

# New Members

Our Mission Statement .....	2
Our Method .....	3
Our Means .....	4
The Purpose and Process of Membership .....	5
What is the Membership Process? .....	6
Membership Commitment of Community Bible Church .....	7
Links to Pre-Membership Questionnaire and Membership Application form .....	8







## Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to exalt Christ locally and globally.

We do this through engaging and evangelizing the lost, and establishing and equipping believers through the gospel of Christ.

The Scriptures, which come from God (2 Timothy 3:16), define our mission. In God's word we find that God does all things for His glory (Psalm 19:1; Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14). God is supremely glorified through His Son (Matthew 17:5; John 1:18; 14:9; Hebrews 1:3). Therefore everything we do as a church is to exalt Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God the Father (John 16:12–15, Philippians 2:9–11; Revelation 7:9–17).

Jesus Christ is supremely glorious for who He is — truly God and truly man — and for the work He has accomplished in His death and resurrection (John 1:1; Matthew 28:19; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:1–4; 1 Timothy 3:5). Jesus was sent on a mission from the Father to be the Savior of the world (John 3:16–17). His death propitiated (appeased) the wrath of the Father and thus accomplished our justification, forgiveness, reconciliation, and adoption, giving the repentant believing sinner eternal life (Romans 3:21–26; Ephesians 1:1–14; Colossians 1:13–23; Titus 2:11–14).

It is the supreme glory of Christ and His accomplished mission that moves us to exalt Him and fulfill our mission (Ephesians 3:8; 1 Peter 2:9–10). A more complete explanation is found in our CBC Doctrinal Statement.

# Our Method

## Making disciples

The way we fulfill our mission of exalting Christ is by carrying out the commission that He gave His church of making disciples who worship Jesus (Matt 28:16–20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

## What a disciple is

A disciple is simply another word for a Christian (Acts 11:26). A disciple is a forgiven sinner devoted to a life of following Christ, becoming more like Him (Matt 10:24–25; Mark 8:34–38; Luke 14:25–33) and persevering in the faith (Luke 6:40; John 8:31).

## How to make disciples

Jesus instructs us how to carry out our mission of making disciples: we are to go, baptize, and teach (Matt 28:19–20).

We *go* engaging the world and evangelizing them with the gospel message, calling people to repent and trust that Jesus died for their sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day (Luke 24:46–48). We do this in the power of the Holy Spirit locally, regionally and globally (Acts 1:8).

We *baptize* those who believe (Matt 28:19).

We then *teach* in order to establish and equip God's people in the word of God, so they can become disciple makers themselves (Eph 4:7–16).

These foundational truths fuel the methods and means as detailed below.

## Engage a lost world

It is the Lord's desire that "all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Therefore, we must not only be concerned about the people we see every week at worship

service, at work, or in our neighborhoods. We should care about the many lost souls whom our church is not connected to. Therefore, we must engage those we do not know through genuine and loving relationships with them.

## Evangelize by proclaiming the gospel to the lost

It is not our desire to simply establish a relationship with non-Christians and make them feel comfortable in their lost state. That is not love. We want them to become disciples, worshippers of our beloved Savior (Matthew 28:19). Therefore, we must evangelize by preaching the gospel (Romans 1:16).

We are to be an outreach minded church, where every member of Community Bible Church is engaged in this glorious enterprise (Matthew 28:18–20; Ephesians 4:11–29; Colossians 4:5; 1 Peter 4:7–11).

## Establish believers in the faith

The disciple-making process is not finished when someone becomes a Christian. We must teach these disciples to observe all that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:20). We want to ensure believers are established, growing in understanding the truth and living a Spirit-filled life, so that they stand firm in what they believe.

We encourage every believer who regularly attends CBC to become a member. The ongoing disciple-making process is a mutual commitment between the church and the individual believer. A desire to be established in Christ is demonstrated by a formal commitment to the local body of Christ.

## Equip believers to reproduce themselves in others

The Lord desires that every Christian participate in the work of making disciples (Ephesians 4:11–16). Therefore, the church should equip the flock so that



they can also help other Christians grow as disciples of Christ (i.e. sanctification: see CBC Doctrinal Statement). These disciples then continue the work of disciple-making through their own personal involvement in engaging, evangelizing, establishing and equipping (2 Timothy 2:2).

## Our Means

### Individual, families, church family

We accomplish our mission of making disciples through specific means. While structure and organization help with this endeavor, we recognize that all our efforts must flow from a genuine Spirit-filled and Spirit-dependent life. We must be a praying church. Along with this, we must be a loving people with the love of Christ so all will know we are His disciples (John 13:35). These convictions should show themselves in how we live individually, in our families, and as a church. Each of these means are essential to carrying out our mission.

### Individual

We are first disciples individually: followers that love Christ because they are captivated by His person and glory. All else flows from this sincere love and affection for Him. There should be a continual maturing in Him through our own times of worship, prayer, Bible study, obedience, giving, and service. (See: Matthew 5–7; 10:16–39; Mark 8:34–38; Luke 14:25–33; Romans 6; 12; Philippians 2).

### Families

Love for God should also flow into a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled marriage and home. Husbands and wives are to love each other and joyfully fulfill the roles given to them by God. Parents are to love, train, and discipline their children in the ways of the Lord. Children are to obey their parents while in the home and honor them throughout life.

Families also have the opportunity to forge relationships with others outside the home. Family activities such as academics, athletics, or play with neighboring kids can be strategic means for fulfilling our mission.

Discipleship affects all family relationships (Ephesians 5:21–6:4; Colossians 3:18–21; 1 Timothy 5).

### Church family

Our church family centers on the love and worship of God, reflecting a unity found only in Christ and a commitment to mutual edification and equipping. This begins on Sundays with corporate worship, prayer, fellowship, and the faithful preaching of His Word as the elders and leaders set the tone for what life in Christ should look like.

Throughout the week we are to be regularly involved in one another's lives, admonishing, building up, encouraging, helping and loving one another. Discipleship at various levels happen in these intentional, regular times together (John 13:34–35; Romans 12:10–13; 13:8; 15:14; Colossians 3:16–17; Hebrews 3:13).

We have various ministries to promote every person's involvement in this glorious mission. Some examples include: our morning and evening worship services, adult Sunday school, children's ministry, student ministries, college and career ministries, home fellowship groups, small group discipleship, men's and women's ministries, elderly and shut-ins ministries, and various local and global outreach ministries.

We do all of this for the glory and exaltation of our triune God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.





## The Purpose and Process of Membership

### What is membership?

Membership is the mutual commitment between the believer and the local church to be united together in the goal of God's mission in the world: to exalt Christ by making disciples both locally and globally. Believers commit to strive for a sanctified life in fellowship with the body, to serve the saints with their gifts, to seek and save the lost, and to submit to their shepherds. The church commits to mutual care among her members, to provide accountability for their commitment to the local church family, and to nurture and grow together to the glory of Christ.

### Why membership?

The New Testament teaches that believers are to be committed to a local church because this is what Jesus is building. Jesus wants believers to identify with the bride that He intensely loves and for whom He gave His life. They are to be vitally connected with the fellowship, ministry, and accountability of the local church.

1. Membership is the application of Scriptural principle
  - a. Throughout Old Testament history, God made a clear distinction between his people and the world (Leviticus 13:46, Numbers 5:3, Deuteronomy 7:3).
  - b. In the New Testament, they had a clear count of who was becoming "part of the church" and recognized those who were part of the church (Acts 2:41–42).
  - c. Every New Testament letter written was either to individuals who were part of a local church, to a specific local church, or to a group of local churches. Paul called Titus to appoint elders to every local church in each city (Titus 1:5).
  - d. The New Testament explicitly refers to some people being inside the church and some people being outside (1 Corinthians 5:12–13).
  - e. Not only does the New Testament speak of the reality of church membership, but its dozens of "one anothers" are written to local churches, which reveals our understanding of what church membership should practically look like.

2. Membership is a visible commitment to Christ and His people. (Acts 5:14; Matthew 10:32–33; Romans 12:10).

As the family of God through Christ, we have a mutual commitment:

- a. To the mission (Matthew 28:18–20; 2 Timothy 2:1–7).
  - b. To worship (Psalm 95; 96).
  - c. To spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:1–5; 2 Peter 3:18).
  - d. To stewardship (Proverbs 3: 9; Matthew 6: 19–1; 24:14–30).
  - e. To serve (Ephesians 4:11–6; Mark 10:45).
  - f. To accountability (Matthew 18:15–18; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1–2).
3. Membership is an expression of love and commitment to one another. (John 13:34–35; 1 Corinthians 12:20–21; Hebrews 10:23–25).
  4. Membership provides protection for the flock of God. (Acts 20:28; Philippians 3:1–3).
  5. Membership provides accountability among the body. (Matthew 18:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 1 Timothy 5:19).
  6. Membership helps elders and leaders to be more faithful shepherds. (Hebrews 13:17).
  7. Membership in the local church provides a testimony and witness to the world (John 13:35; 17:23; 1 Corinthians 14:24).

## Who can become a member?

The person must:

1. Be a Christian, who has a personal credible testimony (which would include not having a sinful lifestyle). The person must be able to articulate the gospel clearly. This will be affirmed by an elder in an interview.
2. Be at least 18 years old.
3. Be baptized as a believer.
4. Affirm our doctrinal statement.
5. Sign the membership commitment.

## What is the Membership Process?

### Six steps to being a member

1. Visit [cbcvallejo.org](http://cbcvallejo.org) to register for the Membership class.
2. Read the CBC Mission statement and the Membership commitment. Complete the Pre-Membership Questionnaire.
3. Complete the Membership Class.
4. Complete the Membership application.
5. Participate in a Membership interview.
6. New members will be contacted and officially presented before the church during service.



# Membership Commitment of Community Bible Church

It is with joy that we make this membership commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ through His local church here at CBC and its mission to exalt Christ locally and globally by making disciples. We will do this by engaging and evangelizing the lost through the proclamation of the gospel, and by being a part of establishing and equipping the saints. This is all an outflow of our own personal faith in the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and having accepted the Bible as our sole authority of faith and practice, we do now, in the presence of God and our church family, solemnly and joyfully commit ourselves as one body to delight in Christ by doing the following:

## **We will Engage and Evangelize a world in need of Jesus Christ by:**

### **Seeking and saving the lost**

- We will live as Christ's ambassadors by making disciples (2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 28:18–20).
- We will love our neighbor and live as lights in our community (Mark 12:31; Matthew 5:14–16).
- We will cheerfully and regularly be involved in the spreading of the Gospel to all nations through prayer, giving, going, and supporting (Matthew 28:18–20; 3 John 6; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6–15).

**We will be Established and Equipped in the faith and help others to do the same by:**

### **Striving for a sanctified life**

- We will faithfully follow Christ individually, seeking to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength through the Spirit's empowerment. We will be holy as God is holy, by putting on the things of Christ and putting off the things of the world (Mark 12:30; Colossians 3:1–14; 1 Peter 1:13–16).
- We will be devoted to Christ in our homes as we intentionally pursue the means of grace God has provided, including consistent times in the Word and prayer. We will seek the salvation of all those in our homes, especially our children by imparting an affection for Christ and a love for His kingdom (Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Matthew 4:4; Ephesians 6:4).
- We will walk carefully in the world with God's help, maintaining a Christian world view, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, and living sensibly, righteously and godly (Romans 12:1–2; Titus 2:12).

### **Submitting to our shepherds**

- We will in good conscience support and submit to our elders who are called to shepherd the flock of God (1 Peter 5:1–2; Hebrews 13:17).
- We will speak personally to one of the elders, if there are areas or questions of disagreement, or if the Lord begins to lead us to another location or local church (Romans 12:16, 14:19, 15:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:13).

- We will welcome and participate in Christ's corrective measures (church discipline) if a member (including myself) persists in the practice of sin (Matthew 18:15–18; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15).

### **Serving the saints**

- We will regularly attend the gatherings of this local church for worship through the Word of God, prayer, and the Lord's Supper (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26).
- We will foster loving relationships characterized by prayer, fellowship, love, edification, good deeds, and resolve conflicts through loving, direct communication to preserve the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1–3, 29, 31–32; 6:18; 1 John 1:3; Romans 12:10; Hebrews 10:24; Philippians 1:27, 2:2, 4:2).
- We will minister to the body of Christ through our spiritual gifts and generous giving (1 Corinthians 12:7; 2 Cor 8–9; 1 Peter 4:10–11).

## Pre-Membership Questionnaire

---



## Membership Application Form

---

