

NEW BEGINNING





WELCOME

CONGRATULATIONS! You completed phase 1 of our Member Assimilation Program, now we're on phase 2. We are grateful that you have decided to continue this journey with us.

Phase 2 is a great learning environment for anyone who just made the best decision of their life, or even someone who simply needs to strengthen their walk with Christ.

We are excited to continue to see you flourish in your walk in this New Beginning.

Pastor Javier & Cynthia Buelna
Lead Pastors

OBJECTIVE

Welcome to the beginning of your new journey in the Kingdom of God here at **RTL**A. As a new believer it is necessary to give you guidance and understanding on how to build a *personal relationship* with God. Our desire is that you understand the difference between *religion and relationship* and how to develop your personal relationship with God while walking through the *written testimony* of the Bible. We want to show you the importance of *baptism* in water, as a public testament of your new found faith in Christ and the importance of creating space in our walk to *remember* the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross through *communion*.

This class is composed of 3 important step:

Decision, Definition and Development.

Let's jump right in!

WHAT HAPPENED?

First of all thank you for allowing **RTL**A Church to guide you in this new decision you've made to follow Christ. We are a beautiful Community who Love God and Love People just like you! Welcome home, Welcome to **RTL**A!

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.

*"So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners.
You are citizens along with all of God's holy people.
You are members of God's family." Ephesians 2:19*

This step is what makes the difference, we acknowledge that we are sinners who need a savior and we believe that God sent His son Jesus to die on the cross, then raised Him from the dead. Through this we now believe we have been redeemed.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Not only do we welcome you to your new church but we also welcome you into the Kingdom of GOD. This means that now you are part of God's family, he has accepted us and received us as His children through our faith in Him (John 1:12). The beautiful thing about this reality is that you no longer have to attempt to reach God with religious ceremonies or religious customs. God has come down to us, as His son Jesus Christ to walk with us to us and have a personal relationship with you! He wants you to speak to him just like you speak to any of your friends, with an open and sincere heart ready to know Him more.

*"But to all who believed him and accepted him,
he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12*

Yes you read that right! It's that simple. He wants to build a relationship with you and desires for you discover what a good Father He is. This is exactly what Jesus came to do on the cross. He closed the gap that existed between God and us. The gap that was created by sin, was bridged by Jesus.

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one can come to the Father except through me"
John 14:6*

HOW CAN I GROW?

As a new member of our community, **RTL**A Church has put together 3 ways you can start your relationship with GOD and maintain it in your life journey. These 3 keys compliment one another and each one is necessary, without missing the other two.

Prayer - Prayer is simply talking with GOD and at the same time opening your spirit, heart, and soul to hear God's voice through the Holy Spirit or The Bible. Praying to God does not require certain religious acts or a certain posture. Our Pastor always says, "Pray like you talk, talk like you Pray" it's that simple! Have a conversation with God about anything that is in your heart.

The Bible - We believe that The Bible is the infallible, inspired, written word of God. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. We believe that The Bible should be the guide of every believer. It teaches us many things from historical facts, how we were created, how to be better people. We hold The Bible in the highest regard as the absolute truth of God. Reading The Bible can seem very intimidating but as you start getting more familiar with it you will come to realize that it is very relevant to our lives and should be held as the point of reference for our daily life. Thanks to technology more practical versions of The Bible have been produced. For example the NLT, and the NIV versions are great to start off with. The language in them is much more relatable to our culture today.

THERE'S MORE!

The Church - Church holds a very important role when it comes to our relationship with GOD. It's not only a place we gather on Sundays but its part of our identity as Christians. It should be a part of who we are. Your local church (**RTLChurch**) is your community. This is where you share life with other believers, where we can worship together, and be taught by our Pastors and Teachers more of the Word of God and the Christian lifestyle. This is where we *Celebrate* each others victories, a place where you will find comfort in the most difficult trials of your life, and peace that you are not in this journey alone. The church is here to be a place of refuge, a place to find *freedom* and a place where you can strengthen your relationship with God through Worship and His Word.

The Church is the body of Christ and Jesus is the head. He equipped the Body with people who can help lead it forward.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-13) NLT

(A LITTLE MORE ON THE CHURCH)

The Church (continued) - Here at **RTL**AChurch we believe in the 5 fold ministries or functions. In other words, we believe that God has equipped the body with 5 different types of people who help equip *“God’s people to do His work and build up the church.”*

Here is a list of the 5 functions:

APOSTLES

PROPHETS

PASTORS

EVANGELISTS

TEACHERS

*** These are not listed in hierarchy form just simply written for tittle purposes ***

BAPTISM

As new believers sometimes we hear about baptisms and think of it as something extremely holy or that we must be perfect in all areas of our life in order to participate in Baptism. This couldn't be further from the truth. A "Baptism" is simply to immerse something in liquid and bring it back out to the surface. Its important that we de-mistify what the baptism is so we don't get caught in making it a traditional religious act or ceremony, but rather a celebration of the new life that you are about to begin.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

So why is it so important? Because The Bible teaches us that it symbolizes our death and resurrection. That we are dying to our old way of life and have decided to begin a new life under the will of God. Does this mean that we have it all together? No! It simply means that you have made a decision to turn your life to God for the better. Its important to understand that Jesus didn't die on a cross and resurrected in order to only change our behavior, he came to give us a new life through his resurrection.

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." (Rom. 6:4) NLT

BAPTISM P.2

Baptism is an essential to the transformation of our lives. Jesus was baptized in water by a reluctant John the baptist. John felt that he was not worthy of baptizing Jesus because He is the Son of God. To what Jesus responded:

*"It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires."
So John agreed to baptize him. (Matt 3:15) NLT.*

See, its important for us to understand that baptism in water is something that God requires of every believer. It's the first step into living in obedience to God's word.

Lets take a look at a biblical example of a new believer making the decision to be baptized:

Acts 2:37-38

*Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"
Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Here at **RTL**AChurch you have the opportunity to get Baptized. We have a section in our sanctuary where you can experiece this amazing moment and we can *celebrate* it!

For more information please stop by our Connection Center

COMMUNION

Communion? You might be thinking “what could that possibly be? We know this might sound like a mystical thing to do like “meditation” but we promise it’s not that. The Bible says:

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself.

*On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord
Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it.*

*Then he broke it in pieces and said,
“This is my body, which is given for you.*

Do this in remembrance of me.”

*In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—
an agreement confirmed with my blood.*

Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.”

*For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.*

We emphasize the “*Do this in remembrance of me*” because this is exactly what it is. We make time in our busy schedule to remember the fact that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We do this together in the community (church) on a monthly basis and we are eternally grateful for the sacrifice of Jesus which reveals the love God has for us. This is what we remember.

*“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and
only Son, so that everyone who believes in him
will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

GIVE

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

*Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full
—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more,
running over, and poured into your lap.*

The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

LUKE 6:38

*“HERE AT **RTL**A OUR GIVING IS A REFLECTION OF OUR LOVE TO GOD ”*



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FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATERIAL
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