.? Floating parts are a monstrosity. Even so, a Christian who floats around, not attached to a local church body, is a violation of God’s plan. How many parts are needed in order to maintain and promote the growth of the Body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 12:14-20; Ephesians 4:16)

### **REASON #4: YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

4. The church is not the KINGDOM OF GOD, but it is a manifestation of the kingdom of God, in that it demonstrates God’s absolute sovereign rule over His people; and the church is a witness to God’s sovereign over all His creation.

(a) We are delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of His Son, the present invisible rule of God in the hearts of people. Please summarize Colossians 1:13 in your own words.

(b) The present world is in rebellion against God. God is using the Church as His visible demonstration to show to the world what His kingdom looks like through the obedient and righteous lives of His people. According to Matthew 5:13-16, what will happen when Christians live faithfully as salt and light in the world? (Also read 1 Peter 3:1-2, 15-16).

### **REASON #5: FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS**

5. What example can we follow from the first Christians regarding joining the local church? (Acts 2:41, 47)

### **DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS**

6. The first four duties of a church member are based on Acts 2:42. According to this verse, what four activities did the early Christians maintain?

### **DUTY #1: KNOW GOD’S WORD**

7. The early Christians continued in the *apostles’ doctrine*. Today as a church member your **FIRST DUTY** is to know God’s Word with the help of the preaching and teaching ministries of your local church. What good example by the Berean Christians can we follow today? (Acts 17:10-11)

(a) They listened to the preaching of the apostle.

(b) They not only listened to the preaching of the apostle Paul; they also studied the Scriptures for themselves.

### **DUTY #2: FELLOWSHIP**

8. The early Christians continued in *fellowship*. For the early Christians, fellowship meant sharing with and helping one another; let’s read Acts 4:32-35. Today, many churches give the impression that fellowship means getting together for fun and food and inspiration. The biblical meaning of fellowship may be described as “fellows in one ship” – Christians fully sharing life together in good times and bad times. As a church member, your **SECOND DUTY** is to commit yourself to be part of your local church fellowship, specially in a small group where you strive to fulfill the “one another ministries” of fellowship:

- *Love one another (John 13:34-35)*
- *Accept one another (Romans 15:7)*
- *Pray for one another (James 5:16)*
- *Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)*
- *Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25; 1 John 3:16-17)*

- *Restore one another (Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18:15-17)*

**DUTY #3: PRAYER**

9. The early Christians continued in *prayers*. Today, your THIRD DUTY as a member is to maintain personal and family devotions and to attend PRAYER MEETINGS scheduled in your local church. From Acts 1:14; 12:5 describe the early Christians' practice of prayer.

**DUTY #4: WORSHIP**

10. The early Christians continued in the *breaking of bread* (Lord's Supper or Communion). In the early church, the Lord's Supper was at the heart of their worship. Today, as a church member your FOURTH DUTY is to participate regularly and actively in the WORSHIP SERVICES of your local church.

Note: From other scriptures we may list other duties, as shown below.

**DUTY #5: GREAT COMMISSION**

11. Your FIFTH DUTY is to be involved in the programs of your local church to help fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8), which includes the following:

- (a) EVANGELISM outreach in and around the church community;
- (b) DISCIPLESHIP training for all members and regular worshipers (compare Lesson 5 in this book);
- (c) MISSIONS to other places in the home country and in foreign lands.

**DUTY #6: STEWARDSHIP**

12. Your SIXTH DUTY as a member is to support your local church through faithful STEWARDSHIP by giving your tithes and offerings (as shown in Lesson 6 on Stewardship in this book).

**DUTY #7: MINISTRY**

13. The Bible teaches that every Christian has received from God at least one spiritual gift (ability to serve the Lord in a certain way). Soon after baptism, as a new member your SEVENTH DUTY is to meet with your pastor or Sunday School teacher or cell group leader for spiritual gifts assessment and for ministry assignment. Later on in NewLife Book 13, we will study more about spiritual gifts.

**DUTY #8: BUSINESS MEETING**

14. We need to mention one meeting (among many others) which is regularly done by Baptist-type local churches, called the BUSINESS MEETING. In a Baptist-type church every member, including the pastor, has one vote. As your EIGHTH DUTY, as a member you need to attend the church business meeting as much as possible, so that you can participate in discussing and voting on matters regarding the activities, plans and finances of the church.

**THE RIGHT ATTITUDE**

15. Satan will tempt you to treat these duties as a burden. But remember, these duties are privileges that you enjoy as a child in the Family of God, as a part of the Body of Christ, and as a citizen of the Kingdom of God. According to the following verses what should be your attitude towards these duties and privileges?

- (a) 1 Corinthians 10:31 .....
- (b) Ephesians 6:6-8 .....
- (c) 1 John 5:3 .....

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

16. Congratulations! You have successfully completed the BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COURSE. Your pastor or spiritual leader will talk to you regarding the schedule of your baptism.

17. REMEMBER, on the day of baptism, bring an extra set of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

18. HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER. In most churches, your baptism is also your entrance into membership in the local church which baptized you. If there is any other procedure, your pastor or spiritual leader will explain this to you.

**MEMORIZE:**

*1 Corinthians 12:13 – For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. – 1 Corinthians 12:13*

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

Continue your PRAYER PARTNER evangelistic outreach, using Book 1 with your prospects.

THIS WEEK

Meet with your Bible study leader:

- (1) To have Daily Devotional Time together;
- (2) To review your memory verses.

**NOTE:**

Your next study book is **NewLife Book 5.**