



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET

Our Vision:

We are a church in Orange County teaching the gospel to **make, mature, and multiply disciples** of Jesus Christ who reach neighborhoods and nations.

Our Mission:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded."

Matthew 28:19-20

OUR SERVICES

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Sundays at 11 AM | FAMILY WORSHIP & MESSAGE

Gather with us In-person as a local body of Christ

Every 3rd Sunday at 11 AM | LORD'S SUPPER

All baptized believers are welcome to participate

Every 2nd Sunday Afternoon or Evening | REACH DAY

Relationally-focused ministry for Fellowship & Outreach

SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY | SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM

Ages are Preschool - 1st Grade, 2nd - 5th Grade

CO-ED ADULT STUDY | SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM

Join us as we study & discuss God's Word together

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS | WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

Gather at the Fire Pit or Pastor's house for Bible Study

FBCC WOMEN | WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

Women's Group is for youth & adult ages of women

FBCC MEN | WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

Men's Group is for youth & adult ages of men

Check out our Church website or Monthly Bulletin for more ways to connect and grow at www.fbccypress.com.

Membership

We're glad you've chosen to invest in First Baptist Church. This class is the introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different backgrounds, this class clearly explains what our church believes, who we are, and what our purpose is about.

*"You are a **member** of God's very own **family**... and you belong in **God's household** with every other Christian." **Ephesians 2:19***

Jonathan Leeman says in his book *Church Membership*,
"The local church is the **authority on earth** that Jesus has instituted to officially affirm and give shape to my Christian life and yours."
([Matthew 18](#); [20:25-28](#); [Acts 2:5-11](#); [27-45](#); [5:1-13](#); [6:1-2](#); [8:3](#); [13:4](#); [14:20-23](#); [18:23-21:26](#))

What is our Sin Problem?

Man has a natural desire to SIN and to ignore God's principles for living. We do our own thing and may say, "It's my life and I'll do what I please" or "If it feels good, do it — regardless of what God says".

*"**All of us**, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way."
Isaiah 53:6*

*"If we say that we never sin, we are only **fooling ourselves**, and refuse to accept the truth." **1 John 1:8***

Salvation

*“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promises.” **Galatians 3:26-28***

Can we earn Salvation?

Entering God’s family is not by good works, good behavior, going to Church, or even being created by God.

[\(John 1:12-13, John 3:3, John 3:36, John 6:44\)](#)

*“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God** - not by works, so that non one can boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9***

What changes took place when I was Saved?

- JUSTIFICATION — a change of standing — before God
- REGENERATION — a change of nature — from God
- REPENTANCE — a change of mind — about God
- CONVERSION — a change of life — for God
- ADOPTION — a change of family — in God
- SANCTIFICATION — a change of service — unto God
- GLORIFICATION — a change of place — with God

What else did I receive at salvation?

- MERCY — You did not get what you deserve
- GRACE — You received what you did not deserve

What does God want me to do?

*“If you confess that Jesus is Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9***

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12***

What is a Christian?

A Christian is someone who has heard the good news of the Gospel, has been convicted of sin, convinced by the Holy Spirit the need of a Savior. A Christian turns away from sin, and by God's grace, has been restored to a newness of life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ. Because of His love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children - this was God's pleasure and purpose.”

Ephesians 1:1-4

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At First Baptist Church we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible commands every Christian to do. The process of becoming a church member may reflect the steps below before taking on responsibilities found in the Membership Church Covenants.

- **RECEIVE** Jesus Christ as Savior and profess Him as Lord
- **OBEY** the practice of Baptism and Discipleship
- **JOIN** a new members class to discuss the church statements, strategy and structure
- **COMMIT** my life of following Jesus Christ and serve as a member and disciple-maker

THE FOUR CHURCH COVENANTS

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT... is to Christ and to His Church.

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

2. THE MATURITY COVENANT... is to practice Habits necessary for growth.

"Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18

"Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit."

1 Timothy 4:7

3. THE MINISTRY COVENANT ... is to discover and use Spiritual gifts and abilities in Serving God and others.

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..." 1 Peter 4:10

4. THE MISSIONS COVENANT... is a to Share the Good News with others in my neighborhood and in all nations.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reasons for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

THE STRUCTURE OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions but its foundation is the biblical model and structure given by Christ's teachings and work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church leaders.

I. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP.

Members Meetings allows you to cooperate with other believers by conducting church business and discuss ministry to advance the kingdom

II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

MEMBERS OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONSHIPS **NOT** RULES.

"Don't reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters..." 1 Timothy 3:4-5

- The People are the "MINISTERS."
- The Pastors are the "ADMINISTRATORS."

DO WE AFFILIATE WITH A DENOMINATION?

As a church, we support three organizations voluntarily. Being a Southern Baptist Church means that we are an independent, local, Bible-believing church that chooses to cooperate with:

- **The Orange County Baptist Association** (Local)
- **The California Baptist Convention** (State-wide)
- **The Southern Baptist Convention** (Nation-wide)

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

It is the *largest* association of Christian churches in California and in America.

One out of every ten churches in America is affiliated with the SBC, (40,000 churches and 15 million members - more than most other denominations combined).

What is our Statement of Faith?

This Church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message" as most recently adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as an affirmation of our basic Christian beliefs and as a general statement of our faith.

"It is the purpose of this statement of faith and message to set forth certain teachings which we believe." [To view the full version visit: <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>]

Bible as Our Sole Authority

We accept the Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the ultimate authority in matters of faith doctrine and Christian living.

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out helps us to do what is right." **2 Timothy 3:15**

Autonomy of Each Local Church

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. It is by the governing documents of this Church that we adhere to and should always be interpreted and applied in conformity with the Bible. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

"Christ is the head of his Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life..."
Colossians 1:18

Priesthood of Every Believer

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

"Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God..." **Revelation 1:6**

"You are...the King's priests... God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." **1 Peter 2:9**

Tithing

WAYS TO GIVE

1. always a portion (10%+) = TITHE
2. sometimes a sacrifice = OFFERING

OUR OFFERINGS GIVE TO...



We practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our increase is the Biblical standard of giving. We always give a portion and sometimes a sacrifice for our Offering Funds for church ministries.

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." **Leviticus 26: 30**

Ordinances

We practice baptism by immersion under water – the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ..." **Colossians 2:12**

We also regularly take of the Lord's Supper as symbolic service toward Christ's sacrifice of His death, burial and resurrection that gives believers the forgiveness of sins and salvation.

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." **1 Corinthians 11:26**

Spirit-led Living & Affirmation

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. We seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. Every pastor, staff member and church member by virtue of their membership affirms their agreement with this statement and agrees to conduct themselves in a manner with which it is consistent.

"Jesus said, 'I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.'"
John 15:5

Telling Others About Christ

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



FBC CYPRESS MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and agreeing with First Baptist Church's Statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by The Holy Spirit to unite with the family of First Baptist Church. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other Members to do the following:

_____ I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

1. By acting in love toward other members
2. By refusing to gossip
3. By following the leaders and vision of the church

*"Live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." **Romans 15:5***

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." **Ephesians 4:29***

Obey your leaders and submit to their 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

_____ I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

1. By praying for spiritual growth and expansion
2. By inviting the un-churched to be discipled
3. By consistently welcoming all people who attend

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

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

FBC CYPRESS MEMBERSHIP GOALS

_____ I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

1. By discovering my Spiritual gifts and serving on Ministry Team
2. By being active in spirit-led decisions for church functions.
3. By developing a servant's heart for disciple-making

"Each of you should look not only your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ who took on the very nature of a servant..." **Philippians 2:3-4, 7**

_____ I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

1. By attending faithfully and remaining active
2. By living a godly life consistently with the church
3. By giving regularly to the ministry and operations

"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 worthy of the gospel of Christ." **Philippians 1:27**

A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.' **Leviticus 27:30**

WAYS TO SERVE

pray about your church involvement & contact a team leader to serve

WORSHIP & MEDIA:



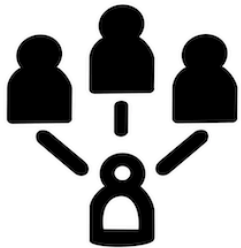
DISCIPLESHIP



LEADERSHIP & STAFF



N.E.T



PRAYER



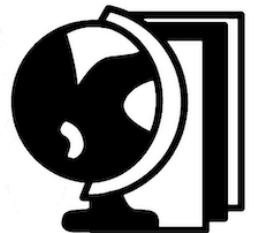
HOSPITALITY



ENCOURAGER



MISSIONS



We ask you to willingly serve where God has led and gifted you in the ministry of the Church. Our ministry depends on the support and responsibility of all members who work as volunteers every week and throughout the year.

Ministry Staff, Team Coordinators, and Teachers must be a member of FBC Cypress for 1 year or more to serve.

The church is always needing dedicated people for evangelism & outreach, children's & youth workers, and people who love to pray.