

**Next Step
101 - New Members
4 Part Series**



NewLife
Christian Church

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1. WELCOME

“Thank you” for your interest in learning more about becoming a part of New Life Christian Church and The Body of Christ. New Life Christian Church is dedicated to changing the world with The Gospel of Jesus Christ by advancing the Kingdom of God in our city and in the world internationally.

About New Life The Early Years

New Life Christian Church began its history when a small group of individuals decided to gather together to worship and serve The Lord Jesus Christ in Castro Valley, California. These individuals having recently come out of the great Jesus movement in the early 70’s were looking for a place to express their worship and service towards God.

New Life Christian Church was birthed out of this gathering in 1976 and the young church began meeting in homes and then eventually moved to a mortuary in Castro Valley. After a few years they moved to an old school building and began a Christian school there as well. From there the church moved to San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and then purchased the current Hayward facility in 2011 where they merged together with Triumph Ministries in 2012.

New Life Worship and Missions

New Life Christian Church has an expressive style of worship that is shared by all who come in. We are a missionary minded church and believe in taking the Gospel to the local community as well as to the nations. We are an independent church not affiliated with any one particular denomination but affiliated with all that adhere to The Gospel of Jesus Christ. New Life does believe in accountability and we are members of LifeLinks International which is an international group of church’s that are joined together for fellowship, encouragement and accountability to one another.

New Life Focus

The focus of New Life Christian Church is to impact the world with disciples who ***Live the gospel personally - Share it locally – and Take it globally.***

We believe a relationship in Jesus Christ is the most important decision an individual will make in their life and that the church is to be the most important influence in helping people to grow in their relationship and faith in Jesus Christ.

It is the desire of New Life to establish believers everywhere possible, whether by planting new churches or helping to build existing ministries wherever they currently reside. It is through these ministry and church relationships that The Word of God may be spread throughout the entire world and that The Gospel of Jesus Christ be made known abroad.

Next Step

The intent of the “Next Step” teachings are to help those who are inquiring about faith in Christ, understand how to become a part of New Life Christian Church and The Body of Christ. While these 4 lessons may not address every teaching in The Bible, we do hope to give an immediate basic foundation to the new or inquiring believer.

In addition to the scripture lessons, you will also have access to our leaders that will share practical insight for your personal growth and understanding of The Scriptures. All series lessons will take a minimum commitment of 4 weeks.

We believe and hope that these teachings, may help you to grow in His Grace and love in your personal walk and ministry, as we touch the world for Jesus Christ together.

All scripture Bible references used in these teachings are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise stated.

2. COMMITMENT TO GROW IN FAITH

To benefit the most out of these 4 lessons, we encourage these 4 basic commitments by all new and inquiring believers:

1. Character

Character is who you are. Character is described by someone as “Who you are when nobody is around”. Our character as Christian’s is defined in this way:

² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 4:2

2. Accountability

Accountability is who you report to. Everyone needs someone that they can be accountable to. Here is what The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy regarding this matter:

¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

*² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. **2 Timothy 2:1-2***

3. Responsibility

Responsibility is what you are called to do. This is the opportunity we have to give back to God as He has called us to serve Him. Everyone has a responsibility to serve.

*¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. **Ephesians 4:15-16***

4. Relationship

Relationship is who you serve alongside with in ministry. Relationship is how you relate with others inside and outside the church.

²⁸ *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"* ²⁹ *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ' ³⁰ *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* ³¹ *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* **Mark 12:28-31***

Character – Who you are

This will challenge each of us to look at our lives closely as we grow in faith.

Accountability – Who you report to

This will help us to be accountable for our actions and lives to someone outside of ourselves.

Responsibility – What you are called to do

This allows us to give back and contribute to helping others.

Relationship – Who you serve with

This helps us to develop strong bonds and friendship for our lives.

Session Lessons Time Frames

Below are the time frames for each 4 part lesson:

1. Each weekly Online lesson is 30 minutes
2. Each weekly In-Person Lesson is 45 Minutes

Essential Tools

The most essential tool that you will need is a personal Bible. We recommend that you download any free version on your smart device. Some recommended translations are “New International Version”, “New King James Version”, “Today’s English Version”, “Amplified Bible”, and “The King James Version”.

We would also strongly urge that you have a traditional hard copy Bible that you can make notes in. A good study Bible is very helpful for personal growth and understanding of The Scriptures.

Another important tool is a notebook and pen. These are the very basic elements that will help in your pursuit of understanding God’s Word.

Other Helpful Tools

As you grow in your walk here are some suggested tools that we find are very helpful.

What The Bible Is All About – Henrietta C. Mears

This is a wonderful book to help you understand every book of The Bible in full.

Bible Dictionary and Map – To help interpret words, places and people in The Bible.

Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Concordance – While this may seem foreign to you at first, it is a very useful too. This will help you find words in The Bible and give you their original translation.

Commentary – We recommend a Matthew Henry Commentary or Adam Clarke. A commentary will help to discuss difficult passages and give clarity to them.

PERSONAL NOTES

3. PART 1 – FIRST – What Is The Gospel

The word gospel means "Good News". It is derived from the Anglo-Saxon **term** god-spell, **meaning** "good story," a rendering of the Latin evangelium and the Greek euangelion, **meaning** "good news" or "good telling." The "Good News" is that Jesus Christ came for everyone. This good news means that each one of us has an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ into our lives and to have a new life in Him. If you are inquiring about faith in Jesus, then here is the good news of The Gospel for you.

1. All mankind is fallen and needs forgiveness for sin and wrongdoing.

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:23

2. God provided a way for everyone to receive forgiveness through His Son Jesus Christ.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18

3. Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and after three days He rose back to life.

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

I Corinthians 15:1-4

4. Jesus Christ is the only way for salvation and forgiveness.

10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.” 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:10-12

5. We must be born again.

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

John 3:3

6. We are to repent and turn away from wrongdoing and sin.

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Acts 3:19

7. We must open our hearts to receive Jesus Christ into it.

9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Romans 10:9-11

8. We can confess our sins to God and be forgiven.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

9. We become new beings in Him.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

II Corinthians 5:17

10. Find a church family to meet with regularly and grow with.

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

11. We are to share this message with everyone.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

If you would like to know Christ in your heart and life, then you can pray a simple prayer like this to invite Him in.

"Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong in my life and ask for your forgiveness. I invite you Jesus to come into my heart and to be my Lord and Savior this day. I ask this in Jesus Name. Amen"

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is The Gospel?
2. How would you describe what you believe a Christian is?
3. How would you describe The Bible?
4. Do you believe in Jesus Christ and The Bible? Why or why not?
5. Please share your journey of coming to faith in Christ.

PERSONAL NOTES

4. PART 2 – FELLOWSHIP – The Church

Many people may think of the church as a physical building. One of the most recognized churches around the world is the Notre Dame Church in France. The church was built in 1260 AD and is over 700 years old. Unfortunately in 2019 the church was undergoing renovations and restoration, when the roof caught on fire and caused severe damage to the structure. However the church is still standing. There are around 13 million people who visit the Cathedral every year, which means this is an average of 30,000 people every day.

But the true church is the people and not the building. It always has been this way and always will be. Let's look at the church in our lives today.

a. People make up the church and they gather in a building

⁴ *As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ 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.*

I Peter 2:4-5

b. The Early Church Model of believers

⁴¹ *Those who accepted his message were **baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴² They **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread and to prayer**. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and **many wonders and miraculous signs were done** by the apostles. ⁴⁴ **All the believers were together and had everything in common**. ⁴⁵ **Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need**. ⁴⁶ **Every day they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and **ate together with glad and sincere hearts**, ⁴⁷ **praising God** and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:41-47

1. New Believers accepted the message of The Gospel and responded with baptism v2:41 – Salvation and Baptism

⁴¹ *Those who accepted his message were baptized*

a. Matthew 28:18-20 – Teaching Them To Obey Everything

¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

2. New Believers devoted themselves to Leadership v2:42 – Church Leadership

⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching*

a. Hebrews 13:7, 17 – Obey Your Leaders

⁷ *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

¹⁷ *Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

3. New Believers devoted themselves to teaching v2:42 – Personal Growth in Faith

⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching*

a. I Timothy 4:13 – Devote Yourself To Scripture

¹³ *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.*

4. New Believers devoted themselves to fellowship in Unity together v2:42 – Fellowship With Likeminded Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship

a. Romans 15:5-7 – Spirit of Unity

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

5. New Believers devoted themselves to prayer v2:42 – Personal Relationship With God

to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

a. Ephesians 6:18 – Pray Always

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

6. The Church practiced using spiritual gifts v2:43 – Serving with your gift

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

a. I Peter 4:10-11 – Use Your Gift

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

7. The Church practiced helping one another v2:44 – Reaching Others

⁴⁴ *All the believers were together and had everything in common.*

a. Galatians 6:10 – Let Us Do Good To All

¹⁰ *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

8. The Church practiced giving v2:45 – Financial Support

⁴⁵ *Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.*

a. II Corinthians 9:7 – Giving Gladly

⁷ *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

9. The Church practiced gathering together regularly v2:46 – Church Accountability

⁴⁶ *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.*

a. Hebrews 10:25 – Gathering Together

²⁵ *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

10. The Church practiced thankfulness v2:46 – Thankfulness and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

a. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Be Thankful Always

¹⁶ *Be joyful always;* ¹⁷ *pray continually;* ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

11. The Church praised God and grew in faith with other believers

v2:47 – Growing With A Church Family

⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

a. Acts 16:5 – The Church Was Strengthened and grew in Faith

⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been a part of any church before?
2. What is the purpose of a church?
3. Is the church relevant for today?
4. Is it necessary to be a part of a church to be a Christian?
5. Would you be willing to commit to a local church? Why or why not?

PERSONAL NOTES

5. PART 3 – FAITH – Basic Teachings

The basics of faith are essential to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Having a good foundation as a Christian is the same as having a firm foundation of a house. A foundation for a home serves in the following 4 ways:

Permanence

The foundation must be built in an area that it will remain in permanently because it cannot be moved once in place. The scriptures are permanent and do not change. God says I am the Lord Thy God and I change not. So our foundation in scripture is permanent.

Stability and Cohesion

It is important that the foundation be laid on a solid area and not shifting soil which would degrade it. This is true for scripture. The foundation of scripture does not change and therefore we can build our lives upon it safely.

Depth

The depth of the foundation is important. The deeper the foundation the more stable the building. The same is true in our walk. The deeper we allow scripture to go into our lives, the stronger our walk will be in Christ.

Consistency

A consistently built foundation base is important for the integrity of the structure. If some or any portions of the foundation are not built correctly, then the building will tilt and could eventually fall over. The same is true with scripture. We must have a consistent understanding of God's Word to have a strong faith in His Word. This is why basic foundation is critical to a strong walk in Christ.

Combining all of these factors together, are the basics of building a foundation that is not only true in the natural, but also very true in our faith.

Basic understanding of Christianity – Hebrews 6:1-3

¹ *Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to **maturity**, not laying again the foundation of **repentance** from acts that lead to death, and of **faith in God**, ² instruction about **baptisms**, the **laying on of hands**, the **resurrection of the dead**, and **eternal judgment**. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.*

a. Growing in maturity – Hebrews 5:14

¹⁴ *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

b. Repentance – Acts 20:21

²¹ *I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.*

c. Faith in God – Hebrews 11:6

⁶ *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

d. Baptism – Acts 19:4-5

⁴ *Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.*

e. Laying on of hands – II Timothy 1:6-7

⁶ *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

f. Resurrection of the dead – John 11:25-26

²⁵ *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

g. Eternal judgment – Hebrews 9:27-28

²⁷ *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*
²⁸ *so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

h. Communion – Do this In Remembrance - I Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

i. Return of Jesus – I Thessalonians 4:15-18, 5:1-2

¹⁵ *According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words. ^{5:1} Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are you doing to help you learn more about God and grow?
2. How does your life reflect turning away from your past way of living?
3. Are you familiar with any of these scriptures?
4. Are there any of these passages that are difficult?
5. Do you have a Bible? If so what version?

PERSONAL NOTES

6. PART 4 - FAMILY - Life

Today's family may consist of a husband, wife and a child or children. It may also include widows, divorced or single people. In this last section we will look at what The Bible teaches about family as designed by God.

Family Life And Principles

In this last series we will discuss what the family is as God has described it in Scripture.

1. Married - One naturally born man and one naturally born woman
2. Single family members – Unmarried, divorced and widowed
3. Grandparents, grandchildren, children and relatives
4. Honoring God - Marriage, Love, Respect, Sexual purity
5. Family Priority – God first – Spouse next – Children last

1. First Marriage Defined – Genesis 2:24-25

²⁴ *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* ²⁵ *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

- a. The first marriage was defined as one naturally born man and one naturally born woman.

2. What God Has Joined Let No One Separate – Mark 10:5-9

⁵ *“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied.* ⁶ *“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’* ⁷ *‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,* ⁸ *and the two will become one flesh.’* *So they are no longer two, but one.* ⁹ *Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”*

- a. God did not intend for divorce but has allowed it.

3. Honoring God In Marriage Purity – Hebrews 13:4

⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

- a. God intended marriage to be respected, honored and kept sexually pure.

4. Christian Family Principles – Colossians 3:18-20

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord

- a. Wives submit to husbands
- b. Husbands love your wife
- c. Children obey your parents

5. Wives, Husbands, Children, Parents and Family Further Defined Ephesians 5:22-33 – 6:1-4

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

^{6:1} *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* ² *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—* ³ *“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”* ⁴ *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

- a. Wives Submit to husbands – v22
- b. Husbands sacrifice for wives – v25
- c. Husband and Wives become one – v31
- d. Children obey parents – v6:1
- e. Fathers be patient and train up your children – v6:4

6. Wives and Husbands Learning To Live Together – I Peter 3:1-7

¹ *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,* ² *when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.* ³ *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.* ⁴ *Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.* ⁵ *For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands,* ⁶ *like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.* ⁷ *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

- a. Wives are to focus on their inner beauty – v3
- b. Husbands are to honor and respect their wives – v7

7. Husbands and Fathers Are To Provide For The Family – I Timothy 5:8

⁸ If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

8. Putting Your Spouse First – I Corinthians 7:32-35

³² I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³ But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— ³⁴ and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. ³⁵ I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

- a. Husbands are to please their wife – v33
- b. Wives are to please their husbands – v34

9. Teachings For All Family Individuals and Various Others – Titus 2:1-8

¹ You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. ³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴ Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. ⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

- a. Teach Older Men – v2**
 - a. Temperate
 - b. Worthy of respect
 - c. Self-controlled
 - d. Sound in faith, love & endurance

- b. Teach Older Women – v3**
 - a. Reverent in their lives
 - b. Not to be slanderers
 - c. Not addicted to wine
 - d. Teach what is good

- c. Teach Younger Women – v4**
 - a. Love their husbands and children
 - b. Self-controlled
 - c. Pure
 - d. Taking care of their home
 - e. Kind
 - f. Submitted to their husband

- d. Teach Young men – v6**
 - a. Self-controlled

- e. Teach Everyone – v7**
 - a. Goodness
 - b. Integrity
 - c. Seriousness
 - d. Soundness of speech

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What type of family did you grow up in?
2. Did you have siblings growing up?
3. Do you feel that you grew up in a good and loving family?
4. Were there difficulties growing up in your family?
5. How do you view family today?

PERSONAL NOTES

7. STATEMENT OF FAITH – What We Believe

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the revealed, inspired, infallible word of God.

II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:14-21

2. We believe that the Godhead has revealed Himself as one God existing in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 5:8

3. We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis and man's total inability to attain to righteousness.

Romans 5:12, 18

4. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior of mankind conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is very God and very man.

Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7

5. We believe that Christ died for our sins; was buried and rose again the third day, which is the gospel as is stated in the scriptures. He also personally appeared to His disciples.

I Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 4:25

6. We believe in Jesus Christ's bodily ascension to heaven and that he is now seated at the place of all authority at the right hand of the Father. That the same Jesus will literally, bodily come again the Second time with and for an overcoming church to set up His kingdom rule upon the earth.

John 14:23; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelations 19:11-16

7. We believe that salvation of man was provided through the cross of Calvary, that through repentance and faith in Christ's atoning work we can be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12; Romans 5:11

8. We believe that through apostasy, unbelief and neglect a person can fall away from the living God and become shipwrecked concerning their faith.

Hebrews 3:12, 6:6; I Timothy 1:19; II Peter 2:20-22

9. We believe salvation is secure but not a license to sin. Those who are born of God, through Christ, hold the beginning of their confidence to the end.

John 10:27-28; Hebrews 3:12-14

10. We believe in the necessity of Water Baptism by immersion at or subsequent to profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. (This is a Command of Christ.)

Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:34-38

11. We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to Salvation with scriptural evidence, such as speaking in Tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

Acts 2:1-4; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6

12. We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as it was manifested in the early Church.

I Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:4-8; Acts 4:30; James 5:14

13. We believe in living a Spirit-filled life of obedience to Gods will in thought, word and deed. In separating ones self from the world in Both values and behavior.

Ephesians 5:18; II Corinthians 6:14; II Corinthians 7:1; I John 2:15

14. We believe in the Lords Table (Communion) for all believers.

I Corinthians 11:23-32

15. We believe in taking the gospel of the kingdom to the entire world as a witness in obedience to Christ's command.

Matthew 28:19-20

16. We believe in eternal life for the believer and eternal punishment for unbelievers

Mark 9:43-48; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelations 20:10-15

17. We believe in the reality and personality of Satan who is a fallen cherub. He was once the covering angel of the very throne of God (called Lucifer). Now he wields his deadly power to oppose Gods will and to destroy God's people.

Ezekiel 28:14-19; Isaiah 14:12-15; I Peter 5:8

18. We believe that Satan's eternal state and judgment will be the lake of fire.

Revelations 20:10

19. We believe that a person must be born again into the family of God and that joining a church or denomination does not guarantee salvation.

John 3:3-6

20. We believe that children are a gift from The Lord and therefore are to be dedicated back unto Him to be raised in His ways.

I Samuel 1:20-22; Luke 2:22

21. We believe that all life begins at the time of conception and that we are to honor that life as God does.

Psalms 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-45

22. We believe in the committed covenant union of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman to constitute a family marriage.

Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33, I Timothy 3:2,12, Titus 1:6

23. We believe in the authority of church government with apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, teachers, elders and deacons set in place to lead and equip the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13; Acts 14:23, Acts 2:42, Titus 1:5-9, I Timothy 3:12-13, I Peter 5:1-4

8. PURPOSE MISSION AND VISION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Changing the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

MISSION STATEMENT – What we do

To impact the world by developing disciples who live the gospel personally, share it locally, and take it globally.

VISION STATEMENT – Our end result

To expand the kingdom of God by sharing the gospel throughout the Bay Area one neighborhood at a time.

The following is an acronym for **IMPACT**

- **I**-ntroducing others to Christ
- **M**-ultiplied disciples
- **P**-ersistent in prayer
- **A**-nswering to God
- **C**-onnecting with others
- **T**-raining for the work

OUR CORE VALUES

Each member of New Life Christian Church embraces these values as we work to accomplish our mission.

1. Faith in God and His Word

God reveals His plan and promises to us through His Word; it is the foundation for life, and strength for each believer. Therefore, we are committed to learning more about God, His Word by attending worship meetings, bible studies, small group studies, and other activities conducive to spiritual growth.

2. Empowered by God's Spirit

God, through His Holy Spirit seals, empowers, and sets us apart to fulfill His will. We seek to be counseled by the Holy Spirit, operating in His gifts in all matters pertaining to life and family, worship and ministry, outreach and evangelism, and leadership and discipleship.

3. Building Families

The family is a reflection of our relationship with God, designed by Him as the foundational institution for building relationships individually and corporately. Thus, we prioritize outreach and ministry to the family providing growth opportunities for each member of the family. Strong families make for a strong church and strong community.

4. Investing in Youth

The gospel transcends generations; therefore we focus on youth by providing youth specific ministry, mentoring, discipleship and spiritual, moral, and financial support.

5. Cultivating Community

Our influence in the community starts with the ecclesia - our community - the church. We provide opportunities for fellowship among believers and encourage building relationships inside and outside the church. Our outreach is God driven, fellowship friendly, and saturated with the love of God, allowing the Holy Spirit to draw people to Him.

6. Mission Driven

As everything has a season and purpose, we are driven to succeed according to God's standard employing a biblical basis for everything we do. God has given us a laser focus on what He desires to do through this church. All ministries are biblically motivated and directly related to fulfilling the mission and purpose of our church.

7. Global Outreach

Jesus commanded we make disciples in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the world. We fulfill the commission locally, by multiplying disciples and ministries in the Bay Area. We fulfill the commission globally by supporting missions work directly related to the vision of NLCC.

8. Operating in Excellence

God desires our best as servants! For this reason, we are to present ourselves as living sacrifices in the call to living the gospel. We do this by giving the best of our time, talent, spiritual gifts, abilities, and finances for the furthering of the work of the ministry, which is our reasonable service to God.

OUR MINISTRY STATEMENT

New Life Christian Church is a church overflowing with the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, dedicated to advancing the Kingdom of God in our city and the world beyond.

The ministry of New Life Christian Church is to make an impact in our community, nation and the world by making disciples. We believe a relationship in Jesus Christ is the most important decision an individual can make in their life and that the church is to be the most important influence in helping people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is the ministry of New Life to establish believers everywhere possible whether by planting new churches or helping to build existing ministries wherever they currently exist and that through these relationships the Word of God may be spread throughout the entire world and the Gospel of Jesus Christ be made known abroad.

MINISTRY PRIORITY

A. To the Lord Jesus

Our activities that are primarily God-directed

B. To the body of Christ

Those activities directed to the needs of believers, first to our families, then the local Assembly, and then to the church universal.

C. To the lost

Our outreach and spreading of the gospel to the unsaved, both locally and worldwide.

Since we believe that Satan is constantly attacking the local Assembly, we feel that spiritual warfare is essential in all three of these areas. We endeavor to maintain a balance in all of them, although our ministry to The Lord precedes our work among people.

TO THE LORD JESUS

Our activities that are primarily God-directed.

- Our goal is that all those to whom we minister regularly in this Assembly will receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and grow in a personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9-10; II Peter 3:18

- Our goal is to develop an intimate, personal prayer life that is practiced daily.

I Thessalonians 5:17,25; Matthew 6:6; Matthew 26:41

- Our goal is to read and study the Bible to receive Gods personal direction for our daily life.

II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:9-16

- Our goal is to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to empower us to serve Jesus Christ. This will also allow us to develop a prayer language in another tongue, to pray at times from our spirit (rather than from our understanding) directly to God.

Acts 1:5-8; Acts 2:4

- Our goal is to learn to praise and worship God according to the patterns found in the Bible, especially in the Book of Psalms. This is a heightened expression of prayer, and is a secret to overcoming spiritual opposition from Satan.

John 4:24; Psalm 29:2; Psalm 86:9; Psalm 95:6; Psalm 100:2

- We believe that if this first ministry, to the Lord Jesus is constantly growing, it will be possible to dynamically affect other people as God equips and enables us.

II Peter 1:5-8

TO THE BODY OF CHRIST

Those activities directed to the needs of believers, first to our families, then to the local Assembly, and then to the Church universal.

- The pattern for a healthy, fully operational Church is found in the New Testament, especially in the Book of Acts.

Acts 2:42-47

- God has given the ascension ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher to the Church at large, and to our Church locally. We are to have, develop, recognize and receive these ministries.

Ephesians 4:11-14

- God governs the local assembly by the pastor, who is joined to a team of support leaders, known as elders. These all, along with their spouses, do the work of shepherding the local flock.

Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4; Acts 14:23

- All support leaders and their workers are personally identified with the pastor and elders, relationally, doctrinally and philosophically. They may be appointed or replaced by the pastor and elders.

I Timothy 3:12-13; Exodus 18:21-25; Acts 6:3-4

- It is the purpose of the ministries to care for and nurture each member, regardless of age or experience in the Lord. The needs of the total person are important (body, soul and spirit).

Galatians 6:2; John 13:34-35

- Prayer shall be available to all who seek it, personally and through prayer requests for others.

James 5:13-16

- The church is to be family-based, strengthening the individual family, equipping each member to grow in Gods ideal. It also means that every member will feel a part of a church-family in which he is recognized, appreciated, and given opportunity to contribute.

Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-4

- Services shall always allow opportunity for corporate praise and worship, and the exercise of spiritual gifts, subject to the discernment of those officiating.

I Corinthians 14:39-40

- All members shall be taught of and given opportunity to tithe and give offerings to support the work of the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:7, 9:7-8

- Communion will be observed regularly.

Luke 22:17-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26

- The ministries are to equip and train leaders to carry on the vision of this local church.

Ephesians 4:11-14

- All age levels are to be taught systematically and regularly. This includes children's as well as adult classes geared towards deeper knowledge of God, His word, and the development of godly character.

I Peter 3:15; II Timothy 3:16

- Those from inside and outside our fellowship will preach Gods word authoritatively on any topic, as the leadership approves.

I Timothy 4:11-13; II Timothy 2:2

- Satan will attempt to destroy the leadership of the local church, and to scatter the flock by many means. To counter this, we gather regularly to support and pray for one another. We always endeavor to maintain unity of faith and love, as long as truth is not compromised.

Ephesians 4:3; Romans 15:5

- New Life Church has an accountability and fellowship with LifeLinks International which is a worldwide fellowship of believers.

1 John 1:3

- We desire to fellowship with and grow in relationship to any churches of like mind. We do not consider denominational affiliation a requirement for fellowship.

Acts 2:42

- We will fast regularly as the Lord leads

Matthew 6:16-18; Acts 13:2-3

TO THE LOST

Our outreach is to the spreading of the gospel to the unsaved, both locally and worldwide.

- The Church is to be salt and light in individual spheres, our community, our, nation and worldwide.

Matthew 5:13-16

- Our goal is to share Jesus Christ at every Spirit-led opportunity, at home, work or elsewhere. Our goal is to train each member to share his or her faith.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- Our goal is to organize, train, and recruit workers to take the gospel into any setting as the Lord leads.

Matthew 9:37-38

- Our goal is to share our resources to send workers to the mission field. This will include our own workers, and any others to whom God might direct us in establishing churches.

Philippians 2:19-24

- Our goal is to develop and maintain relationships with other missionaries and evangelical organizations that are effectively sharing Jesus Christ with others.

Mark 9:38-41

- Our goal is to remember the pit from which we were taken and share the Lord in a humble, respectful fashion, obeying the laws of nations that do not contradict Gods word.

Colossians 3:5-11

- The work of evangelism is essentially a work of warfare in the spirit. We precede and proceed in our outreach work with prayer, and at times, fasting.

II Timothy 4:5; II Corinthians 10:3-5

PERSONAL NOTES