



HARVEST

BAPTIST CHURCH

Helping people develop a heart for God

FOUNDATIONS CLASS

Welcome to Harvest Baptist Church!

We are glad you have come, and we are excited to share information about who we are and what we do as well as how we want to love and serve God.

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Introduction

As you learn about Harvest's mission, we want to also show you that this is a place with a friendly heart. It is not just a place of "perfect people" but a "hospital" to the hurting.

1 Timothy 3:15 teaches that the church is a house of God, a church of the living God, and a pillar and foundation of truth. These three pictures represent three primary interests for every Christian: family, life, and security.

Just like the church acts as a foundation of truth, we want this class to be a foundation for your understanding of Harvest Baptist Church. We hope that by the end of this class you will understand the requirements, philosophies, and practices of being a member here.

- Pastor Gary Walton



As we begin this class, let's look at some common questions that people ask about their relationship to a church. The teachings of Timothy will help us answer these questions.

1. “Do I fit here?”

This is a question of acceptance. A warm, inviting service, congregation, and staff can meet this need.

2. “Does anybody want to know me?”

This is a question of friendship. Create opportunities to develop relationships and you will soon know many!

3. “Am I needed or how can I get involved?”

This is a question of value. Every church needs those people who can and will contribute and make a difference.

4. “What is the advantage of becoming a member?”

This is a question of benefit. The reasons for membership should be explained and should be clear by the end of this class.

5. “What is required of a member?”

This is a question of expectation. Having the right expectations of membership is very important and should be well understood by the end of this class as well.

Harvest is not attempting to “sell” membership to anyone, although the very real advantages should be an encouragement for participation. With that in mind, each person considering membership at Harvest should weigh the benefits for himself and his family as he thinks and prays through this membership.

Harvest's Purpose

Let's take a look at both the purpose statement and the Bible verses we have used to mold this statement at Harvest Baptist Church.

“Harvest Baptist Church exists to glorify God by helping people develop a heart for God through evangelizing the sinner, edifying the saints, and employing the soldiers.”

...exists to glorify God...

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Romans 15:5-6 “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

...by helping people develop a heart for God...

Matthew 22:35-37 “Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

Deuteronomy 6:5 “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

1 John 4:20 “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

...through evangelizing the sinner, edifying the saints, and employing the soldiers.

Ephesians 4:11-12 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”



Statement of Beliefs

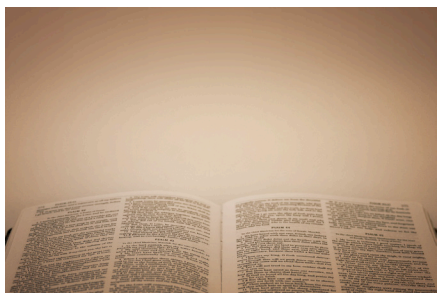
Eight Key Doctrines

Before we get started, let's define the word doctrine:

1 Timothy 4:6 "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

Doctrine: doctrine is a systematic and orderly arrangement of truth

Harvest Baptist Church has eight core doctrinal beliefs that are the foundation in our church and what we believe. Each one will be listed below, explained, and have the Bible verses that point out where these beliefs are found in Scripture.

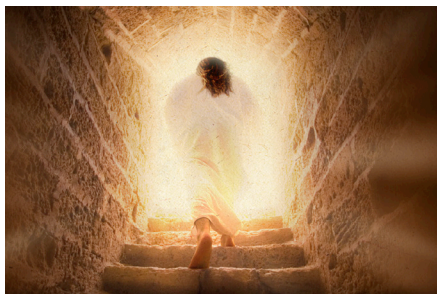


Bibliology

Our beliefs concerning Scripture

(2 Tim. 3:16-17, Ps. 119:160, Rev. 22:19, Rom. 15:4)

- We believe that the Bible was written by men through the supernatural inspiration of God.
- We believe that the Bible is truth without any error.
- We believe that the Bible is the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to men.
- We believe that the Bible is the highest authority and should be mankind's basis for their actions, beliefs, and opinions.



Theology

Our beliefs concerning God

(*Eph. 4:6, Jer. 10:10, Matt. 18:19, Phil. 2:5-6*)

- We believe that there is only one true God.
- We believe that God is an infinite, intelligent Spirit.
- We believe that God is the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth.
- We believe that God is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor and love.
- We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that each person of the Godhead is equal within their own distinct purposes.



Anthropology

Our beliefs concerning Man

(*Gen. 3:4-6, Genesis 8:21, Psalm 14:1-7, Rom. 5:12*)

- We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker.
- We believe that man voluntarily transgressed and fell from his sinless and happy state.
- We believe that the consequence of this fall is that all mankind are now sinners by choice.
- We believe that all mankind therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.



Christology

Our beliefs concerning Jesus

(*Gen. 3:15, Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:18-25, Gal. 4:4*)

- We believe that Jesus Christ was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the God, the Son.
- We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was buried in a tomb, and rose bodily from the grave on the third day.



Soteriology

Our beliefs concerning Salvation

(*Eph. 2:8, John 3:16, Heb. 9:12-15, 1 John 2:2*)

- We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace.
- We believe that the salvation of sinners is only found through the Son of God.
- We believe that the atonement of sinners is through the obedient, voluntary sacrifice of Jesus Christ's death on the cross.
- We believe that the new life given to sinners when they are saved is because the risen life found in Jesus Christ.
- We believe that the salvation of sinners is available because Jesus Christ is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.



Ecclesiology

Our beliefs concerning Church

(Acts 2:41-42, 1 Cor. 11:2, Eph. 1:22-23, Eph. 4:11)

- We believe that the church of Christ is a congregation believers joined together by the common bond of the faith of the Gospel.
- We believe that the church of Christ should be observing the ordinances of Christ and governed by His laws.
- We believe that the church of Christ should be exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges given to them and clearly defined in Scripture.
- We believe that the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission.
- We believe that the local church has the absolute right of self-government.
- We believe that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that churches should cooperate with each other in order to further the Gospel.
- We believe that every church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation.
- We believe that every local church is the sole judge of all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence.



Angelology

Our beliefs concerning

Angels & the Devil

(Isa. 14:12-15, Ez. 28:14-17,
Rev. 12:9)

- We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors.
- We believe that Satan through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty God fell and drew after him a host of angels.
- We believe that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world.
- We believe that he is to be man's great tempter, the author of all false religions, the chief power of the present apostasy, the lord of the anti-Christ, and the author of all powers of darkness.
- We believe that he is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son.
- We believe that he will be placed in judgment for eternity in hell.



Eschatology

Our beliefs concerning the End Times

(Acts 1:11, 1 Thess. 4:16, 2 Cor. 5:10, Matt. 24:29-32, Rev. 20:11-15)

- We believe in Christ's future appearing in the air to receive His saints and in the resurrection of the righteous dead.
- We believe that each believer will be evaluated at the Judgement Seat of Christ for reward or loss of reward.
- We believe in Christ's bodily return to the earth to reign from the throne of David.
- We believe in the Great White Throne Judgement of the unsaved.
- We believe in the new heaven and the new earth,
- We believe in a dispensational system of interpreting God's work with mankind since Creation.

Harvest's Principles

10 Threads in Harvest's Tapestry

We believe that all our ministries should be guided by Biblical principles. These principles are found from Genesis to Revelation. Here are the ten most important principles you will hear in our teaching and preaching.

1. Integrity First *(2 Cor. 5:9-10)*

Integrity is defined as a firm adherence to a code or standard of values. We want to be a church of values, and we want our members to be people of values.

2. Selfless Service *(Mark 10:45, Luke 17:10)*

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ did not come to be served but to serve. In every part of our ministry we want to be selfless in our service to others, even if it means leaving our “comfort zone.”

3. Families with Foundations *(Eph. 5:21-6:4)*

We want to build families that live guided by the Bible. The family is used by God in the Bible as a picture His relationship with His children (believers). God keeps His promises to us, so we can understand His displeasure with the modern break-up of the family. He wants our families to be a picture of His faithful love to us.

4. Passionate Preaching *(1 Cor. 1:21)*

We believe that proclaiming the Word of God with great passion is central to the teaching of Christ.

5. Christ-Centered Communication *(1 Cor. 1:1-2, Col. 4:6)*

It is vital that we endeavor to reach people with God's love; give the Gospel, spread God's Word, evangelize! Our central message should be the message of Christ.

6. Excellence in Everything (*1 Cor. 10:31*)

The world wants us to be professional; God wants us to be excellent. Because He is a God of order and excellence, we should always do our best to show Him to the world through our own order and excellence.

7. Disciplined Stewardship (*1 Cor. 4:1-2*)

Scripture is clear that everything we have is God's and is from God. Scripture is also clear that we have a vital responsibility to be good stewards or managers of what we possess. This applies to your time, talent, and your treasures.

8. Biblical Purity (*1 Thess. 4:3-4*)

In a world that values immorality and amorality, we value morality. Such morality is rooted in the Word of God and extends to ethics, spirituality, and everyday choices. To make a difference you must be different.

9. Unity According to Scriptural Principles

(*Matt. 18:15-17, Romans 16:17, 2 Thess. 3:6*)

Believers are called to be part of the church in God's Word; disunity among believers is rampant in today's society. We must remember that we are called to be unified through Christ in His Word.

10. Reaching Out By Bringing In (*Matt. 23:19-20, Acts 1:8*)

One reason we house an academy, Bible college and institute, and radio station as ministry of our local church is because we believe that mentoring is vital to preparation for a life of ministry. Such mentoring best takes place in the local church.

Harvest's Priorities

Below are the Biblical priorities found in the New Testament with which we regularly evaluate our ministry.

Biblically Balanced (*Acts 2:42*)

Teaching, fellowship, and prayer were all components of the early church. We want to be like them and have believers who are characterized by integrity—adhering to a common set of Biblical principles.

People Focused (*Acts 2:43*)

Through the apostles and God's power, strength, and ability, lives were changed in the early church. We want to be like them and have believers to be "others' focused."

Family Oriented (*Acts 2:44*)

Like the early church, we want believers to be committed to stay together, to share together, and to grow together as a family and in the body of Christ.

Missions Minded (*Acts 2:45*)

Like the early church, we want believers to be examples of people who emphasize a spirit of selflessness, sacrifice, and service to others.

Faith Motivated (*Acts 2:46*)

Early church believers shared a common purpose, and so should we. We should attempt great things through God who can and will accomplish them through us.

Person Driven (*Acts 2:47a*)

The early church believers praised God. Like them, when we praise Him we should be focused on His goodness and His abilities. We should derive strength and confidence from Him so that we can accomplish whatever His will reveals.

Broadened Outreach (*Acts 2:47b*)

Like the early church, we want believers in our church to allow God to choose the size. HBC does not need to grow in size, but her members do need to obey Him. Our goal is not to grow outwardly but to grow deeper towards God. God says He will build His church. We are not called to build Harvest Baptist Church; we are called to build disciples (Eph 4:11-16).

Harvest's Profile

Harvest Baptist Church

HBC is the central hub of all Harvest Ministries and exists to glorify God by helping people develop a heart for God through these primary outreaches.



Harvest Christian Academy

HCA exists to glorify God by helping students develop a heart for God by **presenting** a quality education in a Christian environment.



Harvest Baptist Bible College

HBBC exists to glorify God by **training** students to develop a heart for God through a Bible training program designed to prepare future ministers and trained laymen for local church work.



Harvest Family Radio

88.1 KHMG exists to glorify God by helping people develop a heart for God by **proclaiming** God's Word through music and messages.



HeBrews Worldwide Café and Bookstore

HeBrews exists to glorify God by **providing tools** to and offering a place for people to develop a heart for God. (All funds not used for operating expenses from the coffee shop are given to missions work.)





Other Church Ministries:

HEART for Christ (H4C)



Children to Christ (C2C)



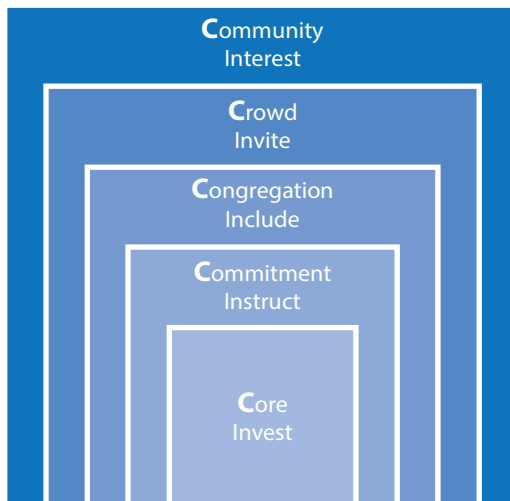
World Missions



**Department of Youth Affairs
Prison Ministry
Watch Care Groups**

**Ladies Bible Study
Men's Bible Studies
Retreats**

How People Assimilate:



Baptist Distinctives:

There are eight historical tenants of Baptists that describe our practice; each is from the Word of God and firmly rooted in Biblical principles. These principles cannot be taken lightly; Christians the world over have died for them.

Born again, baptized believers are those who can become church members. (Acts 2:42)

Autonomy of the local church describes our independent position, with no associations with a national organization. (Matt. 18:17, 2 Cor. 8:4-5, 13)

Priesthood of the believers describes our relationship with God the Father and God the Son. (1 Tim. 2:5, 1 Pet. 2:9)

Two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, are expressions of our salvation experience, not a sacrament or any other enhancement of salvation. (1 Cor. 11:23-30, Matt. 28:29-30, Rom. 16:17)

Inspiration and sole authority of Scripture refers to the fact that the Bible was written through men by God's divine inspiration, and the fact that the Bible is our only source of authority.

Soul liberty, the right to interpret Scriptures individually. God's Word is sovereign and unchanging but His Word can apply differently to different needs throughout different eras.

Two offices, pastor and deacon, are the two positions of government in our church. HBC is pastor-led, deacon-managed, and congregation-supported.

Separation of Church and State refers to how there is no union between our church and the government; the church is not run by the government, and the government is not run by the church.

Charles Spurgeon stated that these historical tenets are not a badge to wear, but a button to hold our faith together.

Membership - What is it?

The difference between attending the church and being a member can be summed up in one word: commitment. At Harvest we recognize the need for formal church membership, and we ask you to consider our reasons for this commitment.

(Rom. 16:5, 1 Cor. 1:2, 16:19, Gal. 1:2, 1 Thess. 1:1)

Biblical Reason:

Christ is committed to the church like a husband is commanded to be committed to his wife. (Eph. 5:25)

Cultural Reason:

Today's society is about anything but commitment, and commitment is something that builds character in us. Harvest wants your decision of membership to be one of commitment.

(James 1:1-5)

Practical Reason:

Along with defining who can be counted on, membership identifies our Harvest family. It provides fellowship that can support and encourage you in your walk with God and places you under the Spiritual protection of godly members and leaders.

Personal Reason:

The New Testament focuses on how Christians being held accountable to each other produce spiritual growth. That is something we want for you at HBC, and a Christian cannot be accountable when not committed to any specific church family.

Harvest's People

As you read our church covenant you will see that while keeping our purpose, priorities, principles, profile, and plan, we ask our members to commit themselves to God and to other members by:

- **Protecting** the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following spiritual leadership—as provided by Harvest's recognized leaders. (Rom. 14:19, 15:1, 1 Pet. 2:22, Eph. 4:29, Heb 13:17)
- **Sharing** the responsibility of my church by praying for her growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit. (1 Thess. 1:1, Luke 14:23, Rom. 15:7)
- **Serving** in the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, being available to serve the Lord, and developing a servant's heart. (1 Pet. 4:10, Eph. 4:11-12, Phil. 2:3-7)
- **Supporting** the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living a visibly Godly life, and tithing and giving regularly. (Heb. 10:25, Phil. 1:27, 1 Cor. 16:2, Lev. 27:30)

The Church Covenant of Harvest Baptist Church

(with summary statements)

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

Because we are accountable to God and each other.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

Because being part of this body is more than just getting my name into the church directory.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

Because being a real Christian is a 24/7 life.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of the Savior to secure it without delay.

Because we truly love each other.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Because being a part of a church is absolutely necessary to my growth.

How Do I Become a Member?

At Harvest Baptist Church, there are three different ways you can become a member based on Scripture.

The first way is by being baptized after you've accepted Christ as your Savior. This is not needed for salvation, but is a public testimony of your faith. (Matt. 28:29-20, Acts 2:41)

Secondly, you could become a member by providing a statement of faith or a letter of transfer from a church at which you have previously been a baptized member.

Last, by being baptized by immersion at Harvest Baptist Church after providing a statement of your faith in Christ is a way you can become a member. This is a process of identifying now with this body of believers at Harvest and declaring your faith in Christ publically. (Matt. 3:16, John 3:23, Acts 8:38, Acts 19:1-5)

