

# Foundations Class

**Congregation of Christ**

**3231 Peoples Drive**

**Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

The purpose of this class is to help the New Convert understand the following:

- The Salvation they now have through Jesus Christ
- The difference in Old and New Covenant
- Who We Are and when the Church began
- The Blueprint and Purpose of Church Leadership
- What does the Bible say about True Forgiveness
- What does Real Love look like?
- What does it mean to be a good Steward of everything God has blessed us with?
- How do I now share my Faith with others?

# Week 1 - Salvation through Jesus Christ in the New Covenant

## + Overview of the Old and New Testament

- Hebrews 8 & 9:15-17
  - ✓ Eternal Inheritance

## + Man's Problem

- Romans 3:23 – All have Sinned
- Romans 6:23 – Wages of Sin is death

## + God's Solution

- Romans 6:23 – Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
- What Christ did for us – Isaiah 53:3-7

## + He became sin – 2 Corinthians 5:21

- IN HIM

## + INTO CHRIST! – Romans 6

## + What happened at our immersion?

- Romans 6
  - ✓ Freed from Sin
  - ✓ Baptized into Christ
  - ✓ United in HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION
- Acts 2:38
  - ✓ Forgiveness of Sins – remember those wages of SIN!
  - ✓ Gift of the Holy Spirit
- Galatians 3:27
  - ✓ Where we put on Christ
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
  - ✓ Baptized into the Body of Christ
- Colossians 2:12-14
  - ✓ He made us Alive together with Him

# Week 2 - Beginning of the Church - Acts 2 – WHO WE ARE

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John – Gospels – Good news of Jesus

✚ New Testament took effect when Christ died

- Hebrews 8 & 9:15-17

Acts of the Apostles = History of the Church

✚ What is the Church? - Matthew 16:13-19

- Vs 18 – “Church” – Greek word is Ekklesia
  - ✓ Ekklesia means “to be Called Out of the world”
  - ✓ Based on the definition, the word Church does not refer to a building but rather the people of God

✚ Peter preached the 1st sermon - Acts 2:14-36

- Message of Hope – vs 21
- Message on Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection – vs 22-24
- Jesus is alive! – vs 29-33
- Message of conviction – vs 36
  - ✓ They crucified Christ and so did we.....
- The message of Christ prompts a question – vs 37
- The message of Christ includes an answer – vs 38
  - ✓ Repentance & Baptism
  - ✓ Forgiveness of Sins and Forgiveness of Sins
- Who is this salvation for? – vs 39
- How many were saved? Vs 41

✚ Now that they are converted, what 4 things did they continue steadfast in? – Acts 2:42

- Apostles Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayer

✚ Unity – vs 44

✚ Charity – vs 45-46

✚ What was growing? – vs 47

- Remember above, What does Ekklesia mean?

## Week 3 - EPHESIANS 4 – Blueprint for the Church

### How we are to Walk? “Practice comes before Positions” Vs 1-3

- + Worthy
- + Humility
- + Gentleness
- + Patience
- + Forbearance in Love
- + Preserve the Unity

### 7 Ones Eph 4:4-6

- + Body
- + Spirit
- + Hope
- + Lord
- + Faith
- + Baptism
- + God/Father

### Gifts to the Church Eph 4:11

- + Apostles
- + Prophets
- + Evangelists
- + Pastors - Teachers

### Gifts for a Purpose Eph 4:12-16

- + The equipping of the saints for the work of service
- + To the building up of the body of Christ;
- + So we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- + So we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

# **Week 4 - Forgiveness - According to the Bible**

## **Forgiveness requires Repentance**

✚ Luke 17:3 “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

## **Forgiveness has Eternal Ramifications**

✚ Matthew 6:12-15 - 14“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15“But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

## **Vengeance is reserved for God - Romans 12:14-21**

## **How to solve conflicts in the Church - Matthew 18:15-18**

- 1. Go to your brother**
- 2. Take 2-3 witnesses**
- 3. Church leadership needs to get involved**

## **How many times shall I forgive? - Matthew 18:21-22**

✚ 70X7 = 490 – Jesus’ way of saying don’t keep track or keep record of wrongs

## **Jesus teaches what forgiveness looks like at a granular level**

✚ Matthew 18:23-35 – How can we not forgive our brother when we have been forgiven for our many sins?

## **Additional things we need to “Let Go”**

✚ Ephesians 4:31-32 - 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

## Week 5 – Love - 1 Corinthians 13

### + Love Contrasted Vs 1-3

- You could speak in tongues, have the gift of prophecy, know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and have faith to move mountains and give away all your possessions, and surrender your body, BUT if you don't have LOVE, you are Nothing.

### + What is Love?

- Patient, Kind, Not Jealous, Not braggadocios, Not arrogant, Does not act disgracefully, Does not seek its own benefit, Not provoked, Does not keep a record of wrongs, Does not rejoice in unrighteousness, Rejoices in the truth, Keeps confidence, Believes all things, Hopes all Things, Endures all things

### + LOVE NEVER FAILS

### + Cessation of the Miraculous Gifts when the Perfect came

- **Speaking in Tongues**
- **Knowledge**
- **Prophecy**

## COMPARE 1 Cor 13 and James 1 – See bolded Words – The Perfect

8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with. 9 For we know in part and prophecy in part; 10 but when the **perfect** comes, the partial will be done away with. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a **mirror** dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## The word “Perfect” in 1 Corinthians 13 is referring to the Word of God – The Perfect Law of Liberty – James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the **word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a **mirror**; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the **perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

**THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.**

# Week 6 - Stewardship of all things

## + What is Stewardship?

- Stewardship = What you do with what you have
- We are managers of what God has entrusted to us
- You can be a good steward or a bad steward

## + The Lord owns everything

- Psalm 24:1 – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains
- Everything we have comes from God
- We are not owners, we are stewards

## + The Goal of Stewardship

- Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the Talents
  - ✓ Use it... or you lose it...
  - ✓ We want to hear those words - "Well done, good and faithful servant"
- God has given us much—What are we doing with what we have?
  - ✓ Make a list of all the things in your possession and pray about how you can use those things for the Lord.

## + Use your Gifts for the Lord

- 1 Peter 4:10 – As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards
- Every Christian has gifts, talents, and abilities
- Use your strengths for the Kingdom
  - ✓ Make a list of all your strengths – Tangible and Intangible

## + Stewardship in the Home

- Proverbs 18:22 – He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.
  - ✓ How am I caring for my spouse? Are they not a blessing from the Lord?
- Psalm 127:3 – Children are a gift of the Lord
  - ✓ How am I caring for my children? Are they not a blessing from the Lord?
- Ephesians 6:4 – Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord
- Our families are gifts to be used for God's glory

## + Sow blessings

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully
- God loves a cheerful giver
- God gives so we can bless others

# Week 7 - Sharing your Faith - Matthew 28

## + Soul Winning

- Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.
- What does Christ command in Matthew 28:18-20?

## + Loving the Lost

- Luke 10:25-37
  - ✓ What 2 things are we to do according to vs 27
  - ✓ Read the story Jesus tells about the Samaritan who showed compassion
    - ❖ Spiritually speaking, we are surrounded by people who have been beaten up by the world
      - i. Do we care enough to stop, render aid, sacrifice, and share the Gospel?

## + Pray for Lost Souls

- Matthew 9:36-38
  - ✓ While you pray, take action and stand in the gap!

## + Share the Salvation scriptures that were shared with you before you were converted

- See Bible passages from Week 1

## + Study the Soils

- Matthew 13:3-9 – Parable of the Sower/Soils
- Matthew 13:18-23 – Sower/Soils Explained

## + Sometimes we have to break up the Soil as we plant the Seed

- How to Cultivate the soil and build a relationship
  - ✓ Ask them about their life
  - ✓ Ask them about their family
  - ✓ Don't just tell them about your life, ask them about their life without trying to "one up them"
  - ✓ To put it simply, just listen to them and get to know them. Be a friend to them.
  - ✓ Show them that you care about them.
    - ❖ Mourn with them if they are mourning
    - ❖ Rejoice with them if they are rejoicing
  - ✓ Go over and strike up a conversation... level with people, find common ground,
    - ❖ If they have a football hat on, ask them how their team is doing this year
    - ❖ If you like their shoes, compliment their shoes
  - ✓ Find common ground... break up the hard soil and the fallow ground.

# Sharing your Faith – cont.

## Make a Decision. As a new convert, I AM GOING TO BE A SOUL WINNER!

- Be an Inviter
- Be an Encourager
- Share the Word of God with others

### Traits of an effective Soul Winner:

- The ability to share God's plan of Salvation and communicate how you were saved from the Bible
- Grow in knowledge of God's Word
- Grow in knowledge of people
- Have a love for Lost Souls
- Knowledge of False Doctrine and ability to refute it
- Patience as you Fish for People
- Enthusiasm for Christ and their Soul
  - o Be happy, Be Respectful, Be Loving, Be patient, Be Confident, BE interested in them and their problems, Be humble, Be persistent, Be attentive, BE appreciative, Be serious
- Have an optimistic attitude!

### Making a Call

- A. Seek the Low hanging fruit – review your circle of family and friends
- B. Clear the schedule, set the appointment, and be on time
- C. Go in pairs
- D. Pray before you go
- E. Knock and Smile

### Entering the House or meeting place

- A. Find something to Compliment
- B. Accept the drink/snack that is offered to you
- C. Start speaking in general
- D. Focus energy on the Lost Souls that are present
- E. After generalities, move towards the spiritual reason for the visit
- F. Pray before you leave

### Moving the conversation to Spiritual topics: Simple questions to ask.

- If you were to die today, are you certain that you would be in heaven for eternity?
- With all the false doctrine today, do you know what the Bible says regarding Salvation?
- Do you have Love, Joy, and Peace in your Life?
- What is your favorite verse/book in the Bible?

### If they belong to a Denomination, you can:

- Emphasize on Truth's they convey & find common ground
- Capitalize on if they point out a false teaching
- Take mental notes on what they believe to address later
- Stray away from opinions and we man believes and move towards - "lets look and see what the Bible Says"

# Sharing your Faith – cont.

## Do's and Don'ts

### Do's

- Admit when you are wrong or if you misspoke
- Admit if you don't know the answer
- Notice the children in the home
- Capitalize on agreed upon scriptures
- Notice their facial expressions and nonverbal cues
- Listen
- Be neat, clean, and dress moderately
- Your best to be Tactful and respectful, yet firm in your statements
- Look them in the eye
- Speak clearly, don't use big words

### Don't's

- Don't begin with Criticism
- Don't act superior
- Don't chase rabbits or strain out a gnat, stick to the main subject
- Don't do all the talking
- Don't overwhelm with too much scripture
- Don't get angry
- Don't Gossip
- Don't stay too long
- Don't be in a hurry to leave
- Don't apologize for the truth of God's word or be antagonistic
- Don't try and sell or persuade... remember, we are planting seeds
- Don't talk over their head
- Don't focus on non-Biblical or peripheral issues
- Don't view people as a number or notch in your belt