



PARTICIPATING MEMBERSHIP
Course Materials
Revised February 8, 2011

Please direct any questions about participating membership to the
Connection Ministry:

John Buckles, Connection Pastor, 898-9412, ext. 210; jbuckles@heritagecc.org
Linda Buchan, Volunteer Coordinator/Connections Adm. Assist. , ext. 215;
lbuchan@heritagecc.org

G4 -- GODLY CHARACTER

What you will affirm: “I am seeking to be more like Christ and am allowing others to speak into my life.

Elder’s affirmation: Christ followers are committed to being conformed to the image of Christ and developing godly characteristics in their thoughts, actions, words, and relationships. They are under the control of the Holy Spirit and subject themselves to the Spirit’s promptings, being quick to flee from temptation or anything that is dishonoring to God.

As Christ followers seek to be Christ-like in all their behavior, they will respond in a positive way when confronted by others regarding areas of their lives that do not demonstrate godly character. They will seek help and support from their Life Group members or other trusted Christians to be accountable in areas of concern.

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 1:14-16: As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy”.

Other verses to study: Romans 12:1-3; Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 4:25-32; Ephesians 5: 1-12; Psalms 15:1-3; and Colossians 3:12-14.

Thought to ponder: Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.

Notes from readings and/or class session:

G6 -- GROUP LIFE

What you will affirm: I am committed to meeting with others in a small group on a regular basis where I can learn to follow Jesus in community.

Elder's affirmation: A Christ follower honors God's call to participate, to express and receive love, and to carry out the ministry of the church in order to grow closer to the image of Christ. For this reason, Christ followers give priority to attending the corporate gatherings of the church for the purpose of worship, teaching, and participation in the sacrament of Communion, and are connected relationally to a small group of believers for the purpose of mutual encouragement, support, and accountability

Christ followers also:

- pursue Christ-honoring relationships at home, within the church, and in the market place and are committed to pursuing the biblical pattern of reconciliation when conflict arises.
- Support the leadership of the church and are biblically submissive to it.
- Affirm and uphold the fundamental truths of Scripture (as summarized in our Statement of Faith) and refrain from promoting other doctrines in ways that cause dissension.

Key Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

Other verses to study: Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; and Acts 4:32-35.

Thought to ponder: I should pursue God in the company of friends.

Notes from readings and/or class session:

G8 -- GREAT COMMISSION

What you will affirm: I am accepting my responsibility as a Christian to bless people in our community, across the country and around the globe to bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus and to build them to be dedicated followers, all to the glory of God.

Elder's affirmation: Christ followers realize that they have been commissioned by the Lord Himself to spread the Good News of Jesus and His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. Each follower has the responsibility to pray for lost people, reach out to them, and share a verbal witness of what Christ has done.

We are well aware of the lack of Christian witnessing that goes on in the church at large, so we have created an environment that is conducive to allowing spiritual seekers to come and investigate the claims of Christ at their own pace. Each Christ follower plays an important part in our strategy to win pre-Christians to Christ. By serving during our services and inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members, the members of our church "team up" to spread the Gospel.

Key Scripture: Acts 1:6-8 So, when they met together, they asked him, "Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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."

Other verses to study: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Matthew 28:16-20; and 1 Peter 3:15.

Thought to ponder: We often pray to determine whether we should go into a mission work. Jesus told us to go in Matthew 28:19. Perhaps then we need to pray for permission not to go.

Notes from readings and/or class session:



MEMBERSHIP AFFIRMATION

After completion of the Participating Membership materials, either through class, group or Independent Study, please complete this document and place in an offering basket, drop box or return to Connection Pastor, John Buckles, 7413 Maxtown Road, Westerville, OH 43082. You will be contacted by a Church Leader to meet and be confirmed as a Participating Member.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please affirm the following statements:

GOD'S GRACE

- I am trusting in Jesus Christ alone for my salvation and have been baptized.

GROUNDING BELIEFS

- I am relying on the Bible as God's guide for issues of faith and practice and desire to be obedient to His Word.

GROWING RELATIONSHIP

- I am pursuing a life-long process of spiritual growth in my relationship with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines.

GODLY CHARACTER

- I am seeking to be more like Christ and am allowing others to speak into my life.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP

- I am pursuing the principle of tithing by sacrificial giving of the material resources God has given me to the ministry of the church.

GROUP LIFE

- I am committed to meeting with others in a small group on a regular basis where I can learn to follow Jesus in community.

GIFTED SERVANTHOOD

- I am pursuing opportunities to regularly use my unique, God-given "SHAPE" to serve others and further the ministry of the church.

GREAT COMMISSION

- I am accepting my responsibility as a Christian to bless people in our community, across the country and around the globe to bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus and to build them to be dedicated followers, all to the glory of God.

