

# **Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship Membership Seminar**

**“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
are changed into the same image from glory to glory,  
even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:18**

# Session 1

## How Do I Become a Member of Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship?

- I. Overview of Membership
  - a. Attend all three sessions.
  - b. Complete a membership application and turn it in by the last session.
  - c. Elder interview: The interview will consist of getting to know your spiritual pilgrimage:
    - i. how you came to faith
    - ii. getting clarity on your experiences and background
    - iii. questions about your membership application
    - iv. your availability for involvement and fellowship, as well as serving
    - v. answer any question you may have about Glory to Glory.
- II. Elder board review and approval.
- III. Public welcome/reception

## History of Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship

- I. Began as a home Bible study
  - a. Started January 2004 in Pastor Mark and Theresa's home
  - b. Late 2004 moved into the basement of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
  - c. Officially became a church and started Sunday services in August 2005
  - d. Moved to 640 Brooks Avenue in December, 2006

## The Biblical Foundation of the Church

### I. Key Verse: How are we saved?

Eph.2:8-10- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- a. When someone says "church" what do you think of? The word itself reflects many things.
- b. The underlying principles that give the church its true meaning and the authority for our faith is \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - i. 2 Timothy 3:16
  - ii. Psalm 138:2b
  - iii. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
  - iv. 1 Corinthians 2:13

### II. What are the Contemporary Views of the Church?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Biblical Views of the Church

- a. The word for the church in the original language, Greek: \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. The word itself meant an assembly; referred to the meeting not the people.
  - ii. The word used in the New Testament
    1. Ephesians 2:19-22
    2. 2 Corinthians 6:16
    3. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
    4. 1 Peter 2:4-5

- b. The biblical principles of the church
  - i. Who is the head of the church?
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 1:22-23
  - ii. Who are the members of the church
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 2:4-9

**Biblical Purposes for Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship**

- I. The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke. 24:45-49
  - a. Lord Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Lord Jesus established \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. It is our job to fulfill the purpose \_\_\_\_\_
  
- II. Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship Church Purpose Statement:
  - a. To see \_\_\_\_\_ come to a \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of Christ and daily grow in His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Biblical Priorities for the Church**

- I. Three major components of our purpose as a church and as a committed follower of Jesus Christ
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ the unbeliever (1 Peter 3:15-16)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ the saints (Ephesians 4:11-13)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ the body (Romans 12:6-8; Mark 9:45)

**Biblical Priorities for Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship**

- I. Glory to Glory has identified four Biblical Priorities
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ faith
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ worship
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ service

## **Privileges and Responsibilities of Membership**

- I. Membership at Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship
  - a. Personal \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ
    - i. Understanding of sin and salvation through Christ alone, by faith
    - ii. Confess with your mouth, believe in your heart and you will be saved
    - iii. Learn to articulate your faith
- II. Believer's baptism: not required for membership but strongly encouraged
  - a. The New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ believers to be baptized (Acts 2:41, 8:12, 8:38, 9:18, 18:8)
- III. Affirmation of doctrinal statement

### **Glory to Glory's Statement of Faith**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.

We believe in God The Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, that He is God the Son, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit; that Jesus died on the cross in fulfillment of prophecy to atone for the sin of the world. He is the only Lamb of God through whom we obtain forgiveness of our sin; apart From Him there is no other way to the Father. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, substitutionary death on the cross and resurrection from the dead on the third day, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and His visible return to earth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ; We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church, empowering the believer for works of service.

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice.

We believe that all are sinners by nature and choice and, therefore, under condemnation, that God regenerates people by the Holy Spirit, bringing them to repentance of their sins and

confession of Jesus Christ as Lord; that Jesus Christ fills the seeking believer with the Holy Spirit and empowers for service.

We believe in the universal Church, the living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. He gave Himself for His church, His bride.

We believe that Lord Jesus Christ committed two Ordinances to the Church; 1) baptism\* and, 2) the Lord's Supper. We believe in baptism and communion open to all believers.

\* We do not believe in baptismal regeneration (a teaching that the act of baptism, whether of infants or adults brings salvation). The clear teaching in the light of Scripture is that we are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 clearly states, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

We believe in the personal, visible (second) Return of Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom; in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked, and the final consummation of history within the New Heavens and New Earth.

We believe that there will be a time of great tribulation known as "Jacob's trouble," in which God will deal directly again with the nation Israel and before which time the church will be raptured. We recognize the variety of opinions that exist within the Body of Christ concerning the last days, the timing of the rapture, the exact nature of the Millennium, and prefer to let His Agape (love) prevail whenever we "see through a glass darkly".

### **Special Points of Emphasis**

- I. The Bible is the perfect, inerrant, infallible Word of God, that is authoritative over all that we are to think, believe, and do (e.g. God's Word is authoritative for religious doctrine, morality, history, science, art, politics, philosophy, etc.).
- II. Justification is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

# Session 2

## The Biblical Life within the Church

- I. Metaphors to describe the church
  - a. A physical \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. Key verse: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1Cor. 12:27)
  - b. A spiritual \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. Key verse: “As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1Peter 2:4-5)

## Purity in Life

- I. Key verse  
“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.” (Corinthians 12:27)
- II. Learning from one another
  - a. We must learn about the Christian life from one another. As Christians, we have died to sin and are to live for God (Romans 6:12-13).
  - b. Put to death sin - \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. We are set free from sin, slaves to righteousness, slaves to God (Romans 6:18-19,22).
    - ii. Put to death sin (Col. 3:5-11)
    - iii. Put off the old, put on the new (Eph. 4:20-24)
  - c. How do we learn about purity in life?
    - i. We gather for corporate \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 4:2-5)
    - ii. Worship encourages \_\_\_\_\_ living (Hebrews 10:25)

- d. We encourage each other in holiness, holy living encourages holy living (1 Peter 1:13-16; Hebrews 3:13, 10:24)
  - i. Time balance between believers/unbelievers
    - 1. No biblical mandate
    - 2. Recommend personal opinion \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. We seek to live according to the principles recorded for us in the Scriptures.
    - 1. Saved by grace for \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2:8-10)
    - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ is loving Christ (John 14:15, 21, 25)

**Purity in Life, cont.**

III. Love among its members

- a. What are the distinguishing characteristics that show Christ's love is making a difference in the lives of people? This love must be characterized by more than feelings of mutual affection or respect. This love is demonstrated to others in the church – much as God's love was demonstrated to us through the work of Jesus Christ.
- b. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." (1 Cor. 8:1-12)
- c. Three areas for expressing biblical love within the body:
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Eph. 4:31-32; Matt. 6:14-15; Col 3:13b)
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_ the tongue (Jam. 1:19, 3:3-12, 4:11)
  - iii. A Christ-like \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 1:16; Eph. 3:8; Phil. 2:1-4)

IV. Biblical fellowship – biblical priority #3

- a. Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship provides many avenues for biblical fellowship:
  - i. Men's Ministry
  - ii. Women's Ministry
  - iii. Children's Ministry
  - iv. Corporate Prayer
  - v. Youth Group

vi. Ministry Teams

vii. In Christ Alone Bible College

b. Biblical fellowship framework (Acts 2:42)

i. Devoted themselves to apostles \_\_\_\_\_, fellowship, breaking of bread and \_\_\_\_\_

c. Building fellowship through \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 12:5, Luke 18:1; Col. 4:2)

d. Questions to be asked about biblical friends.

i. A biblical friend is someone who encourages you in your faith daily, tells you the truth in love, prays with and for you regularly, and vice versa, and someone of the same sex. Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship is creating Biblical Fellowship context to give everyone an opportunity to be and have a Biblical friend

a. Do I have a biblical friend?

b. Am I a good biblical friend to someone else

c.

### **Unity in Purpose by using a Diversity of Spiritual Gifts**

I. Gifts for others

a. The Bible tells us that spiritual gifts are given for the benefit of the church not the individuals who have received it. (Eph. 4:12-13). "Some of the most useful gifts within the church are natural talents that have been sanctified through someone coming to Christ and becoming a saint." J.I. Packer

b. Members of the church are \_\_\_\_\_, no part is greater than the whole. (Romans 12:3-5)

c. The \_\_\_\_\_ of gifts is clear.

i. Lists of the gifts may be found in: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

d. Prayerful service: biblical priority #4 is prayerful service

i. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ (John 13:12-17)

ii. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 10:41-45)

- e. The question of healing and tongues (1 Cor. 12 & 14)
  - i. We recognize that God continues to heal, though we don't believe it through anyone particular individual.
  - ii. On the questions of tongues, though we can debate and have different opinions within the existence of tongues in this modern day, we do not exercise speaking in tongues in any part of our services.
- f. Invitation to \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:11-12)

# Session 3

## Introduction

- I. Leadership: What is it? What form does it take? Can it be taught? When we think of leaders, we might think of corporate executives, military generals, or sports captains. Their function is to lead a group of people to an objective that is larger than any individual person. But is this the type leadership that should govern the church?
- II. Key verse: "I appeal to you as a fellow elder... be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers." 1 Pet. 5:1b-2a

## Elders Responsible to God

- I. Elders are not a new idea to the New Testament (Exodus 18:14, 20-21; Numbers 11:16)
- II. Elders are a necessity – not an option
  - a. Paul directed/commanded appointment of Elders (Acts 14:21-23)
- III. Elders responsible to God for:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole body
- IV. The New Testament pattern is that nearly every church had elders
  - a. One man rule is \_\_\_\_\_ the biblical pattern.
  - b. Leadership is to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Prevents \_\_\_\_\_ of any elder.

## Elders Responsible to God, cont.

### V. Characteristics of an Elder

Self controlled	1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8
Hospitable	1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8
Able to teach	1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9
Not violent but gentle	1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7
Not quarrelsome	1 Tim. 3:3
Not a lover of money	1 Tim. 3:3
Not a recent convert	1 Tim. 3:6
Has a good reputation with outsiders	1 Tim. 3:7
Not overbearing	Titus 1:7
Not quick-tempered	Titus 1:7
Loves what is good	Titus 1:8
Upright, holy	Titus 1:8
Disciplined	Titus 1:8
Above reproach	1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6
Husband of one wife	1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6
Temperate	1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:7
Respectable	1 Tim. 3:2, 8
Not given to drunkenness	1 Tim. 3:3, 8; Titus 3:8
Manages his own family well	1 Tim. 3:4
Sees that his children obey him	1 Tim. 3:4; Titus 1:6
Does not pursue dishonest gain	Titus 1:7
Holds to the truth	Titus 1:9; 1 Tim. 3:9
Sincere	1 Tim. 3:8
Tested	1 Tim. 3:10

### I.

## Elders Responsible for God's Church

- I. The metaphor of shepherd and sheep
  - a. The bible uses the pictures of shepherd and sheep to communicate the \_\_\_\_\_ between God and His people (Ps. 23; 1 Peter 5:1-2)
  - b. Christ is the chief shepherd and the church is His flock
  - c. The elders then are under shepherds.
  - d. How do the elders lead and shepherd the flock?
  - e. What are their six principle responsibilities of elders to lead and shepherd the flock?

- i. To prepare God's people for works of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:12)
- ii. To warn the flock about \_\_\_\_\_ ... both internal and external (Titus 1:9-13)
- iii. To be an example of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:7)
- iv. To provide the Word of God by \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 5:17)
- v. To \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 6:3-4)
- vi. To carry out spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 18:15-17)

### **The Question of Women Elders**

- I. Biblical direction of male leadership (1 Tim. 2:12-3:7, Titus 1:5-9 contra 1 Tim. 5:9-16, Titus 2:3-5).
  - a. 1 Cor. 11:3 "Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."
  - b. The fact of equality does not negate the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 3:28)
  - c. The concept of role, not \_\_\_\_\_

### **Responsibility of the Church to its Elders**

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- II. \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:17)
- III. \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:18)

### **Elder Responsibility**

- I. Responsibilities at Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ the Word
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ -- Ministries/Members
  - d. Ministry \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Giving to the Work of the Lord**

- I. The responsibility to give
  - a. We are to give from what we \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 8:3, 12).
  - b. Everyone who is \_\_\_\_\_ should give (2 Cor. 9:7).
  - c. Everything is to be given to the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 8:5).
  - d. We are to give for the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 9:6-14).