

Real Life Christian Center

**...a life giving church for the people of the Gallatin
Valley.**

Membership Class

“ I am hesitant to become a member of any organization that would consider someone like myself for membership.”

Groucho Marx

Introduction

Thank you for participating in our membership class. We hope that it will be an informative and enriching experience. In order for it to be most beneficial please keep these items in mind.

1. Do your best to be at each session and to be on time.
2. Bring your Bible and something to take notes with.
3. Participate in the sessions by asking questions.
4. Study and pray about the material presented so you can make an informed decision about membership at Real Life.

We believe that God has chosen the local church to represent His life and His love. Through strong, growing, healthy local churches, people should have the opportunity to hear the Gospel, come to know Jesus Christ, become a part of the body of believers, be discipled, and become disciplers. At REAL LIFE, we desire to be a thriving local church for the people of the Gallatin Valley.

God has chosen Real Life to help represent His life and His love to this community and the world.

1. What is the Church?

ekklesia (ek-klay-see'-ah) a calling out, an assembly; New Testament analogies include: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

A. The Church is _____ of God (the called out ones).

It's not a building.

Eph 2:20-21

20 We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. (NLT)

B. The Church is a divine institution.

It's _____ plan!

Eph 3:9-11

10 His intent was that now, _____, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

Matt 16:16-18

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock _____, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. (NLT)

C. The Purpose of the Church

The purposes of the Church can be outlined by examining the "Great Commandment" and the "Great Commission".

a) Matt 22:37-40 His "_____"

37 Jesus replied, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." (NLT)

b) Matt 28:19-20 His "_____"

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. (NLT)

2. How does one become a member of the church?

A. Membership in the universal church is by _____.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you are a member of the universal church.

Eph 2:20,21

20 We are his house... 21 We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. (NLT)

1 Cor 12:12-27

B. Membership in the local church is by _____.

You are joined you to a local church to help accomplish his great commission through the vision he has given to that local body of believers.

3. What is REAL LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER?

Real Life is a non-denominational Christian church and belongs to the Association of Life Giving Churches.

Vision

At REAL LIFE, our vision is to be a life giving church for the people of the Gallatin Valley.

Purpose

Giving people the opportunity to hear the Gospel, come to know Jesus Christ, become a part of the body of believers, be discipled, and become equipped and empowered disciplers who love God and man according to the Scriptures.

Mission

To establish healthy relationships with God and man by equipping and empowering people for their life and ministry.

"Belong-Believe-Become"

Real Life's history

A. What's in a name?

Real, relevant, and Christ centered

B. Getting Started

Real Life had its first public meeting in January of 2004 on Main Street in Belgrade under the leadership of Senior Pastor Steve and Kristi Nickisch, and Pastor Sam and Dana Shuman.

C. Today at Real Life

Government at Real Life Christian Center

1 Cor 3:11

-11 For no one can lay any other foundation than the one we already have — Jesus Christ. (NLT)

This is simply an important reminder to say that we recognize Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, as the foundation of all good church government.

While the Bible has much to say about church government; it is incomplete and we are left filling in the gaps of our understanding as best we can. I think this is apparent by the fact that world wide thousands upon thousands of hours have been utilized in the pursuit of the correct church governing structure but no consensus exists on what that should look like. There are several examples of what wise, Godly men and women have come up with but they all have their strengths as well as their weaknesses.

Some common examples of church government

1. Congregational

- a. Usually represents an unlimited democracy. People vote on everything.
- b. The pastor has no authority to lead beyond that of any congregant. The ministry is therefore entirely dependent on the will and the action of the people.

Benefits and Expectations of membership

Benefits

1. Support and encouragement for life

Gal 6:1-2

1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2 Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ. (NLT)

Heb 10:24

24 Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.

NLT

2. A place to discover and use your gifts

1 Cor 12:4-7

4 Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. 6 There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who

does the work through all of us. 7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church. (NLT)

3. Protection of Godly leaders

Heb 13:17

17 Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. (NLT)

Acts 20:28

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (NIV)

Expectations

2 Cor 8:5

5 Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to us for whatever directions God might give them. (NLT)

John 13:35

35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (NLT)

1 John 3:16

16 We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. (NLT)

Commit #1 -to Christ (through salvation and baptism)

#2- to each other (through fellowship and sharing life)

#3- to maturing (through discipleship)

#4- to ministry (living on behalf of another in the name of Christ, servant leadership)