



PILGRIM REST

DISCIPLE SHIP101

REV. ASHTON E. ALEXANDER
SENIOR PASTOR
491 East McLemore Avenue
Memphis, TN 38106
901.775.0041 Office
901.775.0095 Fax
Email: Pilgrimrestmemphis@

BRINGING THEM IN, BUILDING THEM UP



Introduction:

Why do we need this class?

1. To clarify your commitment to being a member of Pilgrim Rest.
2. To inform you on the fundamentals of the Christian faith.
3. To ensure that you know all that membership at Pilgrim Rest entails.

It's important to be connected

- □ At Pilgrim Rest, membership means something.
- □ Attending this class will give you all the necessary information to be an effective contributing member of Pilgrim Rest.
- □ We desire to transform an army into an audience.
- □ In order to enlist you in our army, we will take you from membership to maturity to ministry to missions.

Introduction:

- □ Our goal is that you would become a committed follower of Christ and be able to lead someone else to be a committed follower of Christ.
- □ Our church is committed to give you the necessary tools, nourishment, and support to grow spiritually.
- □ By the end of the class, you should be well on your way to becoming a dedicated, contributing member of Pilgrim Rest.

How to become a Christian?

Salvation is an important requirement for church membership. It is the sovereign act of God's grace whereby sinners are delivered from the

bondage of sin and made sons and daughters of God.

The Problem: You are a sinner “As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;” **Romans 3:10**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 6:23**

The Consequences

“but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he does not hear.” **Isaiah 59:2**

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures”

1 Corinthians 15:3 The Plan: You must believe and repent.

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” **Luke 13:3**

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” **John 1:12**

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9**

You should serve

1. Be baptized.

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38**

2. Share your faith. “You are witnesses of these things” **Luke 24:48**

3. Pray daily. “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” **Luke 18:1**

4. Study the Word. “...but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.”

“... the soul who sins shall die.”

“For the wages of sin is death” “But as for the cowardly, the faithless... will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21:8 The Provision: You may be saved

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

“... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,

Ezekiel 18:4

Romans 6:23a

Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8** ³⁴

Joshua 1:8

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures”

1 Corinthians 15:3 The believer should obey the Lord’s command through baptism.

Why be baptized?

Christ commanded it.

Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’

Matthew 28:19-20

Christ was baptized.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. **Mark 1:9**

It is a matter of obedience.

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.

1 John 2:3

Jesus was baptized.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.

Baptism is an ordinance of the church.

Baptists hold that scripture gives the church two ordinances—communion and baptism. Both of these ordinances point to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism represents the sacrifice of Christ for our sins.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the

What is the manner of baptism?

Luke 18:1

Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4

Baptist, as the name indicates, believe in believer's baptism by water immersion.

Jesus was baptized by water immersion.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.

Matthew 3:16 "Baptize" literally means "to dip under water."

4. Study the Word. "...but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it"

Joshua 1:8

What is the manner of baptism?

Baptist, as the name indicates, believe in believer's baptism by

What is the church?

What we believe

I. The Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

II. The True God.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the

Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. The Fall of Man.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. The Way of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

water immersion.

“Church” comes from two Greek words: called and out of. The church

Jiselsiutesrawllays tbhaepctailzled bouytwgaroteurp iomf mbaeprtsiizoend. believers. God uses the local

church to accomplish His mission on earth. Predominantly the use of the As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. **Matthew** word “church” in the New Testament refers to an actual, physical **3:16**

assembly of believers. God never intended that believers grow in the faith in an independent or isolated manner.

“Baptize” literally means “to dip under water.”

Church membership is about contribution—not consumption; we should look for what we can give, and not what we can get. God wants to use us to fulfill His purposes in the church and community.

Who started the church?

Matthew 16:18 “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock , and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Who is the church?

1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now _____ of it.
are Christ's body, and individually

_____ Ephesians 4:4 “There is we were called in ____hope of your calling;
body and ____Spirit, just as also you

_____ Galatians 3:27 “For all of you who were baptized ____have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Who is the head of the church?

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the

Does God require church attendance?

of the body, the church.

_____ Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to

love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as it the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as see the Day drawing near.”

V. Justification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. The Freeness of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Regeneration.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Repentance and Faith.

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred

duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and

promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Sanctification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

XI. Perseverance of the Saints.

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as

endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. The Law and Gospel.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. A Gospel Church.

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose Qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. The Christian Sabbath.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. Civil Government.

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XVII. Righteous and Wicked.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. The World to Come.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

How the church works?

God has designed the structure of the local church. The Baptist churches are autonomous, meaning that we are not subject to any ecclesiastical boards or denominational guide. There are two biblical positions of the church: the pastor and the deacon. The pastor oversees the entirety of the church, while the deacons are to be the servants of the church. We have a servant-leadership organizational model in place to deal with the growing demands and pressing needs of ministry: Congregational Care, Christian Education, Personnel, Stewardship, Disciple-making, and Evangelism.

The ministry and total operations of the church are sustained through tithing. God has ordained that the needs of the church and the work of ministry be met through the comprehensive stewardship of the members. In order for us to impact lostness in the South Memphis community and the world, we believe everyone must be **a contributing disciple**.

Tithing demonstrates our obedience to God and shows our gratitude for His grace. Scripture directs us to give generously to support the ministry and missions of the local church:

“On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.” (1 Corinthians 16:2 NLT)

Our Affiliations

Pilgrim Rest holds membership in the National Baptist Convention and the Progressive National Baptist Convention. We are also a part of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary & Education Convention, Inc. On a local level, we participate in the Memphis District Association and the Memphis City Union #1. All of these organizations are Baptist-believing bodies that exist for the purpose of Christian education, missions and evangelism, and fellowship among churches.

We partner with Baptist bodies locally and nationally, because we are

able to do more together. God has used the cooperation and participation of these organizations to expand the kingdom, offer scholarships, conduct city-wide revival, and raise funds for domestic and foreign missions.

Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines are godly, biblical habits adopted by believers to grow in their faith and intimacy with God. The primary disciplines are prayer, fasting, and devotion. Without genuine spiritual awakening, being a effective church member is impossible.

Prayer

Pray is heartfelt, scripture-saturated communication with God. All Christian tasks must be preceded by prayer. It demonstrates our dependence on God for navigating through the challenges of life.

How often should you pray?

Luke 18:1 says, “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought to pray and not lose heart. Continue in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” Thessalonians 5:17 says, “Pray” Colossians 4:2: “Continue in prayer, being

Fasting

Fasting is the intentional denial of food for the purpose of consecration and intimacy with God. Though Christians can abstain from many things: TV, social media, sporting events, etc. The Bible stipulates that fasting involves abstaining from food. As a church, we participate in the Daniel at the beginning of year on January 1-21. However, throughout the year, many ministries engage in fast.

Jesus fasted.

Matthew 4:1 says, “And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.”

Fasting brings about spiritual temptation

Matthew 4:3 says, “And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread”

Fasting must be a normal part of the Christian life

Matthew 6:17-18 says, “But you, ____ you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

Fasting is essential to being victorious in spiritual warfare.

Spiritual warfare is a reality to disciples of Christ. Satan and his demonic forces are passionately opposed to God’s kingdom of light. When the disciples could not heal a demonically possessed boy, Jesus stated that “This does not come out except by prayer and _____.

As a disciple of Pilgrim Rest, we want you commit to the values and standards of our community. To signify your commitment to Christ and the church, we ask you to thoroughly read our membership covenant and sign it. By signing it, you commit yourself to abide by all the responsibilities, standards, and privileges that membership at Pilgrim affords.

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other members ...By refusing to gossip ...By following the leaders “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” (Romans 14:19 NLT)

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear

them.” (Ephesians 4:29 NLT)

“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.” (Hebrews 13:17 NLT)

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth...By inviting the unchurched to attend...By warmly welcoming those who visit “We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2 NLT)

“So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’” (Luke 14:23-24 NLT)

“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” (Romans 15:7 NLT)

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

...By discovering my gifts and talents...By being equipped to serve by my pastors ...By developing a servant’s heart “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10 NLT)

“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.” (Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT)

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ...Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being....” (Philippians 2:3-4, 7 NLT)

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

...By attending faithfully...By living a godly life...By giving regularly “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25 NLT)

“Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.” (Philippians 1:27 NLT)

“On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.” (1 Corinthians 16:2 NLT)

“One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy.” (Leviticus 27:30 NLT)

MINISTRIES OF PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

Youth Ministry..... Barbara Boulton

Birth Month.....Margaret Daniel
 Children..... Melanie Jones
 Choirs..... Min. Christopher Wilson
 Deaconesses.....Sharon Ewing/Harolyn Newberry
 Deacons..... Albert Herman/Bertram Williams
 Educational Outreach..... Ada C. Shotwell Feeding
 the Community..... Donna Mason Food
 Pantry..... Willie Mae Gray
 Hospitality.....Twana Mason Kennedy
 StreetAda C. Shotwell Membership
 DevelopmentPatricia Watson
 Men's FellowshipTerryL Buford
 Mission..... Sharon Phifer
 Personnel.....TaWanda Randolph
 Singles..... Maxine Jones Sunday
 School..... Catherine Johnson/Donna Mason
 Trustees..... Helen W. Smith/William C. Rucker, Jr.
 Ushers..... Hazel James/Mandy Rucker Vacation
 Bible School..... TBD
 Wellness.....Patricia Watson/Jacqueline Buford Women's
 FellowshipBrenda Atkins