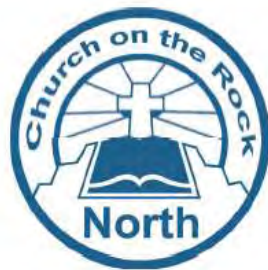


CONNECTING TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY



*“...you are a **member** of God’s very own **family**...and you belong
in **God’s household** with every other Christian.”*

Ephesians. 2:19 (LB)

THE CHURCH... OUR FAMILY

"We are parts of Christ's body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have a different work to do. So we belong to each other and we need all the others." Romans 12: 4, 5 (LB)

KEY TRUTHS...

1. God expects you to be _____ of a church family.
2. A Christian without a church family is a _____.
3. Jesus Christ is the _____ of the church.
Ephesians 1:20-23
4. Who is the Body? _____.
5. The local church is led by Jesus Christ through _____, _____ & church leaders who serve as His _____ leadership to the body of Christ.

"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

"The elders who are among you I exhort...Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock..." 1 Peter 5:1-4

OUR STRUCTURE

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

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES IT'S STRUCTURE.

1. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..."
Acts 2:42

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

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

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

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____.

3. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

1 Corinthians. 12:27; Ephesians. 1:22, 23; Colossians. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body - not a business!

We are an organism - Not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____.
_____ NOT _____.

WE HAVE A SIMPLE _____. 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

- The people are the “_____”
- The pastors, elders, staff and Board of Directors are the
“_____”.

Our **Elders** assist the pastoral staff in overseeing the _____ aspects of the ministry of COTRN.
Presently our elders are:

Pastor Sam Walker, Jim Carpenter and Josh Trevino

Our **Board of Directors** work together to oversee the governmental and _____ aspects of
COTR North.

Presently, our Board of Directors are:

President Lead Pastor - Sam Walker
Vice President - Dr. Ron Hammonds, COTR
Secretary/Treasurer – Beverly Walker
Board member - Pastor Sonny Conatser COTR

Pastoral _____ is vital for long-term healthy leadership.

Our **Pastoral Accountability Team** is:

Pastor Ron Hammonds - Golden Triangle Church on the Rock
Pastor Sonny Conatser - Southwest Harvest Church, Duncanville Texas
Pastor John Miller - Church on the Rock Texarkana, Texas
Dr. David Shibley - Global Advance

4. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

(Jesus’ favorite description of the church) John 10:1-30, Matthew 25:33, Matthew 26:31

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

*“To the **elders** I say...**Be shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as overseers...” 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 flock of God which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God...” Acts 20:17, 18 & 28, see also Titus 1:5-7 & 1 Timothy 5:17*

From Psalm 23 we learn that a good shepherd will always lead the flock that God has given to him to the place of divine...

- _____ Psalm 23:1,2 & 5
- _____ Psalm 23:4
- _____ Psalm 23:2b, 4b

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between *attendees* and members can be summed up in one word:

_____.

We boldly ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

1. _____ Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

"...Christ loved the church and gave His life for it." Ephesians 5:25

2. _____ 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 & hoppers"**.

3. _____ Reason: It defines who can be counted.

Every team has a roster. Every school has an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies and defines our family.

4. _____ 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. Commitment naturally creates accountability to the church family.

Committed members, have a biblical directive to connect with their church family by way of

- We faithfully invest our _____. Hebrews 11:25

Sunday is not the _____.

*Ephesians 5:16-21 undeniably links two important principles:

_____ & _____.

- We faithfully invest our _____. 1 Peter 4:10
(We will look at this next week in "Connecting to Ministry")
- We faithfully invest our _____. Malachi 3:8-12

BIBLICAL GIVING

"On the first day of each week set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Corinthians. 16:2

INTERESTING INSIGHTS:

- Over 50% of the parables of Jesus reference possessions and giving.
- There are more promises on giving than any other topic.
- Jesus spoke more about money and possessions than heaven and hell combined.
- Key Bible words and their frequency in scripture.
BELIEVE - 272 times
PRAY - 371 times
LOVE - 714 times
GIVE - 2162 times!

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GIVING

- A “tithe” means a _____ part.
- A tithe is giving _____ % of your income to your local church.
- You should tithe where you _____.
- The tithe should be from the _____ part of your earnings, not the _____.
- An offering is anything you give in _____ to your tithe.
*“Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. Test Me in this says the Lord and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing** that you won’t have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues.” Malachi 3:10*

SIX BIBLE REASONS TO TITHE

1. Because God _____ it.
“...A tenth of all your produce is the Lord’s and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:3
2. Because Jesus _____ it.
“Yes you should tithe, and you shouldn’t leave the more important things undone either.” Matt. 23:23
3. Tithing demonstrates that God is _____ place in your life.
“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first place in your life.” Deuteronomy 14:23
4. Tithing expresses your _____ to God.
“Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way God has blessed you.” Deuteronomy 16:17
5. God says that refusing to tithe is _____ from Him.
“Will a man rob God? Yes, you have robbed Me. But you ask, How do we rob You? God says in tithes and offerings...Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse.” Malachi 3:8-10
6. Tithing proves your _____ for God.
Jesus said, “If you really love Me, do what I command.” John 14:15

ATTITUDES OF A BIBLICAL GIVER

- GIVE _____
“For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don’t have.” 2 Corinthians 8:12
- GIVE _____
“...For God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7
- GIVE _____
“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” 2 Corinthians. 9:6

The key to a blessed biblical giver can be found in 2 Corinthians 8:5.
Look up this verse and write your answer below.

_____.

One final passage of great promise...

“Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9, 10

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

“Father I know You love me and want what’s best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from You. I am more interested in pleasing You than having more possessions. I want You to have first place in my life. I am willing to begin tithing as You have commanded. Out of gratitude for all You’ve done for me, and in expectation that You will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to You. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus name, Amen”

CHURCH ON THE ROCK MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with the COTRN structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Church on the Rock North family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By acting in love toward other members**
- ...By refusing to gossip**
- ...By following the leaders**

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and on the growth of our fellowship together.” Romans 15:19

“Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.” Romans 15:5

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers; love one another earnestly with all your hearts.” 1 Peter 1:22

“Obey your leaders and submit to authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an 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

2. I WILL SHARE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By praying for its growth**
- ...By inviting the un-churched to attend**
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit**

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

“Go out into the country lanes and out behind the hedges and urge anyone you can find to come in, so that My house will be full.” Luke 14:23

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

3. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving the tithe regularly**

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

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worth of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27

“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

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:30

Signed _____ Date: _____