

Discipleship 101: Basics of the Christian Life

Lesson 1: God's Plan of Salvation

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS

Matthew 7:24-27 “²⁴“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Discipleship 101 will help you discover the Foundation you need for the Christian Life.

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS

Ephesians 2:19-21 “¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

This class will help me focus on my...

- Life in Christ.
- Life in the Church.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

I will commit myself to Jesus Christ and to FIF Christian Church.

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “Why?” 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...

1. Some look for happiness by acquiring Possessions.
2. Some people look for happiness by experiencing Pleasure.
3. Some people look for happiness by gaining Power and Prestige.

Real happiness comes from understanding my Purpose.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

Pascal, the French scientist said, “There is a God-shaped emptiness within the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any other created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”

1. God made me to Love me.

Jeremiah 31:3 “*I have loved you with an everlasting love;*”

Ephesians 1:4,5 (GN) “*Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...because of his love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us His Children – this was God’s pleasure and purpose.*”

2. You were created to have a Personal Relationship with God and to Manage all the rest of creation. This makes us special!

Genesis 1:27,28 “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*”

I Timothy 6:17b “*...God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*”

In John 10:10 “*Jesus said, ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’*”

3. When we Know and Love God, and live in Harmony with his purposes for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives:

Clear Conscience
Romans 8:1

Life and Peace
Romans 8:6

Help with weakness
Romans 8:26

Purpose
Romans 8:28

Confidence
Romans 8:31

Security
Romans 8:39

Power & Strength
Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment
Philippians 4:19

Freedom
John 8:32,36

That is the kind of lifestyle that God intends for us to live. Why then aren’t most people really happy?

II. WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to Be Boss and to ignore God’s principles for living.

Man’s philosophy...

“Look out for #1”

“Do your own thing”

“You’ve got to do what’s right for YOU”

“If it feels good do it – regardless of what God says about it”

“It’s **MY** life and **I’LL** do as **I** Please”

The Bible calls this attitude Sin .

Isaiah 53:6 “*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;*”

I John 1:8 “*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*”

Isaiah 59:2 says, “*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you,*”

Romans 3:23 says, *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* When our relationship to God is not right, it causes Problems in every area of our lives.

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

“My parents are Christians, so I must be a Christian.”

“It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere”

“I’ll work real hard and earn it.”

“I’ll give up all my bad habits.”

“I’ll be religious and go to church”

Proverbs 16:25 says, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”*

III. WHAT’S THE SOLUTION?

John 14:6 *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus Christ provided the Only Solution to our problem.

Romans 6:23 *“The wages of sin is death... “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”.*

I Peter 3:18a *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”*

John 3:16 *“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.”*

Romans 5:8 *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. Admit your need - that you are a sinner and there is nothing you can do to bridge the gap between you and God.

I John 1:8-10 *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins*

and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

2. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave, and be willing to Confess that publicly.

John 8:24 *“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”*

Romans 10:9,10 *“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. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”*

3. Repent of your sins and turn to God.

Acts 17:30 *“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”*

II Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

To repent means to Stop doing things your way and Start doing things God’s way. It’s a 180 degree turn. It means to turn around and go the opposite direction.

4. Be Baptized (Immersed) into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:36-38 *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸Peter replied, “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.”*

Mark 16:16a *“¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,”*

V. IS THT ALL?

This is just the beginning of your new life in Jesus Christ. You will need to continue to grow in your Faith and in your Relationship with Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:22,23 *“But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation —if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.”*

And if you continue in the faith you can be Assured of your salvation.

I John 5:11-13 *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

VI. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST?

1. You must Surrender.
2. You must stop the Rebellion.
3. You must accept his offer of Mercy and Grace.

Mercy means Not Getting what you deserve.

Grace means God’s Undeserved favor or kindness.

4. You must come on His Terms.

Deuteronomy 30:19,20 *“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life...”*