

Welcome To Our 101 Connection Class

The Bridge to Church Membership

CON•NECT [kuh-nekt] - verb (used with object)

1. To join, link; unite i.e with God and The Bridge Church

Romans 12:15b ...Christ makes us one Body and individuals who are **connected to each other.** (GW)

That I will commit myself to **CHRIST** and to the **BRIDGE CHURCH.**

Our Purpose

We exist to connect people to God and a growing church family as we go and serve the world.

Our Slogan

Connecting With God and People

Our Strategy

CONNECT to God and the Bridge Church

GROW in your relationship with Christ

SERVE the world

GO and bring others to Christ

Connect To God and the Bridge

Acts 2:41-42, 46 And those who **believed** Peter were **baptized**... ⁴² **They joined** with the other believers... ⁴⁶ They **worshiped together** regularly at the Temple... met in **small groups** in homes for Communion... with great joy and thankfulness. (LB)

How Do I Connect With God?

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

1 John 1:9 But if we **confess our sins** to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away. (CEV)

2. _____ **THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN ON EASTER, AND IS ALIVE TODAY.**

Romans 10:9 If you confess that Jesus is Lord and **believe** that God raised him from death, you will be saved. (TEV)

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name by which we must be saved. (NIV)

3. _____ **GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION. DON'T TRY TO EARN IT.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you are saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** - not by works, so that no one can boast. (NIV)

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but based on what Jesus already did for us!

4. _____ JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AND BE THE DIRECTOR ("LORD") OF YOUR LIFE.

John 1:12-13 To all who **receive Him**, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who **believe** this are reborn! -- not a physical rebirth... but from the will of God! (LB)

Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." (TEV)

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

2 Corinthians 5:17 When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun! (LB)

How Do I Connect With The Bridge?

1. By being _____ .

Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, “Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples, **baptize them** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you...” (TEV)

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you **already believe**. It doesn't "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

Acts 2:41 Those who believed His message were **baptized**... (NIV)

Baptism is important because it symbolizes one of the purposes of the church:

FELLOWSHIP - It is our identification with the body of Christ.

2. By become a _____ .

Ephesians 2:19 Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are **members of God's very own family**... and you **belong in God's household** with every other Christian. (LB)

The difference between "attenders" and "members" can be summed up in one word:

COMMITMENT.

3. By attending a _____ .

Luke 4:16 Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. **As usual, he went into the synagogue on the day of worship**... (GW)

John 4:23 ...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. The Father is looking for people like that to worship him. (GW)

THE BRIDGE WORSHIP STYLE

Celebration

Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (NLT)

Inspiration

Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust the LORD will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired. (CEV)

Preparation

Ephesians 4:11-12 Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God. ¹² Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity. (LB)

3. By joining a _____ .

Acts 2:46 They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness. (LB)

Jesus never said when or how often believers should have Communion together. He observed it with His small group of disciples. Therefore, The Bridge encourages each small group to have Communion together as they desire. Since our Sunday morning service is designed so you can bring your non-believing friends, we only have Communion at that service on special holidays and events a few times a year.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰ If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. (NLT)

3. By agreeing with our Bridge _____ .

Our Purpose Statement

We exist to connect people to God and a growing church family as we go and serve the world.

The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . soul . . . and mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (NIV)

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, “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...” (NIV)

Our Faith Statement

- **In essential beliefs - we have unity.**

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one Body and one Spirit... ⁵ there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ and one God and Father of us all... (NLT)

- **In non-essential beliefs - we have liberty.**

Romans 14:1,4,12,22 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... ²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God... (NIV)

- **In all our beliefs - we show Love.**

1 Corinthians 13:2 ...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains - but have **no love**, I amount to nothing at all. (PH)

Our Lifestyle Statement

Beliefs must be translated into behavior or they are not worth much. Our deeds must match our creeds. The Bible is very clear about the importance of lifestyle.

2 Corinthians 6:3 We try to live in such a way that no one will be hindered from finding the Lord by the way we act... (NLT)

Jude 1:21 Live in such a way that God's love can bless you as you wait for the eternal life that our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy is going to give you. (NLT)

James 1:22 Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. (TEV)

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At the Bridge, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in our Membership Covenant.

The Bridge Membership Covenant

1. I WILL PROTECT THE _____ OF MY CHURCH

... By acting in love toward other members

... By refusing to gossip - (written or verbal)

... By following the leaders

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

Romans 15:5 Live in complete harmony with each other--each with the attitude of Christ toward each other. (LB)

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

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

Hebrews 13:17 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. (NIV)

2. I WILL _____ THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY
CHURCH

- . . . By praying for and promoting its growth
- . . . By inviting the unchurched to attend
- . . . By warmly welcoming those who visit

1 Thessalonians 1:2 To the church . . . we always thank God for you and **pray for you constantly**. (NLT)

Luke 14:23 **Go** out into the country . . . and urge anyone you find to come in, so that **My House will be full**. (LB)

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

3. I WILL _____ 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

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

Ephesians 4:16b As **each part does its own special work**, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (NLT)

Philippians 2:4-5, 7 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**... (NIV)

4. I WILL _____ THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

... **By attending faithfully**

... **By living a godly life**

... **By giving regularly**

Hebrews 10:25 Let us **not neglect our church meetings**, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near. (LB)

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

1 Corinthians 16:2 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. (PH)

Deuteronomy 14:23d The **purpose of tithing** is to teach you always to **put God first** in your lives. (LB)

YOU COMMIT TO:

- **CONNECT** to God and the Bridge Church
- **GROW** in your relationship with Christ
- **SERVE** the world
- **GO** and bring others to Christ

HOW DO I JOIN THE BRIDGE?

- Make a decision to be a Christ-follower
- Follow Christ in baptism
- Complete the Membership Application
- Commit to Connect → Grow → Serve → Go