

**NEW LIFE EXPRESSION
DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Session 1

Path of Life

*“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy;
at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” Ps 16:11*

New Life Expression

Discovering the Path of Life

Session 1

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Life Church of Rock Run! This Path of Life class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what Life Church is about.

Discovering Church Membership is made up of two classes, *New Life Experience* and *New Life Expression*. You are now in New Life Expression, session 1. Each session is approximately one hour and is taught by our pastoral team.

The New Life Expression class is two sessions. This class is intended to clearly define a biblical Christian lifestyle in the life of a Believer. The expression of a biblical Christian life is a result of a New Birth experience. Life Church membership is a combination of both a New Life Experience as recorded in (Acts 2:38), and a New Life Expression of Holiness in the life of a believer (Hebrews 6:1). Lets open up our bibles and walk down the Path Of Life together.

Session 1 Outline

I. New Life Expression – Session #1

“A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission produces a Great Church.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

I. Great Commandment

A. Personal Devotions

1. Prayer
2. Fasting
3. Worship
4. Bible Reading

B.

1. Love
2. Unity
3. Fellowship
4. Financial Stewardship
5. Attendance

The Great Commandment of the Church

Personal Devotion

I. Prayer

The examples of Jesus and the apostles make it clear to us that prayer is important and powerful. The Bible also gives us scriptural clues to the power of prayer. Add to these theological proofs the modern-day examples of prayer's power to heal the sick and foster revival and growth among the saints and you have an equation that demands we give ample emphasis to prayer. God is still working in this world among those who know the power of prayer!

A. Consistent Daily Prayer

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint** ;

Luke 18:1 ...always pray and not give up. NIV

1. Men should always pray! We pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17)
2. Prayer is the source of our strength.
Jude 20 *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"*
3. Prayer is God's means to communicate with His people.

B. Keep an Attitude of Prayer

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore **be clear minded and self-controlled** so that you can pray. NIV

"watch" Attitude of godliness, holiness

The word "*watch*" points to temperance, abstinence from strong drinks, and intoxication. (from The Pulpit Commentary)

Our reaction to trouble and stress should not be to escape in any way by dulling the senses to pressure. This is the way of the world. A Christians response and attitude to trouble is to Pray.

C. Prayer that prevails of the Enemy - Spiritual Warfare

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Eph 6:18

- a. Perseverance
- b. Supplications – petitions for the Saints
- c. Ministry

D. Prayer's Effect on Salvation

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:15-16

- a. Prayer is the answer to “sickness”
 - b. We confess our faults, slips, sins, to God and our spiritual man is restored
 - c. Prayer saves others!
- E. Teach us to Pray (Luke 11:1-4)
- a. Disciples desired to *learn* to Pray
 - b. Pray! Not just learn about prayer...but Pray!
 - c. One Hour? “*What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*” Matt 26:40

Fasting

Fasting is one of the most powerful and effective forces we can use against the enemy. The rewards of fasting are numerous and we will cover only some of those in this lesson. I hope to point out the importance, effectiveness, and essentiality of fasting. This is a most helpful scriptural practice for every Christian.

- A. Fasting is the answer to a self-indulgent life
- Noah’s Day (Matthew 24:36-39)
 - Sodom & Gomorrah had “fullness of bread” (Ezekiel 16:49)
 - Israel’s snare was indulgence (1 Corinthians 10:6-7)

While no one would condemn the legitimate practice of eating and drinking, the problem is in the excess and lack of discipline in fasting. God uses the biblical practice of fasting to bring Spiritual discipline into our lives.

- B. WHAT IS FASTING
1. Webster: fasting is to keep from eating all or certain foods, to eat very little or nothing.
 2. Fasting comes from the Hebrew word TSUWM, meaning to cover the mouth, to fast.
 3. The Greek word for fasting is NESTIS, which means not eating, to abstain from food.
- C. Fasting is NOT...
1. A Dieting process
 2. Missing a meal of two because you are too rushed to eat.
 3. A hunger strike to motivate action for a cause
 4. For physical health alone
- D. Biblical Fasting IS...
1. A mental and vocal declaration of doing without food in order to achieve spiritual strength, answers, and direction for ourselves and for others.
 2. Fasting can and does assist in receiving the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:1-48)
 - Cornelius and his household receive the Holy Ghost
 - The Church fasts for souls to be Born Again
- E. Devils of some types are cast out by Prayer & Fasting
“...This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.” Mark 9:14

Worship

“...True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth...God is a spirit...must worship him in spirit and in truth.” Jn 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

- Singing (Eph. 5:19)
- Lifting Hands (Psalms 134:2)
- Playing Instruments (II Samuel 6:5)

- Clapping and Shouting (Psalms 47:1)
 - Dancing (Psalms 150:4)
 - Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)
 - Praying (Ps. 95:6)
 - Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
 - Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
1. Praise is the Fruit of our Lips
 Heb 13:15 *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”*

 Praise is acknowledging the harvest of blessing in our lives from God.
 2. Praise & Worship is meant to be a visible demonstrative display of love to God.
 3. Worship is a part of every place the gospel is preached (Mark 14:9)
 4. You receive personal strength in your acts of worship (Ps. 8:2; Matt 21:16)

Bible Reading

Acts 17:11 *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*

Daily reading and studying scripture produces a good and godly character that is well balanced and fair-minded. Though our natural man is biased against truth, a heart and mind that readily receives the Word of God is strengthened in righteousness and established in the ways of God.

- A. Bible Reading and Study...
 - Keeps me from sin (Psalms 119:11)
 - Is revealed by the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:10-13)
 - Gives me true and right instruction for guiding my life (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - Is essential to instruction into eternal life (1 John 5:13-15; John 5:39)
 - Testify of Jesus Christ, the one who is our example for living (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)
- B. Making Bible reading a Habit in your life by...
 - Reading it daily (Acts 17:11)
 - Memorizing Scripture (Ps. 119:9-11)
 - Meditate on scripture (Ps. 1:2-3)
 - Hear it! (Romans 10:17)

II. Church Family / Corporate Devotions

(Acts 2:42-47)

42 *And they **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.***

43 *And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

44 *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*

45 *And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*

46 *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*
47 *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

Love

*“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples **that you have love for one another.**”*
John 13:35

- A. We have the love that comes from, and is of God...“Agape” Love. This is the highest form and the deepest expression of love as given to us in the Bible.
1. Love is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-31)
 2. Love is strong
 - a. Strong enough to help me love my enemies (Luke 6:35)
 - b. Love can only respond in a loving, good, and kind way (Romans 12:20-21)
 3. My actions reveal my depth of love for my Brother
 4. Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
- B. Love is Superior to all the Spiritual Gifts (1Corinthians 13:13)
There is no greater attribute a church can possess than that of Love.
1 Cor 13:13 *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”*
- C. Brotherly Love in the church is seen in our
- Forgiveness – we have Christ as our example
 - Acts of kindness for one another
 - Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:1-2)
 - Christ is our example for loving our brother (1 John 3:16)

Unity

(Eph 4:3-6)

3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

The Church is designed by God to be in Unity with one another

1. **The Church is a Body** A place to Care and be Cared for (1 Cor. 12)
2. **The Church is a Garden** A place to Grow (1 Cor. 3:9)
3. **The Church is a Building** A place of Protection & Strength (1 Cor. 3:10)
4. **The Church is a Family** A place to be Accepted (1 Peter 2:9-10)

1 Peter 2:9-10

“9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

*10 Which **in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”*

We operate on the basis of Relationship not Rules (Galatians 6:10)

There is no possible way a believer can be in conflict with another believer unless he is walking after the flesh and is in a backslidden condition. There are just some things that are contrary to love and joy and peace that hurt and damage the body...

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11, Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18, Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

Fellowship

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

"So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays DIFFERENCES.

*"(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...**"* 1 Cor. 11:17-18

Financial Stewardship

My Giving Reveals my Spiritual Maturity

"Just as you excel in everything else ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness ... see that you also excel in the grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7)

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

- The Bible talks more about GIVING than it does about either HEAVEN or HELL?
- Over HALF of the parables Jesus told have to do with the subject of MONEY?
- There are more promises in the Bible related to GIVING than to any other subject?
- Your giving is VERY IMPORTANT to God – and to your SPIRITUAL LIFE?

KEY BIBLE WORDS			
Believe	Pray	Love	Give
used 272 times	used 371 times	used 714 times	used 2162 times

Seven Reasons Why I Should Tithe

1. Because God commands it.
"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." (Lev. 27:30)
2. Tithing shows that God has first place in my life.
"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life." (Deuteronomy 14:23)
3. Tithing reminds me that all I have is from God!
"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth." (Deuteronomy 8:18)
4. It expresses my gratitude for what I have been given.
"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" (Psa. 116:12)

"Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." (Deuteronomy 16:17)
5. Refusing to tithe is actually like stealing from God!
"God says 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says 'In tithes and offerings ... Bring your whole tithe to My house.'" (Malachi 3:8-10)
6. Tithing gives God an opportunity to bless me!
"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)
7. Tithing proves my love for God.
"(Jesus said) If you really love me, do what I command." (John 14:15)
"... I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving ... This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words." (2 Corinthians 8:7-8)

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

The first part of what I earn I give as my tithe, not the left-overs.

A Tithe is 10% of our income. Anything beyond our tithe is offerings.

"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income." (Proverbs 3:9-10)

WHERE SHOULD I TITHE?

Where I worship and get fed spiritually.

"Bring your whole tithe to My Storehouse ..." (Malachi 3:10)

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE?

When I go to worship each week.

"On the first day of every 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)

HOW SHOULD I TITHE?

Willingly - *"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure ..." (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Joyfully - *"... for God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Generously - *"They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." (2 Corinthians 8:3)*

Expectantly - *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously." (2 Cor. 9:6)*

Faithful Attendance

1. The Church is God's plan and idea
Christ Himself builds the Church (Matt. 16:18)
2. The Church is the place where my spiritual man is fed and I grow in the Lord
3. We are Commanded not to forsake the gathering together

The Writer of Hebrews (Heb. 10:25) stresses several reasons for Believers to be faithful in church attendance and church worship. We are to assemble together and never to forsake our assembling, not even to neglect it for a brief period of time. This is the meaning of this scripture.

Heb 10:25 *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

4. The church is a place for me to serve as well as be served. (Ga. 5:13; Jn. 13:14)
5. The church is a "house of prayer". The Apostles prayed at the House of the Lord (Acts 3:1)
6. It builds a strong relationship with God's family (Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:16)

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Session 2

Path of Life

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Discovering the Path of Life

Session 2

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Session 2 Outline

I. New Life Expression – Session #2

*“A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the **Great Commission** produces a Great Church.” (Matthew 22:36-40)*

II. Great Commission

A. Personal Disciplines

1. Principles of Holiness
2. Practice of Holiness
 - a. Inward Holiness
 - b. Outward Holiness

B. Personal Evangelism: Communicate God's Word

C. Spirit Ministries

D. New Life Expression Covenant

The Great Commission of the Church

I. Personal Disciplines

Heb 6:1 *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,”*

Principles of Holiness

A. Threefold Basis for Holiness

1. Faith (Ephesians 2:8-10) We are his workmanship unto good works
2. Love (John 1:15) 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.
3. Holy Spirit (Romans 8:3-4) Righteousness fulfilled in those walking after the Spirit

B. Separation - We observe the principle of Separation from the World

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye **separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (II Corinthians 6:17-18).*

Personal Holiness is a blessing to the believer that is accompanied by Promises.

*“Having **therefore these promises**, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God” Cor. 7:1*

1. Salvation requires Holiness and Separation (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1)
2. Our righteous works don't bring us salvation, but they are a result of our Salvation!
3. Live temperate in all things. Exercise self control and restraint.

C. Principles of Holiness are Timeless - Principles of Scripture are good for all men at all times!

- Modesty
- Purity
- Filthiness - abstain from things that are “filthy” (Eph. 5:3-4)
- Abomination: an Abomination is something that God hates

It is clear that God meant for the teaching ministry in every generation to identify those sins that are common or unique to that period.

D. The Bible teaches that a genuine Christian will express a noticeable “external witness” of holiness when “internal holiness” is present in the heart. (Matthew 5:26; James 2:14-24)

E. The more mature I become in my lifestyle of holiness, the more God can use me.

(2 Tim 2:20-21) *“20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use].*

21 So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.” AMP

As our society moves further away from God it is also moving further away from His holiness principles. Even some church groups have now decided to ignore the Bible's call for a holy lifestyle change in believers. However, just because immodesty and immorality are accepted by society, or even by religion, does not change God's opinion!

Developing A Life of Holiness

A. Personal pursuit of Holiness - Have personal Convictions

2 Cor 7:1 "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**"

Rom 14:5 "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. **Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.**"

- Holiness cannot...and should not be legislated. It must be in your heart
- The Holy Ghost will teach you as you walk with God

B. Ministry & Men of God - God given ministry in our lives

Eph 4:11-12

"11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

You as one called by Jesus Christ are called to **perfect holiness** and I as a one called by Jesus Christ to pastor, teach, and lead am called to **perfect saints** to be ready for his coming!

Practice of Holiness

A. Attitude & Thought

Eph 4:30-32

"30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Attitudes are the most important element of Holiness. If our attitude toward God and our brother is right then, his holiness will be manifested in other areas of our lives.

Fruit of the Spirit:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| • Love | • Longsuffering | • Faith |
| • Joy | • Gentleness | • Meekness |
| • Peace | • Goodness | • Temperance |

Evil Attitudes of the flesh and disobedience:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Hatred | • Bitterness | • Vengeance |
| • Wrath | • Pride | • Discord |
| • Jealousy | • Prejudice | • Rebellion |

B. Eyes

We must guard our eyes as the gate of the soul and the primary source of input for the mind. We should choose reading material with care so that we do not saturate our minds with vulgarity, sensuality, and sin. Because of the violence, illicit sex, sinfulness, bad language and vanity that dominate television, movies and the internet, we must severely limit our exposure to such media.

1. The Eye is the Window of the Soul

Matt 6:22-23

“22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Psychologist's studies have shown that 90% of our thought life is stimulated by what we see.

2. The Eye is one of the three major in-roads of sin and worldliness. (1 John 2:16)

3. Taking pleasure in viewing the sins of others makes you guilty as well. (Romans 1:32)

C. The Tongue

*“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of **the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**”* Luke 6:45

The Tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control (James 3:8)

- Gossip
- Evil Speaking
- Backbiting
- Lying
- Cursing
- Suggestive Speech
- Criticizing
- Complaining
- Slander

D. Body

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 3:16). Therefore we avoid anything that would harm or defile the body, including anything that would cause intoxication or addiction. In light of the biblically described evils of alcohol, we must abstain from it. In view of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco and hallucinogenic drugs are defiling and harmful, we must not use them.

E. Sexual Immorality

The Bible condemns all sexual relationships and activity outside of marriage between one man and one woman. The Bible opposes lustful thoughts and actions.

F. Sanctity of Life

Christians must not participate in violence or taking of human life. This includes abortion, euthanasia, murder and suicide.

G. Entertainment / Amusement

1 Thess 5:22-23

"22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Because of the sinfulness of the world today and because of the biblical warnings against loving the world, we must carefully and maturely regulate our music, sports, activities, and amusements. We must avoid excessive worldly atmospheres and appearances.

Some activities are worldly by their very nature, such as gambling, dancing, and the theater. These amusements must be viewed as inappropriate for Christian participation.

1 John 2:15 *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

H. Hair

The Bible teaches that men should have short hair and that women should have long uncut hair. God desires us to do this both to maintain a distinction between the sexes and to illustrate our obedience to Him with the only physical characteristic that men and women have the power to change...our hair.

1 Cor 11:13-15

"13 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering." NKJV

1 Cor 11:6 *"If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head."* NIV

I. Appearance & Adornment

1 Tim 2:8-10

"8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

The Bible establishes several principles in relation to our apparel and adornment. These principles include:

- Distinction of sexes in our clothing (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 11)
- Modesty of clothing (1 Timothy 2:8-10)
- Moderation in the cost of clothing (1 Peter 3:3-5)
- Avoidance of Jewelry and makeup that serve only as ornamentation for the body.

By applying these timeless biblical principles to our apparel in our modern culture, we are choosing to be pleasing to God. The Bible is teaching men to be masculine and women to be modest and feminine. We avoid women wearing pants which are the most distinguishable garment for a man and enhance masculine actions. When considering modest apparel we avoid clothing that inappropriately exposes the body (ie. Sleeveless and tight garments. We should wear clothing at appropriate lengths which are below the knees and do not expose the thigh. Consider necklines that are too low. For the reason of modesty we do not swim with the opposite sex. Modesty is not conditional. We should avoid colored makeup and non-functional jewelry, extravagantly expensive clothes.

The proper question is not “do I have to” but “What would be most pleasing to God the Lord”

- Men who look and act like the opposite sex, without homosexual acts.
- Applies to Men and Women Alike
- Effeminacy means to look and act like the other sex in all things

Continual Growth Process

Desire & Power to live Holy

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both **to will** and **to do** of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13)

1. Relative Perfection: A Child that is in varied stages of development, it can be said “they are perfect”. If they cease to grow then perfection is lost
2. The buds on a tree, Apple buds, in the spring...though it is not an apple yet doesn't mean it is imperfect
3. People develop at different rates: We must have tolerance toward people as they grow
 - Christian Backgrounds vs. non-Christian or even atheist
 - Pastor & Church backgrounds
 - Some have been taught around a personality of a man
 - Some have been taught with a strong Biblical foundation
 - Others haven't been exposed to growth
4. We must not use our backgrounds to not grow: Let us go on!

Heb 6:1 “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,**”
5. We must not Judge Others
6. Judge yourself

II. Personal Evangelism

Our Commission to Evangelize is only as effective as our life of holiness and purity unto the Lord. Without a Personal Expression of Jesus Christ, our Personal Evangelism is Ineffective.

- A. We fulfill the great Commission first of all through our personal lifestyle or Lifestyle Evangelism. We are all called to seek and save the lost making disciples from all nations. It was not only the eleven Jesus was speaking to as he was about to depart in the heavens, but the 500 that stood alongside them. We are all witnesses! (Acts 1:8)
- B. We fulfill the Great Commission through the local church. We participate in Community outreach, revivals, church ministries, as well as the numerous open doors of opportunity to evangelize our community and the world around us.

II. Spirit Ministries

The Spirit ministries of Life Church are those ministries that intentionally reflect core biblical values and the values which Life Church holds dear. These values are taught by example as well as through formal methods. These ministries include but are not exclusive too.

- Choir
- Class room teachers
- Musicians
- Department Heads
- Ministry Leaders
- Pulpit Ministries

1 Thess 5:11-13

"11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

*12 And we beseech you, brethren, to **know them which labour** among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

Ministry is for the express purpose of building up, teaching, instructing, comforting. There is a tremendous amount of influence as a result of that kind ministry in the church. For this cause we must "know them" that labor and work in positions of leadership ministry. They are in a position that greatly influences the direction of a church and the people who attend. We must "know" that these places of ministry are filled by people who are committed to same biblical values that are taught and expressed from the pastor.

What It Means To Be A Member

At Life Church we recognize the need for a formal path of membership. The New Life Experience and New Life Expression Covenants are an essential part of Life Church Membership. We ask you to covenant with Life Church for four reasons:

I. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church

"...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it." Eph. 5:25

II. A Cultural 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 and hoppers". It is an unselfish decision of commitment and commitment always builds character.

III. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

IV. A Personal 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. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

At Life Church of Rock Run we never ask our member to do more than the Bible teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities have been taught in Path Of Life Class as well as pastoral teaching. They are also a part of our Membership Covenant.

