



NEW MEMBER PROCESS

1. Read the Values, Doctrine and Member Expectations below and the Constitution (found online at www.brazosfaith.org in the “about” section or in print at Faith Bible Church).
2. Complete this form. (Return pages 1-2 and keep 3-6 for your reference.)
3. Attend a New Member Class and Elder Interview.
4. Upon Elder approval, the elders will present you before the congregation during Sunday worship, ask for a confession of faith, announce your membership and pray for you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Children / Ages _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Employer _____ Job Title _____

(If currently attending) School _____ Year _____ Major _____

What other church(es) have you attended / declared membership? _____

Are you involved with any other church / organization / Bible Study? _____

Have you been baptized? Yes No If No, are you open to being baptized now? Yes No

How are you currently involved at Faith Bible? (Circle all that apply.) Sundays Wednesdays

Men/Women Bible Study Usher/Greeter Mission Trips Sound/Slides Other: _____

Please give us a brief testimony of how you came to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.



COMMITMENT TO MEMBERSHIP

We believe each member of the body has a role to play as “every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” – Ephesians 4:16. Which of these do you think may be a good fit for how you can serve the body here at Faith Bible Church, based on the passions and talents God has given you?

Facilities/Lawn - Help with light work projects/maintenance and mowing at the church.

Greeters - Give a warm smile and a handshake at the front door, and follow-up with visitors.

Finances/Administration - Help with various treasury/data entry related duties.

Fellowship/Food/Fundraising - Help with planning and running various events.

Teachers - For those who have a passion for teaching and a heart for kids (Nursery -12th grade).

Missions - Organizing, sending or going on local or global service and mission trips.

Relational Discipleship - Meeting with others to talk about Jesus and real life (1Thess. 2:8)

Other - _____

Is there anything from Faith Bible Church’s Values, Doctrine, Member Expectations, Constitution, or anything else at all that you have questions about or would like to discuss with someone? _____

By virtue of officially declaring your membership with Faith Bible Church, you acknowledge:

- 1) that you have read and agree with the Faith Bible Church Values, Doctrine, Member Expectations and Constitution.
- 2) that you commit to support Faith Bible Church spiritually through prayer, physically through attendance and service, and financially through giving.
- 3) that you commit to receive guidance and correction from Faith Bible Church Members and Elders with a teachable spirit (Hebrews 13:17) in accordance with the FBC Constitution.
- 4) that you will LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, and GO OUT for the glory of Jesus Christ to the best of your ability, with the grace that God gives.



VALUES

Authority of Scripture – We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the authoritative and trustworthy rule of faith and practice for Christians. The Bible is both timeless and timely, and is relevant to the common needs of all people and to specific problems of contemporary living. Therefore we are committed to equipping Christians to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in every sphere of life through the preaching and teaching of God’s Word with integrity and authority. – 2 Tim 3.16-17; Is 40.8; Ps 119.105; 2 Pet 1.19; 2Tim 4.2.

Supremacy of Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. We believe that He is the living Son of God, fully human and fully divine, and the Second Member of the Trinity. We believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins, was resurrected three days later, ascended into heaven, and lives today. We are committed to knowing Him and making Him known to others, and to abiding by his teachings and commandments. We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. – 2 Tim 4.2; Jn 10.36; Rom 1.4; Jn 10.30; 1 Cor 15.1-8; Eph 4.10; Jer 9.24; Php 3.8-11; Jn 15.4- 10; Eph 2.8-9.

Discipleship – We believe that the primary purpose of the church is to make disciples, and that the goal of our spiritual formation is to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ calls believers to be disciples and that discipleship is a lifelong pursuit and journey. We believe that discipleship begins with personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and continues throughout a believer’s life, with full maturity never being achieved in this lifetime. Mt 28.18-20; Rom 8.29-30; Rom 3.21-26; Php 1.6.

Love God and One Another – We are committed to loving God and loving others. This love should manifest itself in unity within the local church and outreach to those who do not know Christ as savior. We believe that the world will know that we are His disciples by our love for one another and will know that Christ came as the Savior by our unity with one another. Mk 12.28- 31; Col 3.14; Mt 28.18-20; Jn 14.15; Jn 13.35; Jn 17.20-21.

Ministry Excellence – We value giving our best in service to God because he gave his best: Jesus Christ as the Sacrifice for sin. Therefore, we will seek to honor and glorify Him by maintaining a high standard of excellence in all our ministries and activities. 1 Cor 10.31; Col 3.22-24.

Prayer – We believe prayer is a privilege granted and a responsibility required by our Lord. Prayer is an honest, humble, and earnest calling out to God to perform what only he can bring to pass. Through prayer we acknowledge our dependence on God, exalt Him, seek His guidance, confess our sins, and petition Him for our needs and the needs of others. Ps 32.6; Mt 6.9-13; Eph 6.18; 1 Thes 5.17.

Stewardship – We are committed to managing all resources entrusted to us by God. All things are His and He has appointed us to faithfully administrate His creation. We have a Scriptural duty and obligation to manage those resources and will one day be held accountable for our stewardship. We recognize that all things – including our time, talents, and treasures – are to be used for the glory of God and the furtherance of his Kingdom. 1 Co 4.1-2; Tit 1.7; 1 Pet 4.10.

Family Affirmation - We are committed to supporting the spiritual nurture of the family as one of God’s primary institutions to perpetuate the faith. This includes, but is not limited to, the instruction of children and the facilitation of marriages and family relationships that reflect the reality of Jesus Christ and His church. Gen 2.24; Deu 6.6-7; Mt 19.4-6; Eph 5.22-32.

DOCTRINE

The Bible - We believe the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is God’s revelation to us, written by human authors who were supernaturally guided by the Holy Spirit. As the very word of God, it is without error in the original manuscripts, and serves as our supreme and final authority in all matters about which it speaks. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)



The Trinity - We believe God is One, the only God, eternally existing in three equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each completely and fully God. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 3:21-22; 2 Cor. 13:13; Eph. 4:4-6)

God the Father - We believe the Father is fully God, and His fatherhood is eternal and personal. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of all who believe in Christ. (Gen. 1:1; Matt. 6:9; 2 Cor. 1:3; Eph. 4:6)

God the Son - We believe Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is fully God and fully man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless human life, and offered Himself as the perfect, complete sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He physically rose from the dead, demonstrating His victory over sin and death, and ascended to heaven where He is at the throne of the Father, interceding for us. He will one day return to earth to reign over His kingdom as King of Kings. (Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:1-2, 14; 3:16-18; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:20; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:20; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 4:14-15; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2)

God the Holy Spirit - We believe the Holy Spirit is equal in deity and person with the Father and the Son. As the living spirit, He moved the human authors of the Bible to write God's Word. He convinces the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, performs the miracle of new birth, and comes to live in every Christian the moment they trust in Jesus Christ. He unites all Christians into the one Body of Christ, providing each of them with power for service, understanding of spiritual truths, and comfort in life's trials. (Jn. 3:3-8; 14:16-17; 16:7-11; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 2:13; 12:11-13; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

Human Beings - We believe all people are created in the image of God, to be like Him in character. However, we are all marred by sin, both from Adam's original sin as well as our own sinful acts. Our sin alienates us from God, makes us liable for His judgment, and ultimately results in eternal death apart from God's salvation. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 1:18-23; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:18-19; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)

Salvation - We believe salvation is God's gracious gift, offered to all people, which we must accept. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ alone can we be forgiven for our sin, overcome our alienation from God, and be saved from God's judgment. The moment we turn from our self-ruled life to Jesus Christ in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one places his faith in Christ, and it can never be lost or taken away. At salvation, we are justified by God, meaning that we are declared positionally righteous before God because of our identification with Jesus Christ. (Jn. 1:12-13; 6:37-40; 10:28-29; Acts 16:31; 2 Cor. 5:18-19; Eph. 1:7, 13; 2:8-9)

The Christian Life - Before salvation, we were enslaved to sin, but at salvation the dominant power of sin in our lives is broken. Beginning at salvation, God begins to progressively work within believers to make us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives. The Christian life is a process of cooperating with God's sanctifying work in our lives by our obedience to Christ and deepening our relationship with Him. It is God's will that we continually grow over the course of our lives until we get to heaven and then are made perfect in Christ. (1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:1-8, 39; 1 Thess. 5:23; Phil 1:6, 2:13)

Eternity - We believe people were created to exist forever, and we believe in the bodily resurrection of all people. Unbelievers will be raised to exist eternally separated from God by sin in Hell, and believers will be raised to exist eternally with God in heaven, through forgiveness of sin & salvation. (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-14)

The Church - We believe the Church is the family of God, the Body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that it is expressed in local churches. It was created by God to display His glory on the earth by reaching out to people who do not know Him, lifting up worship to Him, loving one another as His family, growing in maturity to be like Christ, and serving others in His name. We believe that the Church is the primary instrument through which God is working in the world today. The Church celebrates baptism and the Lord's Supper until Christ returns. (Matt. 26:26-29; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 12:27; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:10; Col. 1:18; 1 John 3:14-18)

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

We are committed to “making disciples.” A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ, who is always growing in love and obedience to Him. So we want to help our members grow. But what does growth look like? At Faith Bible Church, we use these 3 Scriptural principles to guide us:

- (1) The Great Commandment, “Love God” (Matt 22:37)
- (2) The 2nd Greatest Commandment, “Love Others” (Matt 22:39)
- (3) The Great Commission, “Go Out” (Matt 28:19-21).

We want to help our members grow in these three areas. Under each one is a verse reference and five examples of what it might look like lived out at Faith Bible Church.



LOVE GOD.	LOVE OTHERS.	GO OUT.
(Matt 22:37)	(Matt 22:39)	(Matt 28:19-20)
Believe the Gospel	Work on Relationships	Hang Out with Neighbors
Read Bible Regularly	Attend Mid-week Study	Talk About Jesus
Pray Continually	Men/Women’s Bible Study	Serve Local Community
Attend Sundays	Serve in the Church	Go on a Mission Trip
Give Sacrificially	Pursue Holiness	Teach Others One on One



The questions and verse references that follow are designed for further study, self-evaluation, one on one discussion and group Bible study:

LOVE GOD.

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.

- Why do you think God wants you to love Him with all you’ve got?
- Which is easiest for you, personally, to love God with all your heart, soul or mind?

Examples:

1. Do you believe the gospel and live in it daily? (John 3:16; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Gal 3:3; 5:16)
2. Do you spend time in God’s Word regularly? (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Tim 3:16-17, Psa 119:11)
3. Do you stay in regular communication with the Lord? (1Thess 5:17; Philippians 4:6-7)
4. Do spend time with believers in corporate worship and Bible study? (Hebrews 10:24-25)
5. Do you give sacrificially of you time and money to God and others? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

LOVE OTHERS.

Matt 22:39 And the second[greatest commandment] is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

- Why do you think it is important to God that we love our neighbor as ourselves?
- What’s the hardest part of loving your neighbor, for you personally?

Examples:

1. Do you work on healthy relationships with your family, friends and the world? (Eph 4:2-3)
2. Do you participate in mid-week Bible studies faithfully? (Romans 12:5)
3. Do you contribute to sharpening one another in the Men/Women’s Bible study? (Prov. 27:17)
4. Do you do your part to serve in the church in some capacity? (Ephesians 4:16)
5. Do you pursue holiness (love and purity in thought, speech, conduct, what you see, hear, etc.)? (1 Peter 1:15-16; Prov 4:23; Phil 4:8)

GO OUT.

*Matt 28:19-20 Therefore **go** and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- In order to make disciples, we must **go** (leave our comfort zone), **baptize** (tell others about Jesus), and **teach** (talk about the Bible with others). Which of those three is the hardest for you, personally? Easiest? Why?
- What is the first step for you personally to start “making disciples”?

Examples:

1. Do you hang out with your neighbors? (1 Thess 2:8; John 20:21, 1 Corinthians 9:22)
2. Do you talk about Jesus in everyday conversation? (Romans 1:16)
3. Do you serve at the Food Pantry ministry (or other outreach)? (Mark 10:45)
4. Have you gone on a mission trip (El Salvador, Romania, etc.)? Will you? (Acts 1:8)
5. Do you teach others one on one (Talk to someone over coffee or lunch about what God has been teaching you from the Bible, another book, or life lessons)? (2 Timothy 2:2)