



Approaching Maturity

Maturity Seminar #101

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WELCOME TO WCC MATURITY SEMINAR 101: APPROACHING MATURITY

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about World Conquerors Church and maturing your walk with God! This series of seminars will equip you with an understanding of what it means to be a member of the body of Christ and part of our church family to fulfill God's will for your life. We pray that through these seminars you may learn how we operate at World Conquerors Church and what you can do to mature in walking as a Christian and deepening your relationship with God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit (Colossians 4:12b).

Ephesians 4:14-15 instructs us that we are not to remain as children; rather we are to grow up in every way into Christ. The purpose of this seminar is to provide a foundation for living the lifestyle of sons and daughters of God. We will discover who we are as a part of the body of Christ, our connection as members of World Conquerors Church, and what this means for our continual spiritual maturation. Our aim is to develop an understanding of what it means and what it takes to live as more than conquerors. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, or no church background at all, we will include clear explanations of our church.

Approaching Maturity is divided into four parts of an hour and fifteen minutes each. Each session will be facilitated by our founding Pastor Daren Barron and assisted by his wife, First Lady Monnique Barron.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY TAKES WORK

It's not automatic. It's a process. It requires discipline.

"Learn to be mature." Proverbs 8:5 (GN)

BIBLE VERSIONS USED IN THIS SEMINAR			
NIV	New International Version	NLT	New Living Translation
NKJ	New King James Version	KJ	King James
AMP	Amplified Version	LB	The Living Bible
CEV	Contemporary English Version	GN	Good News Bible

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is _____ .
2. God expects you to be _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is _____ .

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to the
_____.

WHAT MAKES WORLD CONQUERORS CHURCH A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
- **Our Strategy** (How we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

Seminar Outline

SESSION ONE: OUR SALVATION

- What it means to be a Christian
- The symbols of salvation: Baptism and Communion

SESSION TWO: OUR STATEMENTS

- Our Purpose Statement
- Our Faith Statement
- Our Lifestyle Statement

SESSION THREE: OUR STRATEGY

- The story of World Conquerors Church's beginning
- Who we are trying to reach (target)

- Circles of commitment/4 covenants
- The W.C.C. strategy

SESSION FOUR: OUR STRUCTURE

- How our church is structured
- Our affiliation
- What it means to be a member
- What Now?

A Quiz about World Conquerors Church

Session One

Our Salvation

“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “*WHY?*” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “*What is the meaning of life?*”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my _____.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. GOD MADE ME TO _____ ME!

God says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love*” Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)

“*Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...**because of His love.** God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God’s pleasure and purpose.*” Ephesians 1:4-5 (GN; emphasis added)

2. WE WERE CREATED TO _____ A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND ALL OF THE REST OF GOD’S CREATION! THIS MAKES US SPECIAL!

“*So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.*” Genesis 1:27-28 (LB)

“*God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*” 1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

Jesus said, “*I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!*” John 10:10 (GN)

WHEN WE KNOW AND LOVE GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS IN OUR LIVES:

Clear Conscience
Romans 8:1

Life & Peace
Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness
Romans 8:26

Purpose
Romans 8:28

Confidence
Romans 8:31

Security
Romans 8:39

Power & Strength
Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment
Philippians 4:19

Freedom
John 8:32, 36

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for #1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: _____ .

"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8 (NKJV)

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23 (NLT)

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives — marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 16:25 (NIV)

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- “My mother was a Christian so...”
- “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”
- “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”
- “I’ll be religious and go to church.”

III. WHAT’S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, *“I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME.”* John 14:6 (NKJV; emphasis added)

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NLT)

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

“But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us.” Romans 5:8 (AMP)

“For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5 (NLT)

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

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

*“If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.” 1 John 1:9 (NLT)*

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

*“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 (NLT)*

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (NIV)

3. _____ GOD’S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON’T TRY TO EARN IT.

*“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.” Ephesians 2:8,9 (NIV; emphasis added)*

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

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

*“But to all who **believed** him and **accepted** him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:12-13 (NLT; emphasis added)*

“Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in...” Revelation 3:20 (CEV)

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.”

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY _____ .

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE CHRIST _____ IT.

*“(Jesus said) Therefore 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.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV; emphasis added)*

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A _____ .

*“...many...who heard him **believed** and were **baptized**.” Acts 18:8 (NIV; emphasis added)*

*“We know that we have come to know Him if we **obey** His commands.” 1 John 2:3 (NIV; emphasis added)*

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S _____ AND RESURRECTION

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)

*“For when you are **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ...” Colossians 2:12 (GN; emphasis added)*

2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY _____ AS A CHRISTIAN.

“...those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

*“**By our baptism then**, we were **buried** with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was **raised** from death...so also **we might live a new life**.” Romans 6:4 (GN; emphasis added)*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer — it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV; emphasis added)*

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

BECAUSE _____ WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE _____ WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *“...they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...”* Acts 8:38-39 (NLT)

THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO _____ WATER”.

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water”.

IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS _____ IN CHRIST.

*“Those who believed what Peter said were **baptized...**”* Acts 2:41 (NLT; emphasis added)

*“Simon himself **believed** and was **baptized...**”* Acts 8:13 (NIV; emphasis added)

*“But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the good news...and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.”* Acts 8:12 (NIV; emphasis added)

At World Conquerors Church, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “*baptism of confirmation*” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At World Conquerors Church we will educate and equip people towards baptism in everything they do.

Over 50 people have been baptized at World Conquerors Church!

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

*“Those who believed...were baptized...**that day!**”* Acts 2:41 (NLT; emphasis added)

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel “good enough”!

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

Young children who are preparing to be baptized are asked to meet with the Pastor and First Lady for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Men & women may wear a swimsuit. We provide outer clothing, towels, & changing rooms.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

At the beginning of the service, Pastor Daren will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait on the beach for your turn to be baptized. Pastor Daren, assisted by other designated ministers, will assemble the participants, lead you to the water, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the water, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will be presented with a certificate of your baptism at Sunday service or it will be mailed to you. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 NLT)

1. IT IS A _____ .

*"On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus **took some bread**..." (vs. 23; emphasis added)*

2. IT IS A _____ .

"...and gave thanks to God for it. Then He broke it in pieces and said, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.'" (vs. 24)

3. IT IS A _____ .

*"In the same way, He took the cup of wine after supper, saying, '**This cup** is the new covenant between God and His people – an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.'" (vs. 25; emphasis added)*

4. IT IS A _____ .

*"For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you are announcing the Lord's death** until He comes again." (vs. 26; emphasis added)*

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already _____ . (Mark 14:22-26)

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself." 1 Corinthians 11:29 (NIV; emphasis added)

III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (NIV)

By...

1. Self-Examination

1 Corinthians 11:27

2. Confessing My Sins

1 John 1:9

3. Recommitment

Romans 12:1

4. Restoring Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24

IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

We'll say this prayer at the end of each session, to affirm our commitment to maturing in our relationship with God.

"Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Session Two

The World Conquerors Church Statements

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As a Church

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

“WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT

_____ **AND THE**

GREAT _____ WILL

GROW A GREAT CHURCH!”

The Great Commandment: *“Jesus replied, ‘**Love the Lord** your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **Love your neighbor** as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”* Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV; emphasis added)

The Great Commission:

*“Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Teach** these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...”* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT; emphasis added)

- To “Love God with all your heart” is **“WORSHIP”**.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is **“MINISTRY”**.
- To “Go...make disciples” is **“EVANGELISM”**.
- To “Baptize...” is to **“INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP”**.
- To “Teach them...all things” is **“DISCIPLESHIP”**.

WORLD CONQUERORS CHURCH EXISTS TO LOVE AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER, TO KNOW THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD THROUGH STUDY, OUTREACH, PRAISE, AND WORSHIP:

1. To _____ **God's Presence (Worship)**
2. To _____ **God's Love (Ministry)**
3. To _____ **God's Word (Evangelism)**
4. To _____ **God's Family (Fellowship)**
5. To _____ **God's People (Discipleship)**

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP:

"...Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." Matthew 4:10 (NIV)

"...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24 (NLT)

Expressions of Worship

- **Singing** (Ephesians 5:19)
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Praying** (Psalms 95:6)
- **Hearing the Word** (John 17:17)
- **Giving** (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4)
- **Meditating** (Habakkuk 2:20)
- **Lord's Supper** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

WCC Worship Style

"Celebration"
Psalm 122:1

"Inspiration"
Isaiah 40:31

"Preparation"
Ephesians 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM:

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." Ephesians 3:10 (NIV; emphasis added)

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" Romans 10:13-14 (LB)

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because _____

*"The Lord...is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV; emphasis added)

2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13

2. Because _____

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

"...you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

3. Because _____

*"...Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow**."* Colossians 2:19 (GN; emphasis added)

Jesus says *"... I will build my church."* Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal"

We believe our church must grow _____ and _____ at the same time.

*"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and **THEN**, finally, the end will come."* Matthew 24:14 (NLT; emphasis added)

III. WE EXIST TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS IN GOD'S FAMILY

FELLOWSHIP:

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one other..." Hebrews 10:25 (GN)

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB; emphasis added)*

*"so in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others." Romans 12:5 (NIV; emphasis added)*

IV. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP:

*"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity**..." Hebrews 6:1 (NIV; emphasis added)*

"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV; emphasis added)

"It was He who gave some to be...pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

V. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

MINISTRY:

*"**Your love for one another** will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (NLT; emphasis added)*

1 John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13

The heartbeat of World Conquerors Church is our _____ .

Every member needs to be a part of one.

*"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... **All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**" 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB; emphasis added)*

At WCC...

- Every member is a:
- Every task is:
- Every member is a “10” in:

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

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

“[There is] one Body and one Spirit...[There is] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of [us] all...” Ephesians 4:4-6 (AMP)

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

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

- **In all our beliefs — we show charity.**

*“...I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains - but if I have **no love**, I am nothing.”* 1 Corinthians 13:2 (GN; emphasis added)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He eternally exists as: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19;
1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven’s glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30;
Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4;
Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8;
1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25;
Ephesians 5:18

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13;
Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5;
Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

8. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18;
Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

What We Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:15

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe, so we must spend time with God’s Word daily.

AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

“He [Christ] is the head of His Body, the church; He is the source of the Body’s life...” Colossians 1:18 (GN)

Christ is the recognized head of our church - not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

“He [Christ] loves us, and by His sacrificial death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father...” Rev. 1:5-6 (GN; emphasis added) ***“...you are...the King’s priests...God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God...”*** 1 Peter 2:9 (GN; emphasis added)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by

encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayerful Bible reading.

TITHING

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

At World Conquerors Church we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

IMMERSION

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ...” Colossians 2:12 (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion under water — the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

(Jesus said) ***“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”*** John 15:5 (NLT)

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:18) As we minister to others, we seek Holy Spirit's leading on what to say and do. As we read the Word of God, we seek God's insight in how to apply that Word to our own lives. In all that we do, we don't just rely on our own understanding, but trust God's broader perspective (Proverbs 3:5).

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

To affirm our commitment to maturing in our relationship with God:

"Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Session Three

The World Conquerors Church Strategy

(Paul) "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel..."

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)

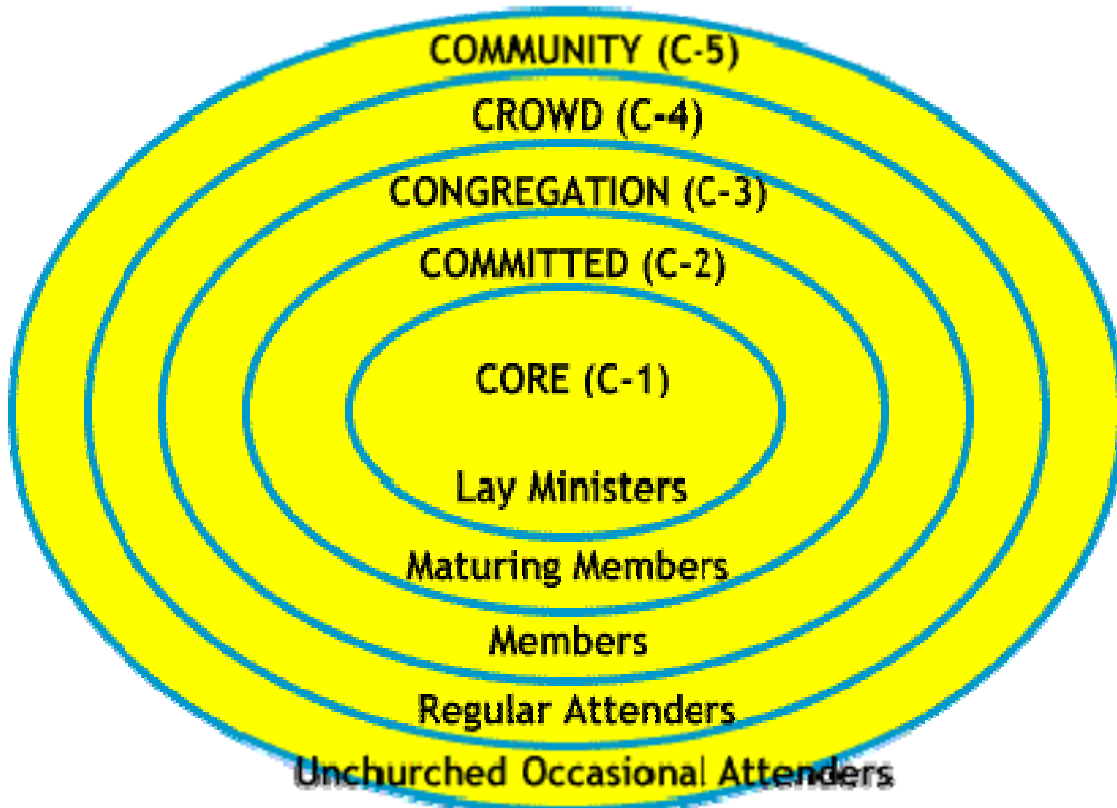
WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

"...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

WORLD CONQUERORS CHURCH WHITNEY & CHRISTIAN (FAMILY)



5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



World Conquerors Church's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

THE FOUR WCC COVENANTS:

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT...

is a commitment to _____ and

_____.

"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

"We are all parts of Christ's Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others." Romans 12:4-5 (LB)

2. THE MATURITY COVENANT...

is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth.

*“But **continue to grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18 (GN; emphasis added)*

*“Spend your **time and energy** in training yourself for spiritual fitness.” 1 Timothy 4:7 (NLT; emphasis added)*

3. THE MINISTRY COVENANT...

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in God and others.

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...” 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

“There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:5,27 (LB)

4. THE MISSIONS COVENANT...

is a commitment to _____
the Good News with others.

“...you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (GN)

“...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

WHY DO WE HAVE THESE COVENANTS?

WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE _____

THE W.C.C. STRATEGY

10 Principles That Make Our Church Unique

1. Visitors are our number one priority. Our friendly atmosphere. From the time a visitor exits the car to the time they leave; we want them to feel welcome. We have greeters and ushers to move them into the presence of God house.
2. Our worship service is designed with everyone in mind. We read from the New Living Translation of the Bible
3. Our music is celebratory and encourages participation.
4. Our messages are practical for present day application.
5. We offer children's church with a program designed with the child in mind.
6. Our formal growth track:
 - **Approaching Maturity Seminar** with an outcome of each new member joining or forming a small group to fit each individual's schedule.
 - **Developing Maturity Seminar** with an outcome of each new member attending formal Bible Study on Thursday nights.
 - **Maturing for Ministry Seminar** with an outcome of each new member finding a position to serve in the ministry.
 - **Maturing and on a Mission Seminar** with an outcome of each new member getting to fulfill God's purpose for their life by serving the community of non-believers. This provides an opportunity for members to introduce others to our Lord Jesus Christ!
7. Our diversity.
8. Our Structure.
9. Our Staff.
10. Our Vision.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

To affirm our commitment to maturing in our relationship with God:

"Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Session Four

The World Conquerors Church Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33,40 (NIV)

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A _____ .

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship...” Acts 2:42 (NKJ)

A top priority in a fellowship is _____

and _____ .

*“**Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* Ephesians 4:3 (NIV; emphasis added)

*“So...**let us aim** for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”* Romans 14:19 (NLT; emphasis added)

Sin abounds where attitudes cause disunity.

Colossians 3:15, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Timothy 2:14, Proverbs 17:14, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3, Colossians 2:2, Philippians 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Corinthians 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Timothy 2:23, Romans 15:5-6, Romans 12:16-18, Colossians 3:13-14, Psalms 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS _____ .

*“...your meetings do more harm than good...I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...**”* 1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (NIV; emphasis added)

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____ .

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____

NOT _____ .

*“Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as though he were **your own father**. Talk to the younger men as you would to **your own brothers**. Treat the older women as you would **your mother**, and treat the younger women with all purity as **your own sisters**.”* 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NLT; emphasis added)

*“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God’s church?**)”* 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (NIV; emphasis added)

III. THE CHURCH IS A _____ .

1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!
We are an organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____

_____ **NOT** _____ .

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us...”* Romans 12:4-6 (NIV; emphasis added)

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

AT WORLD CONQUERORS CHURCH WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE _____

AND MINIMIZE _____ .

*“(God)...gave some to be...pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”* Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV; emphasis added)

OUR STRUCTURE

- **THE PEOPLE ARE THE “ _____ ”.**
- **THE PASTORS ARE THE “ _____ ”.**

Currently there are _____ different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

IV. THE CHURCH IS A _____ . (Jesus' favorite description of the church)

John 10:1-30, Matthew 26:31, Matthew 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____ .

*"Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then **take care** of my sheep," Jesus said." John 21:16 (NLT; emphasis added)*

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- *"POIMEN"*
- *PRESBUTEROS"*
- *EPISCOPOS"*

*"To the **elders** I appeal...**Be shepherds** of God's flock, serving as **overseers**..." 1 Peter 5:1-2 (NIV; emphasis added)*

*"Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds** of the church of God..." Acts 20:17-18, 28 (NIV; emphasis added)*

See also Titus 1:5-7, 1 Timothy 5:17

OUR AFFILIATION

When World Conquerors Church began, no financial support was received from any other church to help us get started:

WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH.

We *are* an independent church! There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there are in most other denominations. WCC is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- *WCC leases its buildings and owns its assets*
- *WCC determines its own programs*

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

At World Conquerors Church we recognize the need for formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A BIBLICAL REASON: CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Ephesians 5:25 (CEV)

II. A CULTURAL REASON: IT IS AN ANTIDOTE TO OUR SOCIETY

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

III. A PRACTICAL REASON: IT DEFINES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

IV. A PERSONAL REASON: IT PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At World Conquerors Church 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 the Membership Covenant.

THE WORLD CONQUERORS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with World Conquerors Church’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the World Conquerors Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By acting in love toward other members**
- ...By refusing to gossip**
- ...By following the leaders**

"So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up." Romans 14:19 (NLT)

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

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

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

"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." Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By praying for its growth**
- ...By inviting non-Christians to attend**
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit**

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

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

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

III. I WILL SERVE 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**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"(God)...gave some to be...pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 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 Christ Jesus... taking the very nature of a servant..." Philippians 2:3-5, 7 (NIV)

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving regularly**

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

"But whatever happens...you must live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ..." Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

"On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NLT)

"A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy." Leviticus 27:30 (NLT)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

To affirm our commitment to maturing in our relationship with God:

"Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen."

WHAT NOW?

WORLD CONQUERORS CHURCH'S PROGRAM TO HELP YOU GROW

GO ON TO SECOND BASE!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MATURITY SEMINARS

100 Level Seminars:

This series is designed to introduce and revisit what it means to be a member of the body of Christ at World Conquerors Church.

200 Level Seminars:

This series is designed for you to learn how to develop healthy habits to live a spiritually mature lifestyle.

300 Level Seminars:

This series is designed for you to understand how to make the most of your abilities and experiences in service to those around you, or in ministry.

400 Level Seminars:

This series is designed for you to discover the mission God has for you to carry out in the earth.

THE W.C.C. QUIZ

SIMPLE STRUCTURE

The People are the _____ .
The Pastors are the _____ .
Why do we have a simple structure?

ACCEPTANCE

In the essentials, we have _____ .
In the non-essentials, there is _____ .
In all things we show _____ .
The heartbeat of World Conquerors Church is our _____ .

DEFINED PURPOSES

Can you say the World Conquerors Church Statement?
We exist . . .

DEFINED TARGET

Who are we trying to reach?
How does that affect the Sunday morning service?
Can you name the 5 Levels of Commitment?

LAY MINISTRY

At WCC "Every member is a _____ ."
Currently, how many lay ministers do we have operating?
What class should I take to find out the ministry that's best for me?
Who can begin a new ministry at WCC?

ENCOURAGING PREACHING

What is the difference between Sunday morning and Believers Service messages?

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Why don't we sing hymns on Sundays?
Why don't we take communion every Sunday?

KEEP ON GROWING

Why must World Conquerors Church never stop growing?

What does the phrase, “grow larger and smaller at the same time” mean?

What is our goal for the year 2010?

WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

Sex _____ (M/F) Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Single Married Widowed Divorced

My occupation is _____

Business _____

I have the following expertise _____

I have not been active in a church for ____ 1 yr ____ 5 yrs 10 yrs

I have been active in the following churches in the past:

Yrs Involved Name of Church Location Member Position of Service

How would you describe your relationship to Christ?

Seeker/curious Agnostic I'm not sure what I believe

New Christian Committed Christian _____

I've been a Christian for a while, but I need to grow closer

INFORMATION ON FAMILY MEMBERS

Spouse's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Does your spouse attend WCC? _____

Children:

First Name Last Name Birth Date Lives w/You? Attends WCC?

Please list any special skills or talents:

- Men's Ministry**
- Ambassadors (Ushers Jr. and Sr.)**
- Missions Support**
- Membership Support**
- Audio/Visual Support**
- New Believers Training**
- Children's Ministry (0-12)**
- Community Outreach**
- Congregational Care**
- Prayer Counselors**
- Praise Dance**
- Choir Ensemble**
- Single Women's Fellowship Group**
- Growth Group**
- Setup/Breakdown**
- Food Distribution**
- Women of Wisdom (Women's Ministry)**
- Marriage Enrichment (retreats)**