

Name:

FIRST CLASS BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH



517 Glensford Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28314
910.868.5156 | bbcfnc.org

Our Covenant

As a bond of unity among us, Berean Baptist Church accepts for its members the following covenant:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and upon our profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We fully realize that the strength to uphold this covenant comes from the grace of God our Father, the shed blood of God the Son, and the power of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

We promise to actively pursue personal holiness; to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith; and to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.

We further promise to faithfully attend the church's worship services, to maintain personal spiritual disciplines; to teach our children the Word of God; to share the gospel with our relatives and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements; and to avoid all gossip. We promise that we will love and pray for each other and in times of distress help one another.

We promise to endeavor to obey the commandments of our Lord Jesus and to abstain from anything that would cause our fellow brother or sister in Christ to stumble or that will bring reproach to the name of Jesus Christ.

We further realize that if we should fail to live up to the promises we have made, our brothers and sisters in Christ will always strive for our reconciliation and spiritual restoration. However, if we partake in a sustained and unrepentant violation of an Article of Faith, we will be brought under church discipline in accordance with the Church Constitution.

We make this covenant with each other for the express purpose of glorifying God as the visible representation of the body of Christ.

This booklet is made up of the PowerPoint slides from First Class, the pre-membership class for Berean Baptist Church (BBC).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome	2
Pastoral Staff	3
Pastoral Staff (cont.)	3
Introductions	4
Pastor Sean' Phone Number	5

What are your Expectations for Berean?

Your Expectations	6
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Our Expectations for the Berean family?

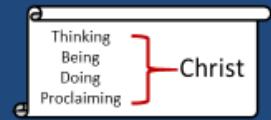
Our Expectations	7
"Berean" (2)	8
The Flock (4)	8
Discipleship (15)	9
Stewardship (16)	9
Getting Involved (22)	10
Adult Sunday School (26)	10

These are Topics that we Definitely Want to Cover.

Purpose, Mission and Vision (5)	22
Jesus-Ruled, Elder-Led, Staff-Facilitated, Deacon-Assisted, Member-Accountable (7)	22
Gospel (9)	23
Church Discipline (30)	23
What Constitutes a Church? (31)	24

What topics did you have questions on or you could use more clarification?

The Bible: God's Holy Word (3)	12
The Constitution (6)	12
Church Covenant (8)	13
God's Plan of Salvation (10-11)	13
Gospel Community (12)	14
Proclaiming Christ (13)	14
Local Outreach (14)	15
Worship in Song (17)	15
Believer's Baptism (18)	16
Lord's Supper (19)	16
Global Partnerships (20)	17
Giving Through the Church for the Advancement of God's Kingdom (21)	17
Recovering Biblical Manhood (23)	18
Titus 2 Women (24)	18
Nursery and Student Ministry (25)	19
Corporate Service Sabbaths (27)	19
Our Citizenship, Heavenly and Earthly (28)	20
B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S (29)	20



Please complete the First Class Registration Form before class starts

First Class Registration Form

Confidentiality: All the information you provide will be used only by the pastoral staff in helping to minister to you and your family.

Full Name	DOB
Spouse Full Name	DOB
Who is in attendance? Both (circle both or list who is attending)	
Home Phone	
Home Cell Number	Her Cell Number
Working Address	(City) Zip
Primary Email	Her Occupation
Secondary Email	Her Occupation
Gentlemen (check one):	
1. Send correspondence to both email addresses Yes or No	
2. I would like to begin receiving promotional giving envelopes Yes or No or Already Receiving Them	
3. I would like the information about giving to the church electronically online Yes or No or Already Do	
4. I would like more information about serving in	
5. I would like my spouse to receive DDCs from the church while facilities is deployed Yes or No or Not Address	
6. Upon completion of First Class what HPC100 class will you attend	
Membership: Please contact my former church about transitioning my membership to BBC	
Name of Church	
Address	
Children (who will be attending BBC)	
Name	DOB

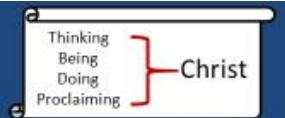
We proclaim Christ to make fully-functioning followers of Christ!

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1



BBC PASTORAL STAFF



Pastor Sean Harris
Senior Pastor



Doctor Steve Wilson
Executive Pastor



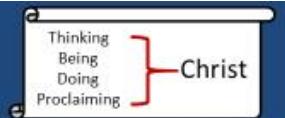
Doctor Mike Boarts
Associate Pastor

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2



BBC PASTORAL STAFF



Pastor Jonathan Andrews
Worship Pastor



Pastor Brian Howell
Assistant Pastor
Dir of Student
Ministries

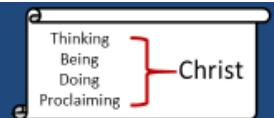
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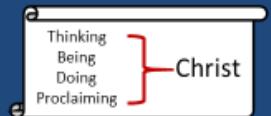


INTRODUCTIONS



Please share your:

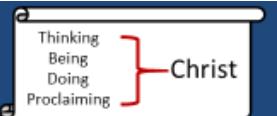
- Name?**
- Where are you from?**
- How long have you been attending Berean?**



(910)635.1393
Pastor Sean



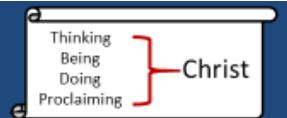
YOUR EXPECTATIONS



What are your expectations for Berean?



OUR EXPECTATIONS

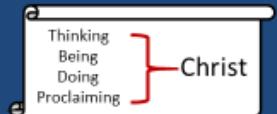


These are Berean's expectations for you.

- “Berean” (2)
- The Flock (4)
- Discipleship (15)
- Stewardship (16)
- Getting Involved (22)
- Adult Sunday School (26)



“BEREAN” (2)



The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed... (Acts 17:10-12)

- Why Berean? (pronounced “Buh-REE-uhn”) Berea was a city in southern Macedonia (Greece) located at the foot of Mount Bermius. The people of Berea were very faithful with God’s Word. We at Berean find the only way to truly be a Christ-centered community is to follow the Bible.
- Luke describes the Berean people in four ways:
 - their faith had created an environment of being generous
 - ready to look forward to hearing a message from the Bible
 - examining the Scriptures for themselves to determine the truth
 - believing based on their faith and the handling of God’s Word
- We call ourselves “Bereans” because we seek to be like them; energetic, enthusiastic, and eager to learn what the Bible teaches us and what God reveals about Himself through Scripture.

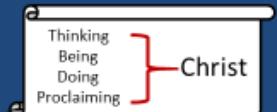
What part does the Bible play in your life?

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8



THE FLOCK (4)



Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, (1Pe 5:2)

- Joining Berean is like getting married. Membership brings you into a covenant relationship with this local church.
- Joining Berean brings you under the authority of the local church. Uniting with us is profitable for your growth as a disciple and perseverance in the faith.
- Joining Berean gives you a legitimate voice in the church. Our church polity is pluralistic elder-led congregationalism — members of Berean have a voice.
- Joining Berean sets the conditions for you to be able to use your spiritual gifts to the fullest ability in the body of Christ.
- Joining Berean is helpful for the corporate witness of the church in the community. Your formal commitment to membership speaks volumes to your level of commitment to Christ and the Christ the unbelieving world sees.

What is God saying to you about joining Berean?

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8



DISCIPLESHIP (15)



And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mat28:18-20)

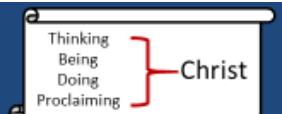
- A Fully Functioning Follower of Christ – And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mat 4:19-20)
 - Thinking like Jesus with His Word (Head).
 - Being made into Jesus by God through worship (Heart).
 - Doing the mission as we join Jesus in His work (Hands).
 - Proclaiming Christ as His Gospel witness (Feet).
- Personal investment is the idea that discipling relationships are mutually beneficial, but that is additional to the primary goal of advancing God’s Kingdom.
- Disciples of Jesus Christ worship Jesus, obey His teachings, and make more disciples, who, in turn, worship Jesus, obey His teachings, and make more disciples.

Who are you in discipling relationships with?

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STEWARDSHIP (16)



“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (Mat 25:21)

- Stewardship is the function of taking care of something. It can be applied to the environment, health, talents, abilities, property, economics, and a variety of other manageable entities.
- How do we use those things to glorify God and serve His kingdom?
- Every good thing we have has been given to us by God.

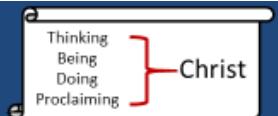
“Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight,” says the Lord of hosts. (Mal 3:8-12)

Who has your heart and how will you use your time, talents, and tithe to glorify God today and tomorrow and forever?

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GETTING INVOLVED (22)



For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. (1Co 12:12-14)

- The “Body of Christ” – unity of purpose but with distinct functions of each part of a living body.
- Consider the difficulty people face when they have lost the use of a part of the body or have lost a body part entirely.
- Berean is a large church, and the thought may be that everything is already taken care of. One may think, “They don’t need me!”, but nothing could be further from the truth.
- We are greatly loved by Jesus Christ (John 15:13), as we can see His sacrifice for us. As part of a local body of believers, we are called to sacrifice for each other, to serve one another.
- There are moments and opportunities all around us, where we can show our love for Him, His people, and those who do not know Him yet.

How will you sacrificially get involved within Berean, to love God and others?

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (26)



And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (Eph 4:11-14)

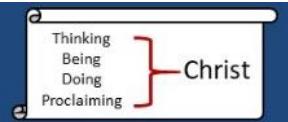
- Teaching and facilitating discussion of God’s Word, that equips everyone to become self-feeders of the Bible, which then leads to Christlike transformation. (Mat 28:18-20, 2Ti 2:1-2)
- Developing personal and relational interactions around God’s Word inside and outside of Sunday morning, equipping them to multiply love relationships, resulting in a growing gospel community. (Mat 22:37-40, Acts 2:41-47)
- Coaching and connecting with God’s Story (Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration) in a way that equips the saints for the work of the Lord as His neighborhood missionaries having gospel conversations, where we listen to the stories of others for opportunities to share God’s story through our story. (Rom 10:14-15, Acts 1:8)

How is connecting with a Sunday School class going?

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MUST COVER TOPICS

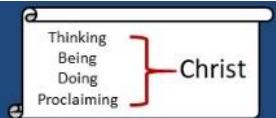


Topics we definitely want to cover.

- Purpose, Mission and Vision (5)
- Jesus-Ruled, Elder-Led, Staff-Facilitated, Deacon-Assisted, Member-Accountable (7)
- Gospel (9)
- Church Discipline (30)
- What Constitutes a Church? (31)



PURPOSE, MISSION, AND VISION (5)



So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1Co 10:31)

- God created us for His purpose, to glorify Him.

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mat 28:18-20)

- Our mission is the Great Commission. Our mission statement is: “Proclaim Christ in the 21st Century, in Fayetteville, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and the world: to make fully-functioning followers of Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father”.

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law. (Pro 29:18)

- God’s vision for us within this fallen world, is to seek to be a God-glorifying, Christ-exalting, Gospel-centered, and Biblically-based church, which shows the love of God.

How does the above purpose, mission, and vision, touch your heart?

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15



JESUS-RULED, ELDER-LED, STAFF-FACILITATED, DEACON-ASSISTED, AND MEMBER-ACCOUNTABLE (7)



For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in His teaching; the one who exhorts, in His exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom 12:3-8)

- Jesus-Ruled
- Elder-Led
- Staff-Facilitated
- Deacon-Assisted
- Member-Accountable

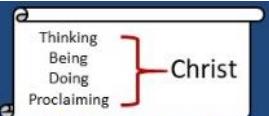
Where do you see God using you within our body of Christ?

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16



GOSPEL (9)



Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (1Co 15:1-4)

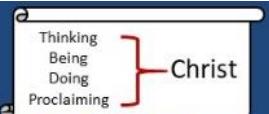
- The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ...
- God's only begotten Son...
- Was born of a virgin...
- Lived a sinless life...
- Died for the sins of the whole world...
- Was buried and rose again on the third day in order to deliver from sin's penalty and power all who turn (repent) to God and believe the Gospel (this truth).
- Furthermore, He grants to believers His Holy Spirit, Christ's perfect righteousness, and eternal life.
- We reject any suggestion that salvation is secured outside of the sovereign gracious work of the Holy Spirit and faith in Christ alone.

How is connecting with a Sunday School class going?

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CHURCH DISCIPLINE (30)



As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. (1Ti 5:20)

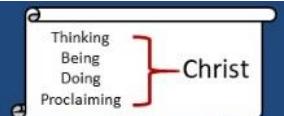
- Most people have negative thoughts when they hear the word discipline; however, the writer of Hebrews tells us, “And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.” (Heb 12:5-6). Discipline gives us assurance that we are part of God's family.
- The goal of church discipline is either restoration for the one who is saved or to show the individual that they are not saved and to bring them to Christ. This makes church discipline an act of love not hate.
- Preventative discipline includes the teaching and preaching of God's Word as well as counseling and encouragement to become a fully devoted follower of Christ.
- Formative discipline is for those who refuse to repent of a sin, it is corrective (Mat 18:15-17).

Will you live your life above reproach and strive to honor God in all aspects of your life?

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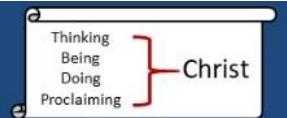
WHAT CONSTITUTES A CHURCH? (31)



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:24-25)

- I ask this question because it is becoming increasingly popular to abandon the church for a relationship with Christ and other believers.
- *ekklēsia* (ἐκκλησία), which is a derivative of “out” and “called.” Thus, the word connotes a group of people who have been called out to assemble.
- Is there an elder (or elders)? Who holds the office of overseer? Has the leader of the Bible study been examined to meet the Bible qualifications of an overseer? Is he a novice?
- Is the goal to create multigenerational relationships so that the disciple-making described in Titus 2 can happen?
- Does the group assemble on the day Christ rose from the dead?
- Are the ordinances of the church practiced?
- Is there a membership? – Is there a requirement to confess that Jesus is Lord? – Must I be baptized? Is there Matthew 18 church discipline?

Will you join me in this journey?



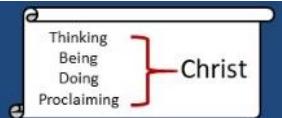
QUESTIONS

What “Steps Before First Class” topics did you have questions on or you could use more clarification?

- The Bible: God’s Holy Word (3)
- The Constitution (6)
- Church Covenant (8)
- God’s Plan of Salvation (10-11)
- Gospel Community (12)
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- B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S (29)



THE BIBLE: GOD'S HOLY WORD (3)



All Scripture is breathed out by God... (2Ti 3:16)

- At Berean, we believe the Bible to be God's Word which reveals the only hope for humanity, Jesus Christ (Tit 2:13). Furthermore, we believe Scripture to be entirely true in every sense because its author is God, who Himself is Truth (Isa 65:16, Heb 4:12).
- We believe that Scripture is God's special revelation to humanity in a unified narrative. That narrative ultimately leads to Jesus Christ, our Creator, Redeemer, Judge, and Lord, and is profound wisdom for the modern world. Furthermore, we see God's epic story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration, all through the Bible.
- We believe that every word in the original manuscripts of each book in the canon of Scripture was God-breathed without error, and is, therefore, useful for teaching, correction, reproof, and training in righteous living such that the man or woman of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Ti 3:16-17).
- We believe the Bible is the sole authority for the church and our final authority for faith, practice, and conduct. We are commanded to read the Bible both privately and publicly (1Th 5:27), and it must be the primary source document for all teaching and preaching in the church (Psa 1:2, 2Ti 4:2).

What do you believe about God's Word?

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THE CONSTITUTION (6)



The church constitution, plain and simple, is a man-made document created to establish how to govern the church. It is biblical only inasmuch as it reflects the truth of the Bible. You, the potential church member, will want to read the church constitution to determine if you think what it communicates is, in fact, in alignment with the truth of the Word of God and, in particular, the NT.

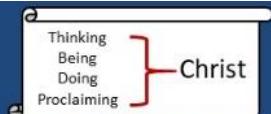
- The most important part of the constitution is Article III: Articles of Faith. Since Berean is not formally affiliated with a larger denominational entity, it is necessary for us to individually communicate what we believe to be true about the essentials of Christian doctrine—that is, the dogma of our religion. The Articles of Faith cover what we believe about the Bible, God, the Son, the Holy Spirit, Satan, sin and humanity, salvation, the church, and the end times.
- The constitution also contains the church covenant.
- The constitution explicitly outlines our formal membership.
- There is much in the constitution dealing with corporate governance. We own property, invest money, pay bills, borrow money, pay employees, provide insurance, and on and on. We are a Christian ministry and a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Because of this, the IRS requires specific things found in articles X through XVII.

Have you read the articles of faith yet?

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CHURCH COVENANT (8)



A covenant is a formal, solemn, and binding agreement: a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties: esp. for the performance of some action (Webster Dictionary)

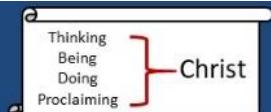
- All members of Berean make the same covenant before God and each other. You will find our covenant on the back cover of this booklet.
- Every New Testament (NT) church should hold to a covenant, “A NT church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth.” (Baptist Faith and Message 2000)
- A church covenant is a biblical standard which helps a church when practicing biblical church discipline.
- It also provides a pathway for members to exhort one another to live holy lives and a means to challenge brothers and sisters who persist in sin.
- We understand that our strength to live in accordance with this covenant comes only from God and not ourselves, through surrender to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit each day.

How do you feel about uniting with us at Berean through making this covenant?

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GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION (10-11)

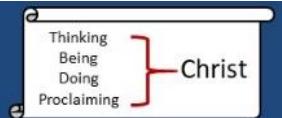


God of the Bible	Man the Sinner (Bad News)	Christ the Savior (Good News)	Man's Response (& Results)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triune God¹ (Mt 3:16-17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ God the Father ◦ The Son of God ◦ God the Holy Spirit • Creator God (Gen 1:1; Rom 1:25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ “Uncause² Cause”² (Rom 4:17b) ◦ God made mankind “in our Image” (Gen 1:26-27) • The Sovereign (1 Tim 6:15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Law-Giver³ (Gen 2:16-17) ◦ Omnipotent (Rev 19:6) ◦ Omniscent (Is 46:10) • God is Holy (Is 6:3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Just (De 32:4) ◦ Judge (Gen 18:25) ◦ Righteous (Psalm 11:7) ◦ Merciful (Ex 34:6-7; Eph 2:4) ◦ Love (Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8; 1 Jn 4:8) ◦ Angry (Ps 7:11) 	<p>God of the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triune God¹ (Mt 3:16-17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ God the Father ◦ The Son of God ◦ God the Holy Spirit • Creator God (Gen 1:1; Rom 1:25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ “Uncause² Cause”² (Rom 4:17b) ◦ God made mankind “in our Image” (Gen 1:26-27) • The Sovereign (1 Tim 6:15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Law-Giver³ (Gen 2:16-17) ◦ Omnipotent (Rev 19:6) ◦ Omniscent (Is 46:10) • God is Holy (Is 6:3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Just (De 32:4) ◦ Judge (Gen 18:25) ◦ Righteous (Psalm 11:7) ◦ Merciful (Ex 34:6-7; Eph 2:4) ◦ Love (Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8; 1 Jn 4:8) ◦ Angry (Ps 7:11) <p>Man the Sinner (Bad News)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall of Man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Adam and Eve ◦ 1st human sin (rebellion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gen 3:1-7; 15⁴ ◦ Death (Gen 2:17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical and Spiritual • God's Commandments (Beatitudes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ex 20:1-10; Mt 5 & 6; Mk 12:29-31 • You are a sinner⁵ (guilty before God) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Rom 3:10,19, 23; 5:8,12,18 • The wages of sin is death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Rom 5:12, 6:23a; Eph 2:1 • God's wrath abides on you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jn 3:36; Rom 1:18; Eph 2:3 • Unbelievers go to hell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Mt 10:28, 25:41; Rom 2:8-9; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Rev 21:8 • You must be born-again <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jn 3:3,5; 1 Peter 1:23 <p>Christ the Savior (Good News)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mt 16:16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sent from the Father as the only way to God (Mt 3:17; Jn 3:16, 8:16, 14:6; Acts 4:12) ◦ Born of a virgin (Mt 1:23) ◦ God Incarnate (1 Jn 4:2-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All God & Man (Jn 1:1,14) • The Gospel (Christ died for you⁶) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Christ knew no sin⁷ (2 Cor 5:21) ◦ Christ died for our sins⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jn 19:23; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3; ▪ 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jn 2:2 ◦ Christ was buried (Mt 27:60) ◦ Christ rose again (1 Cor 15:4) • More Good News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Gospel is a promise⁹ of salvation from God (Rom 1:2; Tit 1:2; 1 Jn 2:25) ◦ Christ is presently interceding for you (Advocate) (1 Jn 2:1) ◦ Christ is coming again (Acts 1:11) <p>Man's Response (& Results)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repentance¹⁰ (turn) toward God and Faith¹¹ (trust or belief) alone in the gospel are inseparable experiences of grace (gifts) and are what one must do to be saved.¹² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Mark 1:15 & Luke 13:3,5 ◦ Jn 1:12; 3:16,36; 20:31 ◦ Acts 3:19; 8:37; 11:18; 15:11,19; 16:31; 17:30; 20:21 ◦ Rom 1:1-2, 16; 6:23b; 10:9-10 ◦ Eph 2:8-9 & 1 Jn 5:1 • By God's grace salvation¹³ results in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Eternal Life (Jn 3:16) ◦ Conversion (Acts 3:19) ◦ Justification (Rom 1:17, 5:1, 8:1) ◦ Adoption (Rom 8:15) ◦ Being sealed with the Spirit (Eph 1:13) ◦ Being given spiritual gifts (Rom 12:4-6) ◦ Discipleship; Sanctification¹⁴ ◦ Preservation (Jude 1:1, 24-25) ◦ Glorification (Rom 8:30) 		

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GOSPEL COMMUNITY (12)



"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"
(Psa 133:1)

- Community is hard, because all relationships between sinners are difficult.
- We have to see that God is calling us to be a Gospel community.
- A Gospel community to the lost community around us.
- First century Christians would have seen community as essential to their survival (Acts 2:41-47).
- Our wealth in America has made it harder to see that the fellowship of believers needs community.
- "Household" here implies proximity, closeness, interdependence, a familial relationship. Believers are like a family.
- The good news is that we've been adopted into the household of God (Rom 8:15; 9:26; Gal 3:26).
- According to God's gifting and equipping each of us, God has designed us to live "on mission" together (Eph 4:11-17, 1Co 12:4-7). The mission we should be living on together, each and every day, is the Great Commission.

How are you living in Gospel community with other believers, using your gifting and equipping daily, to love, serve, and glorify God?



PROCLAIMING CHRIST (13)



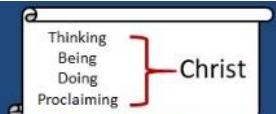
And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. (Mark 16:15)

- Proclaiming Christ in the 21st Century
- A motto is a short expression of a guiding principle, and for Berean, this short expression is "Proclaiming Christ!"
- What does it mean to proclaim Christ? To proclaim is to "declare publicly." (Merriam-Webster)
- "Let all the house of Israel, therefore, know for certain that God has made Him [Jesus] both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36).
- Today what we proclaim boldly and publicly is that the man Jesus, whom the Romans crucified, is the eternal Son of God.
- He was and is the final Anointed One who functions as our Prophet, Priest, and King.
- He is our Teacher, Savior, and Lord.
- When we proclaim Christ, we are declaring to the entire world that Jesus is the Lord and King who died for the sins of the whole world to be the ultimate Priest who offered Himself to pay for the sins of all who believe.

Is Jesus your Prophet, Priest, and King? If "yes" how do you know this?



LOCAL OUTREACH (14)



“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Mat 5:13-16)

- While His primary focus was preaching the good news of the kingdom of God, we also have numerous examples of Jesus healing others without any mention of sin or salvation.
- As we await His return, a primary agent of continuing that work on earth is the Body of Believers, the redeemed church, that seeks to honor Him and bring glory to His name and be imitators of Him to the degree to which we are able (1Co. 11:1).
- At Berean, we claim to be servants and students of Jesus Christ, collectively and individually. We try to live in such a way that reflects that. In any of the infinite number of bad situations that are constant reminders of living in a fallen world, we are God’s agents on the ground, His servants, indwelt by His Spirit, with access to the throne room, and the attention and affection of God bestowed upon us.

How is God using you in Gospel ministry? How are you serving the lost around us through love relationships?

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27



WORSHIP IN SONG (17)



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)

- One question many people ask themselves before visiting a church for the first time is, “Will I like the music?” But that’s the wrong question. What we should be asking is, “Does this church worship together and do the songs they choose represent God’s Word in Scripture’s language and tone?”
- We strive to worship God first and not man-made ideas of song preferences, style, and popularity.
- Our music is primarily congregational.
- We also strive to select songs that are obviously born out of Scripture.
- Who can participate in worship you might ask? Those who play instruments, sing, and some who help with technology behind the scenes.
- We sing songs that are hundreds of years old and songs that came out last week.
- We sing familiar songs of the faith and songs from church-friendly sources such as Sovereign Grace Music, the Getty’s, CityAlight, and more.

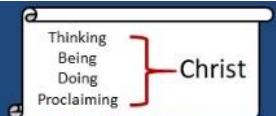
How is connecting with a Sunday School class going?

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28



BELIEVER'S BAPTISM (18)



In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:9-11)

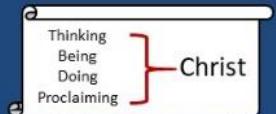
- In Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells the apostles to "go [into all the world] and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit." Shortly after that, the Apostle Peter instructs new followers of Christ to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2). Since then, and following Jesus' example, churches like the first one in Jerusalem have been baptizing converts to Christ by immersing them in water. Berean follows the pattern set forth by the Lord Himself when He entered the Jordan River, and He insisted that John the Baptist baptize Him.
- Our understanding that the Greek word *baptizō* (βαπτίζω) transliterated "baptize" means to immerse or submerge, that we, the church of Jesus, insist that the candidate for baptism be dipped or immersed in water.
- Believer's baptism is necessary before becoming a member of Berean.

Have you followed the Lord Jesus in believer's baptism?

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LORD'S SUPPER (19)



We believe that the Lord's Supper is an active, outward remembrance of Jesus' death; it should be observed periodically until He comes again and should always be preceded by self-examination (Mat 26:17-30; 1Co 11:23-28).

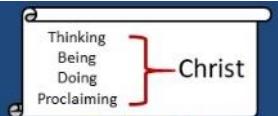
- We believe the Bible teaches that believers are spiritually strengthened in at least four ways by their active participation in the Lord's Supper. They—by faith—gain strength in:
 - Their knowledge of the remarkable love Jesus demonstrated toward them through His death.
 - The realization that their sins have been pardoned by the grace of God.
 - The awareness that they are part of a large spiritual family—the body of Christ.
 - Anticipation of the return of their Lord Jesus and the reality of everlasting life with God.
- Our communion table is both open and closed. It is open to born-again Christians, who have been baptized by immersion after salvation and are members in good standing of BBC or another Bible-believing, Christ-exalting, NT church (or are seeking God's will concerning church membership). It is closed to adults and children who have not repented and placed their faith in the Lord Jesus as their Savior; have yet to obey the Lord in believer's baptism and/or are living in blatant disobedience to the commandments of our Lord, being unworthy to partake (1Co 11:27).

Is there anything keeping you from participating in the next Lord's Supper?

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GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS (20)



And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mat 28:18-20)

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (Rom 10:14-15)

- Berean Baptist Church takes these commands from Jesus very seriously. We endeavor to support and encourage men and women who have felt the call to go and make disciples as their full-time work.
- We believe it must first start with our own body of believers here in Fayetteville and surrounding communities. Beyond our own neighborhoods, we support a variety of ministries and missionaries.
- We have an Acts 1:8 focus on missions where we focus in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the Ends of the Earth. We have missionary partners across the world.

What do you think about joining the Berean family as we support our missionary partners?

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31



GIVING THROUGH THE CHURCH FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM (21)



What are we to do with giving today, since we are not in the OT or the NT?

- The tithe does come from the OT, but it seems like a good place to start the conversation.
- What is demonstrated in the NT is that individuals gave willingly, sacrificially, lovingly, and worshipfully to the God who redeemed them. (If you would like to research more passages about giving, check out Gal 6:6-10, Eph 4:28, 1Ti 5:17-18, and 1Jo 3:17.)
- What will Berean do with the money that I give?
 - As a congregationally-accountable church, we believe it is essential to be transparent with the membership about how we use the money that has been given.
 - We take 10% of all that has been given to us and allocate it for mission partners and projects. This enables every giver to be able to participate in global missions.
 - Additionally, we devote 1% of our general fund giving and place it into a benevolence account.
 - Whenever the benevolence account drops below \$35,000, we resume placing 1% of the offerings into the account. The remaining 89% of offerings goes to the annual budget voted on by the membership each year.

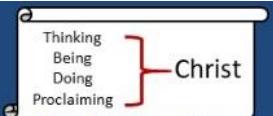
Would you consider yourself one who gives willingly, sacrificially, lovingly, and worshipfully to God who redeemed us?

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32



RECOVERING BIBLICAL MANHOOD (23)



“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.” (1Co 11:3)

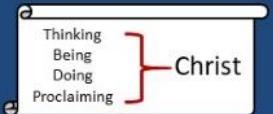
- In a day of unprecedented gender confusion, Berean remains committed to the reality that in the beginning, God created them male and female – both in God's image, but nevertheless different.
- God has ordained that males lead in both the church and home. This is not to disparage the role of women in either institution, but the Bible is clear. God created Adam first and then Eve to complete Adam.
- We take a complementarian perspective, that men and women have different roles and responsibilities. Males must assume the leadership calling and the role God has directed and then live up to their calling.
- At Berean, only males serve as pastors, elders, and deacons. This does not mean women cannot teach or serve, but we follow Paul's admonishment in 1 Timothy 2:12, **“I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.”** And this does not mean women do not have input in the decisions in the church or home. Husbands must live in submission to the Lordship of Christ and live as the servant-leaders that Christ modeled for all, but especially males.

Do you want to be a part of a church that still supports biblical gender roles and distinctions?

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TITUS 2 WOMEN (24)



But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine...Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (Tit 2:1-5)

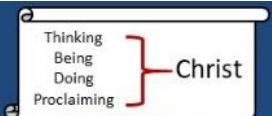
- At Berean, we emphasize this Titus 2 charge for women. This calling to live out and teach sound doctrine along with godly living through mentorship is the foundation on which the Berean Ladies' Ministry is established. There are several specific character traits of a “Titus 2” woman that we seek to reflect in our own “behavior” and in “teaching what is good” to others (Titus 2:3).
 - A Titus 2 Woman: Loves her husband and children • Stays pure and self-controlled • Manages her home well • Practices kindness and hospitality • Is submissive to authority
- Throughout the year the women of Berean facilitate and engage in:
 - Bible Studies and Workshops • Sunday School Classes • Retreats • Conferences • Fellowship Activities • Meals • Wedding/Baby Showers • Community Outreach
- We strive to achieve this biblical mandate of living out and teaching sound doctrine through personal, intimate relationship development with a goal of discipling as its mission, older with the younger.

How are you living as a Titus 2 woman?

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NURSERY AND STUDENT MINISTRY (25)



At Berean, we take seriously the instruction of Deuteronomy 6:5-7, that we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and might and teach the commands of Scripture to our children. This is first and foremost the responsibility of the family, but as a church, we strive to partner with the parents in the discipleship and evangelism of our children.

- To ensure the safety and security within our BBC Children's Ministry, BBC has partnered with KidCheck to bring you the best experience at check-in. On Sunday mornings, at the 8:30 and 10:45 services, we host Powerhour (our children's church) for student's aged K5-4th grade.
- During the Sunday school hour, children of all ages work through Generations of Grace curriculum.
- Wednesday evening is AWANA club night. AWANA is an acronym for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15.
- Older students in 7th-12th grades have a combined youth group that meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm in the youth building.
- On Sunday mornings, the 7th-8th grade students split off from the 9th-12th students during the Sunday school hour for another time of discipleship.

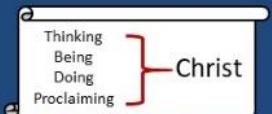
Does this sound like the environment you would want your children to be part of?

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35



CORPORATE SERVICE SABBATHS (27)



So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Gen 2:3)

And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Mat 11:28-30)

- God established the Sabbath in His resting after creation as He saw that it was good, but Jesus brings a whole new depth to the understanding of Sabbath in the NT. To a disciple of Jesus, Sabbath is more than one day a week. Sabbath rest is the surrendering of life to put God first, pausing from the regular life activities to intentionally rest in the worship of God.
- At BBC, we try to equip each member to live a life with Sabbath balance. In creating this Sabbath environment corporately, we have and will always provide opportunities of corporate worship.
- In a typical year, we have over 200 opportunities for our church to assemble for worship, preaching, and/or Bible study on Sundays and Wednesdays.

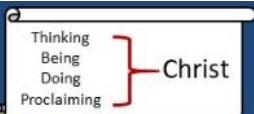
Are you living a Christlike life with a Sabbath balance?

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36



OUR CITIZENSHIP, HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY (28)



But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Phi 3:20)

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jer 29:7)

- As believers, our identity is firmly grounded as citizens of Heaven. Heaven will be our eternal home. But as we are still living out the mission of God here on earth, we will also be citizens of a country. So, our heavenly citizenship defines us, but as we are called to be good stewards, we need to be good stewards of the nation in which we reside. A citizen is someone who officially belongs to a nation, follows the rule of that land, and has their rights and protection.
- People should know that our eternal residence resides with God as we are salt and light in this dark world. When others think about us, their first thought has to be that we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. They should see that we identify first and foremost as God's.
- So, in a sense, we have a heavenly and earthy dual citizenship. But clearly, our big "C" Citizenship is in heaven with our little "c" citizenship here on earth. As a disciple of Jesus, our earthly citizenship does not affect our heavenly citizenship, but as a citizen of heaven, everything is affected, here and now, as well as for all of eternity.

How are you striving to be an engaged citizen of Heaven and striving to be an engaged earthly citizen?

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B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S (29)



Being Baptist is part of who we are at Berean. You have already read many of the characteristics of being Baptist through this booklet. To help make some of those key characteristics of who we are easier to remember, we have created an acronym out of the word Baptist. Each letter, B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S, connects to an important belief.

- B – Bible: Baptists believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- A – Autonomy: Baptists believe in the autonomy of the local church.
- P – Priesthood: Baptists believe in the individual priesthood of each believer in Jesus Christ.
- T – Two Offices: Baptists believe there are two offices in the local church: pastor/elder and deacon.
- I – Individual Soul Liberty: Baptists respect the differences individuals may have on issues, preferences, standards, and convictions.
- S – Saved Church Membership: Baptists insist upon regenerate (converted or born again) church membership.
- T – Two Ordinances: Baptists believe that the church should have only two ordinances, Believers Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- S – Separation: Baptists insist upon the separation of the church and state.

Why do you want to be known as a Baptist?

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