

Grace Fellowship

1. The **four main functions** of the Church are worship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry. When a church fails to function well in all four areas she becomes weak and deformed. This lesson will help you understand each area and why it is necessary for a strong vital fellowship.

Worship is the church ministering unto the **Lord**. It would be impossible to claim to be a Christian and not spend time with the Lord in worship

Give a *brief* summary of each passage as it relates to **worship**:

Exodus 20:2-6 _____

Psalms 29:1-11 _____

Psalms 100:1-5 _____

Romans 12:1 _____

Revelation 14:7 _____

Discipleship is the church ministering to **itself** to encourage spiritual growth. It is the responsibility of every believer to mature in Christ. It is the church's responsibility to provide opportunities for this growth to occur.

Give a *brief* summary of each passage as it relates to **discipleship**:

Ephesians 4:11-13 _____

2 Timothy 4:2-4 _____

Titus 2:15 _____

Galatians 6:1-2 _____

2 Timothy 2:5 _____

Ephesians 3:16-19 _____

Acts 2:42 _____

Evangelism is the church ministering to the **world**. It is the requirement of every believer to be a witness for Christ. While there are those with the gift of evangelism who are a gift to the church, everyone is called to be a witness to what Christ has done for them.

Give a *brief* summary of each passage as it relates to **evangelism**:

Matthew 28:19-20 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

Colossians 4:3-6 _____

Ministry is the church ministering to those in **need**.

Give a *brief* summary of each passage as it relates to **ministry**:

Matthew 25:34-36 _____

Luke 3:10-14 _____

Acts 4:34-35 _____

Galatians 6:10 _____

James 2:14-26 _____

2. Evaluation. Spend some time this week evaluating your time and answer the following questions (*all questions are to be answered in hours or minutes for a typical week*):

• How much time do you spend ministering to others? _____

Give an example: _____

• How much time do you spend witnessing? _____

List an opportunity _____

• How much time do you spend in discipleship? _____

List any discipleship activities: _____

• How much time do you spend in worship? _____

List your times of personal and corporate worship: _____

• How are you doing? List the areas that the Lord has shown you that you need improvement: _____

3. Grace Fellowship's Mission Statement

**To bring people to Jesus, disciple them to Christlike maturity,
and equip them for ministry, in order to bring glory to God.**

4. Principles underlying our functions and Mission Statement

- **God is sovereign and His grace is at work**

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). The Christian life is about God, His will, His purposes, and His desires. The Christian enters into God's Kingdom as a slave and becomes a family member with all its privileges and responsibilities. Galatians 4:7 says, So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

- **Authority of the Word**

The Bible is our final authority for all we do, both at Grace and individually.
2 Timothy 3:16 (*See Lesson 4*)

- **People need Jesus**

Without a personal relationship with Christ a person is without hope. It is our God-given responsibility to tell people the Good News of Christ and to make that a priority of our lives (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

- **Competency of the soul**

Everyone has the right and responsibility to go directly to the Lord for guidance through intimacy with the Holy Spirit and Bible study. The disciple should follow the leadership of Grace Fellowship as Paul instructed in *1 Corinthians 11:1, Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

- **Freedom of the Spirit to move as He pleases**

Legalism, the attempt to please God through our own activities, and Antinomianism, the release of the believer from obeying the moral law, are two great threats to the well-being of any church. Grace Fellowship focuses on the work of God in and around us and rejects legalism and its restrictions on the freedom of the believer, and antinomianism and its unrestrained freedom to the believer.

Paul addressed the issue of legalism in the Book of Galatians, *I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing! (Galatians 2:21).*

And he addressed the issue of antinomianism in *Galatians 5:13, You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*

We do not intend to dictate to the Lord how He should move in our midst. We are free to obey Him, but subject to Him and His Word. Nothing will be done at Grace that does not square with the Scriptures.

- **Spiritual growth is expected**

1 Thessalonians 4:3 states, For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.

What the Lord desires is our growth toward becoming like Him in character. This growth involves intimacy with God and transformation in us (*Romans 12:2*). The Christian life is an adventure that is both exciting and demanding.

- **Authority rises with responsibility**

The Lord expects each believer to live up to his calling (*Ephesians 4:1*) and to minister to others according to giftedness and passion. The Lord expects each believer to use what has been given to him (*Luke 12:48*). No one will have more authority than the responsibilities they hold based on their gifts and calling.

- **Love requires coaching and confrontation**

Each believer needs someone to guide them in following Jesus (*1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Timothy 2:2*). Paul states in *Galatians 6:1, Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.* Love confronts with the goal of restoration.

- **God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we hope or think**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20). God is for us. He wants every believer to succeed.

5. Becoming a member of Grace Fellowship

- **Purpose of membership**

Membership is about **commitment**. When you become a member, as a disciple of Jesus, you commit to following the spiritual leadership of Grace. You also commit to taking responsibility to support the ministries of Grace both in giving financially and finding places to serve.

Grace then commits to help you become like Christ by providing opportunities for growth, challenging you to a life of obedience, and encouraging you in your walk.

- **Three ways to become a member**

a. Baptism. After becoming a follower of Jesus you must be baptized. We practice believer's baptism by immersion.

b. Transfer of Letter. If you are a member of another Baptist church then you may transfer your membership to Grace.

c. Statement. If you are a follower of Jesus and have been scripturally baptized you may request membership by statement. This is usually necessary if we are unable to obtain a Letter of Transfer.

- **Process**

To begin the process just talk to your mentor or the Pastor. Once approved you will be voted into membership by the Leadership Team and at the Annual Church Conference.