



# TIPPETT'S CHAPEL

## Free Will Baptist Church

### Welcome to DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Tippett's Chapel! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

#### **The Basis for this Class:**

*<sup>19</sup>Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, Ephesians 2:19*

#### **Key Truths:**

1. The church is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God expects you to be \_\_\_\_\_ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **The Goal of this Class:**

That I will commit myself to \_\_\_\_\_ and to the  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## What Makes Tippett's a Family?

Four Things Unite Us:

- \*Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
- \*Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
- \*Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
- \*Our Structure (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

### Seminar Outline

Session One	Our Salvation
	*What it means to be a Christian
	*The symbols of salvation: baptism and communion
Session Two	Our Statements
	*Our Purpose Statement
	*Our Faith Statement
	*Our Lifestyle Statement
Session Three	Our Strategy
	*Who are we trying to reach
	*Circles of Commitment
Session Four	Our Structure
	*How our church is structured
	*What it means to be a member
	*What now? The CLASS Program

### Our Four Bases of Christian Commitment

Tippett's 101	Committed to Membership
Tippett's 201	Committed to Maturity
Tippett's 301	Committed to Ministry
Tippett's 401	Committed to Missions

## SESSION ONE

### Our Salvation

*<sup>26</sup>For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

*Galatians 3:26-28*

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing "Why?" They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "What is the meaning of my life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions**.

Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure**.

Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power**.

But real happiness comes from understanding my \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why am I here?

A. God made me to \_\_\_\_\_ me!

*<sup>3</sup>The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

*Jeremiah 31:3*

*<sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, Ephesians 1:4-5*

B. We were created to \_\_\_\_\_ a personal relationship with God and to \_\_\_\_\_ all the rest of God's creation. **THIS MAKES US SPECIAL!**

*<sup>27</sup>So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup>Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:27-28*

*<sup>7</sup>Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*

*1 Timothy 6:17*

*<sup>10</sup>"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10*

C. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our life:

Clear Conscience

Romans 8: 1

Life and Peace

Romans 8: 6

Help with Weakness

Romans 8: 31

Purpose

Romans 8: 28

Confidence

Romans 8: 31

Security

Romans 8: 39

Power and Strength  
Philippians 4: 13

Fulfillment  
Philippians 4: 19

Freedom  
John 8: 32, 36

If this then is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live, why then aren't most people really happy?

What's the Problem?

- A. People have a natural desire to \_\_\_\_\_ and to ignore God's principles for living.

*Look out for # 1. Do your own thing.*

*If it feels good, do it—regardless of what God says about it.*

*It's my life and I'll do what I please!*

- B. The Bible calls this attitude: \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>6</sup>*All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6*

<sup>8</sup>*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*1 John 1:8*

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

<sup>2</sup>*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2*

<sup>23</sup>*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23*

**When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives—marriage, career, relationships and finances.**

**When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping BEFORE turning to God.**

<sup>25</sup>*There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 16:25*

**Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:**

*\*My mother was a Christian so....*

*\*It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere.*

*\*I'll give up all my bad habits.*

*\*I'll work real hard and earn it.*

*\*I'll be religious and go to church.*

**What's the Solution?**

*Jesus Christ said, "I AM THE WAY and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except THROUGH ME. John 14:6*

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come.

**JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKE CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!**

<sup>23</sup>*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 6:23*

**God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know  
Him.**

<sup>8</sup>*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

<sup>5</sup>*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,  
1 Timothy 2:5*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

**What Does God Want Me to Do?**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

<sup>9</sup>*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

B. \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter, and is alive today.

<sup>9</sup>*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

<sup>12</sup>*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

C. \_\_\_\_\_ God's free gift of salvation.  
Don't try to earn it.

<sup>8</sup>*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus did for us!

D. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

<sup>12</sup>*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13*

<sup>20</sup>*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20*

**You can take these steps by praying a simple Prayer of Commitment to God:**

Dear Jesus, thank You for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored You and gone my own way. I realize I need You in

my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept Your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.

<sup>13</sup>For “*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*” Romans 10: 13

### **What is a Free Will Baptist?**

*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:29-30*

### **How to be saved**

*That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10*

<sup>13</sup>For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Romans 10:13

### **What is the unpardonable sin?**

<sup>28</sup>“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; <sup>29</sup>“but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation. Mark 3:28-29

*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. Hebrews 6:4-6*

<sup>26</sup>*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, Hebrews 10:26*

*And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. John 10:28-29*

## **Dealing with Sin**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

Sin \_\_\_\_\_ us from God.

## **Lesson 2 Baptism**

### **Who should be baptized?**

Every person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ, as Savior should be baptized.

M <sup>41</sup>*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:41*

M <sup>12</sup>*But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Acts 8:12*

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Jesus Christ. For this reason we do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

### **Why be baptized?**

Christ commands believers to be baptized.

M <sup>19</sup>*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19*

## **Baptism is a step of obedience to Christ and His Word.**

Obedience to Christ is evidence of personally knowing and loving Him.

*M<sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. <sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.  
1 John 2:3*

Jesus said...

*M<sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15*

## **What is the meaning of Baptism?**

Baptism is not a \_\_\_\_\_.

*M<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

*M<sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,  
Titus 3:5*

Baptism is a symbol of our \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.

*M<sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4*

## **How are we to be Baptized?**

Baptism in the New Testament was done by \_\_\_\_\_.

*M<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. Matthew 3:16*

*M<sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." <sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.  
Acts 8:37-39*

The word "baptism" means \_\_\_\_\_

The most reputable Greek dictionaries' definition of the Greek word "bapto" is where we get the word "baptism."

Three major Christian leaders describe baptism as by immersion:

Martin Luther: "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin: "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley: "Alluding to baptizing by immersion to the custom of the first church."

### **When Should We Be Baptized?**

As soon as a person declares his belief in Christ, he may be baptized. Throughout the Book of Acts, Christians were baptized soon after their belief.

*M<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*  
*Acts 2:41*

*M<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.*  
*Acts 8:12*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect," you'll never feel "good enough!"

Baptism is an important \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Communion**

There are two parts to our communion service. They are to remind us of what Jesus provides in salvation.

### **Biblical Practice of Communion**

#### **The Bread and Cup**

Why we do it

Jesus did this and told His followers to do it. And the early Christians, who knew what He said best, did this.

"Take this bread and eat it," Jesus said. He also told them and us to drink the juice and to remember what He did for us.

What it means:

It is for a reminder of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It stands for His death and the salvation we have when we believe.

*<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup>and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup>In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

We have many symbols in life. The bread stands for the body which was broken when He was killed on the cross. The juice makes us think of His blood which He gave to save people from their sins.

*<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26*

Justification is when God declares us to be righteous in Jesus Christ.

## **The Washing of Believer's Feet (Feet-washing)**

### **Why we do it**

Because Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ of His followers and told them to do what He did.

*<sup>14</sup>"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:14*

### **What it means**

This reminds us of the way God forgives us for our daily sins when we confess them to Him. It also is to show us to be ready to help others and not be proud.

*<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." John 13:10*

**What we do:**

Each person in the communion washes someone's feet. Then someone does this for him or her. It is good to remember that Jesus did this first.

**Biblical Review of Communion**

Communion—The emblem of Christ's past ministry (justification).

- A. Where it's mentioned: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-27
- B. Authorized by Christ: 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
- C. It's meaning: 1 Corinthians 11:25-27

Feet washing—The emblem of Christ's present ministry.

- A. Where it's mentioned: John 13:1-17; 1 Timothy 5:10
- B. Authorized by Christ: John 13:3, 12-16.
- C. Its meaning: John 13:13-15
- D. Command to continue it: John 13:13-15

**Our Statements**

To bring people to Jesus and *membership* in His family, develop them to Christlike *maturity*, and equip them for their *ministry* in the church and life *mission* in the world, in order to *magnify* God.

Five Instructions for the Church:

Worship: "Magnify God through dynamic worship"

*<sup>1</sup>Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. <sup>2</sup>Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:1-2*

- a. Through services that utilize the gifts and abilities of believers who lead us to praise God.
- b. Through services that provide opportunities for growth and motivation for believers.

Ministry: "Empowering believers to minister"

<sup>3</sup>*“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>4</sup>“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:3-4*

- a. Consisting of a church leadership serving on the basis of spiritual qualifications to oversee the ministries of the church.
- b. Consisting of ministry leaders that administrate the ministries.
- c. Consisting of ministry teams designed to release people for ministry.
- d. Consisting of a structural flexibility that promotes proper change in order to meet the needs of a changing world.

Mission: “Evangelizing the world for Christ.”

<sup>22</sup>*Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; <sup>23</sup>“for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: Acts 17:22-23*

- a. By analyzing segments of the community we can reach.
- b. By focusing our efforts on the “nominally church.”
- c. By developing a proficiency in reaching the unchurched.
- d. By training our people to be personally involved in sharing Christ.

<sup>15</sup>*And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15*

- a. By challenging believers to consider mission opportunities around the world.
- b. By developing missionaries who are prepared for church-planting and development ministries.
- c. By expanding our church outreach locally, nationally, and internationally.
- d. By promoting a God-honoring value system in our community.

Membership: “Growing together in Christ”

<sup>42</sup>*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42*

<sup>1</sup>*Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Acts 6:1*

- a. Shared by leaders who are trained to provide pastoral care.
- b. Sensed in small groups organized to meet individual needs.

Maturity: "Growing Deeper in Christ"

<sup>34</sup>When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup>"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. Mark 8:34-35

<sup>2</sup>And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

- a. Characterized by understanding and obedience to the Word of God.
- b. Through small groups designed for spiritual growth.
- c. Through mobilizing believers to utilize their spiritual gifts.
- d. Through training which develops spiritual leaders.

## The Faith Statement

of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

We at Tippet's Chapel, are a part of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. We believe all of the Bible is God's Word and we obtain our beliefs and practices from it. Our common beliefs are as follows:



### The Bible

- The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

### God

- There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

### Christ

- Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

### The Holy Spirit

- The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

### The Government of God

- God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

#### **The Sinfulness of Man**

- Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.

#### **The Work of Christ**

- The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the ground of salvation by faith.

#### **The Terms of Salvation**

- The conditions of salvation are: (1) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. (2) Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. (3) Continuance of faith and obedience unto death.

#### **Election**

- God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

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#### **Freedom of the Will**

- The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

#### **Salvation Free**

- God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

#### **Perseverance**

- All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

#### **Gospel Ordinances**

- BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are the ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, is of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.

#### **Tithing**

- God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (I Corinthians 16:2a).

#### **The Christian Sabbath**

- The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

#### **Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution**

- The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. Those who have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into life eternal."

## Our Logo



**The Trees:** The trees represent the three crosses of the crucifixion. The center tree represents the cross upon which Christ died for the sins of the entire world. Because of Christ's sacrifice on this cross we can accept Him, have a personal relationship with Him and go to heaven one day.

**The Road:** Represents the choice we have to follow Christ. As we choose to follow Christ He guides us upon the road of life.

**The Sun:** The sun is always in the sky when we have the Son of God in our lives. Though difficulties come our way the Holy Spirit comforts us and guides us through life.

**The Name:** Tippet's Chapel was founded around 1919. The first pastor's name was Tippet and the church was named after him. The name reflects the history of our church in Wake and Johnston counties over three-quarters of a century.

**The Doctrine:** Our affiliation with the National Association of Free Will Baptists is also reflected. This reflects our belief that anyone can choose to follow Christ. The name also reflects our strategy for spreading the Gospel throughout the World through missions.

## Our Lifestyle Statement

### What we practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following:

The Bible as our \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15*

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We

practice Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

Recognized \_\_\_\_\_ of each local church.

<sup>18</sup>*And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Colossians 1:18*

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of association and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing.

Every believer's \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>6</sup>*and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:6*

<sup>9</sup>*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9*

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

T \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>30</sup>*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30*

At Tippett's Chapel, we recognize that giving 10% of our income is a Biblical standard for giving. Offerings are given above and beyond as God supplies.

H \_\_\_\_\_ living

<sup>5</sup>*"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5*

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18)

R \_\_\_\_\_ for leaders

<sup>17</sup>*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

The spiritual leaders of this church seek God's direction and His best for this flock.

E\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>15</sup>*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 1 Peter 3:15*

It is the responsibility for every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

B\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>19</sup>*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19*

### **Our Strategy**

The Core—“I lead”—Core Ministers

The Committed—“I belong”—Maturing Members

The Congregation—“I believe”—Members

The Crowd—“I attend”—Regular Attenders

The Contacts—“I’m aware”—Occasional Attenders

The Community—“I’m unaware”—Unchurched

### **The Four Covenants of Tippett’s Chapel**

1. The Membership Covenant is a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>19</sup>*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, Ephesians 2:19*

<sup>4</sup>*For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:4-5*

2. The Maturity Covenant is a commitment to the \_\_\_\_\_ necessary for spiritual growth.

<sup>18</sup>*but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18*

<sup>7</sup>*But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7*

3. The Ministry Covenant is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in \_\_\_\_\_ God and others.

<sup>10</sup>*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.  
1 Peter 4:10*

<sup>5</sup>*There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 1 Corinthians 12:5*

<sup>27</sup>*Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 1 Corinthians 12:27*

4. The Missions Covenant is a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ the Good News with others.

<sup>8</sup>*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

<sup>15</sup>*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 1 Peter 3:15*

## Session Four

### Our Structure

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

#### How Our Church is Structured

A. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>42</sup>*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.  
Acts 2:42*

A top priority in a fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>3</sup>*endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3*

<sup>19</sup>*Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.  
Romans 14:19*

ANY attitude that causes disunity is \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 3:15, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Timothy 2:14, Proverbs 17:14, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3, Colossians 3:13-14, Psalm 133:1.

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>17</sup>Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.

<sup>18</sup>For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 1 Corinthians 11:17-18

B. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 1 Peter 3:8

Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

<sup>1</sup>Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup>older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity. 1 Timothy 5:1-2

<sup>4</sup>one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence <sup>5</sup>(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 1 Timothy 3:4-5

C. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19.

We are a Body—not a business! We are an organism—not an organization!

<sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; Romans 12:4-6

In an organization “maintenance” become the focus. But in an organism “ministry” is the focus.

### **Our Structure**

\*The People are the “\_\_\_\_\_”

\*The Pastors are the “\_\_\_\_\_”

D. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus’ favorite description of the Church—John 10:1-30, Matthew 26:31, Matthew 25:33)

Therefore it is cared for and led by \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>16</sup>He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You

*know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.*

*John 21:16-17*

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

\*"Poimen"

\*"Presbuteros"

\*"Episcopos"

*<sup>1</sup>The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 1 Peter 5:1-2*

*<sup>17</sup>From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup>And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Acts 20:17-18*

*<sup>28</sup>“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28*

See also Titus 1:5-7, 1 Timothy 5:17

### **What it means to be a member**

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: \_\_\_\_\_

At Tippett’s Chapel, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

M A B \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

*<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, Ephesians 5:25*

M A C \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. The attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

M A P \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church

family.

### **What is Expected of a Member?**

At Tippet's Chapel, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christians to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

#### **The Membership Covenant of Tippet's Chapel**

"Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized and being in agreement with Tippet's Chapel's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Family of Tippet's Chapel. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:"

1. I will protect the unity of the Church...
  - ...By acting in love toward other members
  - ...By refusing to gossip
  - ...By following the leaders

*<sup>19</sup>in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Romans 15:19*

*<sup>5</sup>Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, Romans 15:5*

*<sup>22</sup>Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 1 Peter 1:22*

*<sup>29</sup>Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. Ephesians 4:29*

*<sup>17</sup>Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17*

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 attend

*<sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 1 Thessalonians 1:2*

*<sup>23</sup>"Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. Luke 14:23*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Romans 15:7*

3. I will serve the ministry of my Church...
- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
  - ...By being equipped to serve my pastors
  - ...By developing a servant's heart

<sup>10</sup>*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.  
1 Peter 4:10*

<sup>11</sup>*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,  
<sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,  
Ephesians 4:11-12*

<sup>3</sup>*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.  
<sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.  
Philippians 2:3-4, 7*

4. I will support the testimony of my Church...
- ...By attending faithfully
  - ...By living a godly life
  - ...By giving regularly

<sup>25</sup>*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25*

<sup>27</sup>*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,  
Philippians 1:27*

<sup>2</sup>*On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Corinthians 16:2*

<sup>30</sup>*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30*

I am willing to make these commitments to the Family of Tippett's Chapel. Please count me in as a member!

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Signed

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Date