

## Foundations Class - Week 1

Matthew 16:13, Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.”<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”<sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Descriptions: Moderate Calvinist. Believe in both God’s Sovereignty and Man’s responsibility.

Descriptions are limiting: Prefer, Biblical Theology as a description. Avoid humanistic man’s reliance upon self. Before the judgement seat we all agree, it was God!

We are here because of the grace of God.

### Vision statement

To train a community of people who seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, disregarding personal cost or sacrifice. We as God’s people are committed to living every day the way the Word of God instructs us, demonstrating the life of Christ through actions such as studying the Bible, prayer, worship, care for each other and influencing the world for Christ.

### Philosophy

Our philosophy of ministry causes us to willingly embrace the cross, die to self and become alive to Christ in regard to our personal rights and expectations. This philosophy requires us to serve each other, be committed to each other’s godly success and, most of all, to lay down our lives for the cause of Christ.

To do this we must be able to count on each other to:

1. *Live according to God’s Word, the Bible.*
2. *Be committed to living out our covenant to this church family by tithing and by generous giving to the community, the poor, and to one another as unto Christ.*
3. *Pray and encourage each other.*

Acts 2:

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”<sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were **baptized**, and that day about three thousand persons were **added**.<sup>42</sup> They **devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

<sup>44</sup>All who believed **were together and had all things in common**; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their

possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as **they spent much time together** in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Emphasize community. **Together**

Rules for community are found in the Bible. Beginning with openness and honesty. Don't have private conversations about a third party. Walk in the light. Learn to be an encourager not a discourager. Complaining, criticism, and whining will all cause you to be outside of the life of the community.

Words. Community, Family. We are God's family.

Ephesians 4

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all **humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love**, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to **maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup>But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

<sup>9</sup>(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended<sup>f</sup> into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, some **pastors and teachers**, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>**until all of us come to the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But **speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ**, <sup>16</sup>**from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love**

We each play a part:

Describe leaders, role to serve by:

1. Maintaining unity
2. Building up and equipping
3. Teaching and leading

All of us are part. No one is a professional and no one is an amateur. These terms are meaningless. We each play a part. Leadership is a part.

**The Goal is the world brought under the Rule of Christ, All things summed up in Him.**