



**Discovering Membership**

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## Discovering His Church

We're thrilled that you want to be a part of the Barwick Road Church Family. This is a big step towards your spiritual maturity. The following information is designed to help you better understand:

- God's desire for you
- Ways to express your faith
- Why the church exists
- Unique features about Barwick Road Church
- The purpose of our church
- How you fit into that purpose
- What our church believes

We welcome you into the family of faith known as Barwick Road Church but we ask that you first **pray and ask God to reveal His direction for your life in regards to your church home.**

## Membership Reminds Us:

*“...You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household” Ephesians 2:19*

## Key Truths:

1. The church is a **family**.
2. God expects you to be a **part** of a church family.
3. Spiritually speaking, a Christian without a church family is **homeless**.
4. We believe that the Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church and He is actively building His church. The church belongs to Jesus and for Jesus.
5. The church is not a place to go. We as born again believers **ARE** the church.
6. Like a natural family, the church family has structure. God has appointed Pastors to lead His church under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.

## Understanding Salvation

*“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.” John 3:16*

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY”. They exist year after year with no idea of God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of life?”

Everyone desires happiness, which can be misunderstood as the means for contentment. They try to achieve it in many ways:

- Some look for happiness through friendships
- Some look for happiness through “pleasure”
- Some look for happiness through popularity & power

But real happiness comes from understanding my **purpose in life**, and that is found in a **restored relationship with my Creator**.

# Why Am I Here?

GOD SAVED ME BECAUSE HE **LOVES** ME!

*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." Jeremiah 31:3*

*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love** he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his **pleasure** and **will**.*  
*Ephesians 1:4-5*

WE WERE CREATED TO **ENJOY** A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO **OVERSEE** ALL OF THE REST OF GOD'S CREATION! THIS MAKES US SPECIAL.

*"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. Genesis 1:27-28*

*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17*

WHEN WE KNOW AND **LOVE** GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS.

<b>Clear Conscience</b> - Romans 8:1	<b>Purpose</b> - Romans 8:28	<b>Power &amp; Strength</b> - Philippians 4:13
<b>Life &amp; Peace</b> - Romans 8:6	<b>Confidence</b> - Romans 8:31	<b>Fulfillment</b> - Philippians 4:19
<b>Help with Weakness</b> - Romans 8:26	<b>Security</b> - Romans 8:39	<b>Freedom</b> - John 8:32, 36

**Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life, And have it to the full." John 10:10**

If this is true, why aren't most people truly content?

## The Problem...

Human beings have a natural desire to **be the boss** and to ignore God's principles for living. This ignorance to God's way of living is communicated in our words and lifestyle:

- "Look out for #1"
- "I want what I want, when I want it"
- "If it feels good, do it! Regardless of what God has to say about it?" "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALL THIS ATTITUDE **SIN**.

Sin is a Biblical word that means "to miss the mark."

Key Word: **Rebellion**

*"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6*

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

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. Sin separates us from God and causes us to live our lives outside of His will.

*...your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2*

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of. Romans 3:23*

It looks like this...



The Bible teaches us that our human efforts lead to DEATH. A relationship with God is NOT based on anything you DO.

*There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 16:25*

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives: friendships, school, parents, jobs, finances, etc....

## **The Solution...**

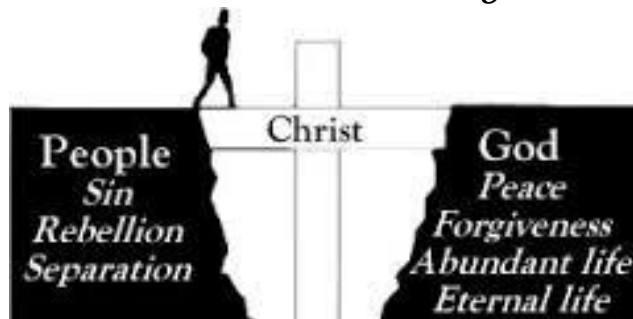
*Jesus said, "I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except **through Me!**" John 14:6*

God came to earth as a human being (in Jesus) to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus would not have had to come. "The Way" is through the person of Jesus!

*"The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is **eternal life** in Jesus Christ our Lord."  
Romans 6:23*

## **JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS!**

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus  
1 Timothy 2:5*



# WHY DID GOD SEND JESUS TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE?

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

*God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him.  
HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE, NOW YOU MUST RESPOND and  
RECEIVE His free gift.

## What does God want me to do?

**ADMIT** THAT GOD HAS NOT BEEN FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.  
1 John 1:9*

**BELIEVE** THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN, AND IS ALIVE TODAY.

*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.  
Romans 10:9*

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.  
Acts 4:12*

**RECEIVE** GOD’S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON’T TRY TO EARN IT.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.  
Ephesians 2:8-9*

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



**ASK** JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AND BE THE OVERSEER (“LORD”) OF YOUR LIFE.

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God  
John 1:12-13*

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.  
Revelation 3:20*

**IF YOU BELIEVE YOU BELONG!**

*“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”  
Romans 10:13*

After you make a commitment to trust Jesus, you enter into a lifelong relationship with God as a Christian. A Christian (a follower of Jesus) then attempts to learn more about:

- God
- His Character
- His desires for your life and lifestyle

You can learn more about the habits of an effective and growing Christian in Connection Group or other small group Bible studies.

# Why should I be baptized?

TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY **CHRIST**.

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”  
Mark 1:9*

BECAUSE CHRIST **COMMANDED** IT.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.  
Matt. 28:19-20*

IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A **BELIEVER**.

*“....many of the Corinthians who heard Him believed and were baptized” Acts 18:8*

*“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.”  
1 John 2:3*

## What is the meaning of baptism?

IT ILLUSTRATES JESUS' **BURIAL** AND **RESURRECTION**.

*“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He was raised on the third day.”  
1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

*Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:12*

IT ILLUSTRATES MY **NEW LIFE** AS A CHRISTIAN.

*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 Father, we too may live a new life.  
Romans 6:4*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it demonstrates that you already believe. It's important to understand that baptism does not “save” you. You are “saved” only by your faith in Jesus.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.  
Ephesians 2:8-9*

Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart. It is an **outward** sign of an **inward** commitment.

## **Why be baptized by immersion?**

**JESUS** WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water... Matt. 3:16*

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE **BIBLE** WAS BY IMMERSION.

*(Example) "... then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39*

THE WORD "BAPTIZE" (Baptizo in the Greek) ACTUALLY MEANS "**TO DIP UNDER**".

IMMERSION BEST SYMBOLIZES A **BURIAL** AND **RESURRECTION**.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
2 Corinthians 5:17*

## **Who should be baptized?**

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS **BELIEVED** IN CHRIST.

*"Those who accepted His message were baptized..."  
Acts 2:41*

*"Simon himself believed and was baptized..."  
Acts 8:13*

*"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."  
Acts 8:12*

## What if I was baptized as a baby?

What a great question! Some churches baptize infants. At Barwick Road Baptist Church, we only baptize those who have made a decision to believe in Christ's death as the payment for their sin and His resurrection for their new life. In the Bible, men and women were baptized following their belief in Jesus.

The custom of infant baptism began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. It's a ceremony intended to emphasize a commitment between the parents and God on behalf of the child. During this ceremony, the parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal confession of Christ.

At Barwick Road Baptist Church, we have a Dedication Service for infants and children that emphasize the parent's role in raising a child to follow Christ.

Therefore, if you were baptized as a baby, we encourage you to be baptized by immersion as a believer.

## When should I be baptized?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE **BELIEVED!**

*"Those who accepted...were baptized...that day!" Acts 2:41*

*Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?"*

*And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

*Acts 8:35-38*

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 be ready.

- You can check with the Pastor or church office to find out when the next opportunity to be baptized is scheduled.
- You should talk to your family and discuss when the best time for you would be.



## Our Mission

The purpose of our church is summarized in two key passages of scripture:

### **The Great Commission**

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28: 19-20*

### **The Great Commandment**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

*Matthew 22:37-39*

Barwick Road Baptist Church accomplishes its mission through 5 key components of a New Testament church that are described in these two critical passages. Those components are **worship** (*Love the Lord*), **ministry** (*Love your neighbor*), **evangelism** (*go and make disciples*), **fellowship** (*baptizing them*), and **discipleship** (*teaching them*).

## What is Worship?

WORSHIP IS: **EXRESSING LOVE TO GOD**

Key Word: **DEVOTION**

**Singing** (*Eph. 5:19*)

**Praying** (*Ps. 95.6*)

**Giving** (*1Cor. 16:1-2*) **Meditating** (*Hab. 2:20*)

**Commitment** (*Romans 12:1-2*) **Hearing the Word** (*John 17:17*)

**Baptism** (*Romans 6:3-4*)

**Lord's Supper** (*1 Cor. 11:23-26*)

We believe that worship is a lifestyle, not simply something you do on Sunday morning.

Worship is an expression of love to God. It stems from our relationship with Him. Therefore, worship is more of an attitude of the heart rather than it is an activity.

## What is Ministry?

MINISTRY IS: **MEETING NEEDS WITH LOVE**

Key Word: **SERVE**

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

*John 13:35*

[See also: 1 John 3:16-17; Matt. 25:34-40; Heb. 13:16; Rom. 12:13]

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27*

### **At Barwick Road Baptist Church**

Every member is a **Minister** with a **Ministry**.

Every task is **important**.

Every member is gifted in **some area**.

## **Get involved!**

We encourage every member not to just come and warm a pew on Sunday morning, but to get actively involved in ministry. We have a place for you in many areas where you can use the gifts and talents with which God has blessed you. If you can't find an area of ministry that fits you, we encourage you to be creative and develop your own. We would love to help you begin a new ministry that touches the lives of people with the love of Jesus.

## **What is Evangelism?**

EVANGELISM IS: **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

*Key Word:* **REACH**

*“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...” Ephesians 3:10*

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10: 13-14*

## **Why our church must never stop growing:**

### 1. GOD **REACHES OUT**

*The Lord...is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

*2 Peter 3:9*

[also see: 2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 9:12-13]

## 2. GOD COMMANDS US TO **REACH OUT**.

*...Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.*

*Luke 14:23*

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8*

### **Think of your...**

**Jerusalem as:** your family, close friends, co-workers

**Judea as:** individuals within our town

**Samaria as:** individuals within our country

**Ends of the earth as:** individuals around the world

## 3. GROWTH IS **GOD’S WILL**.

*Jesus said, “...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18*

### **What is Fellowship?**

FELLOWSHIP IS: **CONNECTING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS**

Key Word: **CONNECT**

The Biblical idea of fellowship involves connecting with other believers in a personal way. It involves supporting and encouraging each other. Fellowship involves praying together, bearing one another’s burdens, playing together, laughing together, sharing together and holding each other accountable to God’s purpose for our lives. We believe that being actively involved in the fellowship of our church is crucial to your growth as a Christian.

**In essence, fellowship is “doing life” together.**

*Acts 2:42-47*

*1 Corinthians 12:27*



## **What is Discipleship?**

DISCIPLESHIP IS: **GROWING SPIRITUALLY.**

*Key Word: **MATURING***

*“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...”  
Hebrews 6:1*

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior...”  
2 Peter 3:18*

### **Ways We Grow Spiritually**

- Reading God’s Word
- Prayer
- Studying God’s Word
- Spending time with other believers
- Seeing God in His creation
- Learning from the difficulties and challenges of life

# Church Membership: Expect what the Bible Expects

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

## I Will Protect the Unity of My Church.

By acting in love toward other members  
By refusing to gossip  
By following the leaders

*"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 15:19 (Ph)*

*"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." 1 Peter 1:22 (TEV)*

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." Eph. 4:29*

*"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." Heb. 13:17*

## 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

*"To the church ... we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thess. 1:2*

*"The Master said to the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full.'" Luke 14:23 (NCV)*

*"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Rom. 15:7 (LB)*

## **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

*"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10(Ph)*

*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12*

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Phil. 2:3-4,7*

## **I Will Support the Testimony of My Church**

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life
- By giving regularly

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Heb. 10:25*

*"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ."  
Phil. 1:27 (Ph)*

*"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Cor. 16:2*

*"A tenth of all your produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Lev. 27:30*

### **We encourage you to be involved in...**

**Connection Group/Small Group Bible Study.** We believe these opportunities are vital to your growth as a follower of Christ. It is in the Bible study where you gain valuable teachings and insight for your daily life. Without consistent Bible study and a regular time of fellowship with other believers to encourage you in your walk with God, your spiritual life will begin to dry up.

Therefore, we encourage you to be committed to weekly small group Bible study.

**Worship.** It is in worship where we gather as a family to exalt God. Not only is God glorified in worship, but the church is strengthened and encouraged as well. We believe that worship is critical to your spiritual well-being and therefore we place a high priority in your worship attendance.

**Ministry.** The Bible suggests that every member is a minister. Therefore, it is critical to the body of Christ that we help you find your special place in ministry. We realize that many of you may not be ready to jump right into ministry. However, it is our desire to come alongside you and help you to grow in your faith, leading you to the place where you are ready to become actively involved in ministry.

**Proper Stewardship.** We are called to be good stewards (*managers*) of all that God has blessed us with; our time, talent and resources. Therefore, it is important for you to support the church through your active involvement in ministry as well as providing financial support. To be more specific, God's Word defines something known as the tithe (*a tenth*). This is meant to be a basic foundational principal for giving (*providing a tenth of the resources God has given you*). Giving can and may exceed that percentage for those who are led by God to generously share; yet the Bible is clear that every child of God owes at least the tenth. Practically speaking your involvement in giving allows for the work of God to continue in this community and around the world.

# Our Purpose Statement

Understanding **who** we are and **where** God is calling us is important. Our purpose statement clarifies what we are to do and how we are to carry out each task. We feel that it is important for each potential member to understand and agree with what we feel God is calling us to do. “Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?” Amos 3:3

We at Barwick Road Church exist as the body of Christ to lead people in becoming fully developing followers of Christ who:

- **Exalt** our Lord Jesus Christ through **celebrative** and **meaningful** worship.
- **Encourage** one another through **joyful** and **authentic** fellowship.
- **Engage** our community and world through **creative** and **caring** evangelism.
- **Edify** believers to maturity in Christ through **purposeful** and **intense** discipleship.
- **Equip** our members for their life mission through **strategic placement** in appropriate ministry.

**Please read our Statement of Faith for our Core Beliefs**