

Living as a Church

Track 1 Block 1

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructors

Primary Teacher: Michael Lopes

Additional Teachers: Jack Dix, Kent Thompson

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description

Living as a Church is an 11-week class that considers the Biblical vision of our shared life together as a church. Ephesians 3:10 states, "*through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*" God, in His wisdom, designed the church to display His glory to the heavenly places and the watching world (1Peter 2:12). The imperfect people of the local church show God's perfect character and His glorious purposes through their life together.

Expectations and Goals

The focus of this class is to explain how the church displays the glory and character of God. By the end of this class, participants should be able to understand this local church's specific identity, purpose, priorities, and practices. Furthermore, the goal is to help God's people understand and engage in their privileges and responsibilities as *church members*.

COURSE MATERIALS

Source Materials

Living as a Church, Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar.

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church, Mark Dever

The Church, Edmond Clowney

Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches, John Hammett

The Church: The Gospel Made Visible, Mark Dever

Church Membership, Jonathan Leeman

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Summary
Week 1	Identity: The New Covenant Community	The church is the new covenant people of God, the body of Christ, and God's new creation. The class will explain the figurative expressions used to describe the church and what they tell of about the church's nature.
Week 2	Identity: The Faith of the Church	This lesson covers why Statements of Faith are significant and highlights our Confession's distinctiveness. Moreover, it will explain the proper place of confessions, creeds, covenants, and constitutions.
Week 3	Identity: Membership	This class will teach what church membership is and why it is so important. The lesson will unfold how it's different from other commitments and remind us of the unique blessings this commitment provides. What we learn will help us be <i>better</i> church members.
Week 4	Purpose: The Worship of the Church	This lesson defines corporate worship and then shows the unique role corporate worship plays in the life, growth, and health of our to play for our congregation.
Week 5	Purpose: The Mission of the Church	The church's work is defined and prioritized in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20. Along with worship, the local is to make disciples of all nations by teaching, edifying, and nurturing believers and by evangelizing the lost.
Week 6	Priority: Preaching and Prayer	God builds His church through the means of preaching and prayer. In particular, this lesson examines how God uses these means to grow His church and how we are to prioritize them.

Week	Topic	Class Summary
Week 7	Priority: Unity in Diversity	Christians live together in astonishing and attractive unity in diversity because of the gospel and their bond in Christ. Therefore, we need to aim for Biblical unity in our church.
Week 8	Priority: Love in Conflict and Discontentment	This lesson covers the principles of peace, unity, love, growth, and development of the church from various texts. In addition, members will learn the foundation and maintenance of resolving conflict and handling inevitable discontentment.
Week 9	Practice: Church Leadership and Governance	Christ's rule of His church finds practical expression through church government and flawed men God calls as pastors and teachers to the church. This lesson will cover our church's form of polity, the role of members under that polity, and the role of pastors.
Week 10	Practice: Church Discipline	We will consider how the Bible instructs the church to practice discipline and how it strengthens and protects the church. The lessons will also cover how members are involved in the discipline process.
Week 11	Practice: Encouragement, Serving, and Giving	This class will address various ways members serve the body. They serve by giving their time, gifts, resources, and energy. Then, we will walk through ways our service can contribute to the life and growth of the church.
Week 12	Practice: The Ordinances	This covers the basics of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and why we do not practice other so-called sacraments.