

Becoming a Member

Our Living Faith

Making Sure You are a Christian:
"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

A **Christian** is one who is saved from sin by the initiative of God in his grace through faith in him, a faith God places in our hearts, which allows us to respond in love, holiness, and obedience.

A **Christian** is a follower of Jesus Christ, one who learns from him, seeks to love and obey him, attempts to live the moral life Christ would have us live, and seeks to serve him by serving others.

A **Christian** is a believer in Jesus Christ, who acknowledges him as both the son of God and one's own sufficient personal savior from sin.

A **Christian** is a lover of the triune God through Jesus Christ, one who seeks to reflect God's love in all relationships with others.

A **Christian** is one who by God's grace attempts to think Christ's thoughts after him, to do Christ's deeds for others; in other words, one who seeks to be Christ's hands and feet in a lost and hurting world.

from Presbyterians: People of the Middle Way

by Harry S. Hassall

The Symbols of Salvation (Sacraments)

The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are God's acts of sealing the promises of faith within the community of faith as the congregation worships, and include the responses of the faithful to the Word proclaimed and enacted in the Sacraments.

1. Baptism

Baptism is a sign and seal of our incorporation into Christ. Jesus through his own Baptism identified himself with sinners in order to fulfill all righteousness. In Baptism we participate in Jesus' death and resurrection. We die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Christ. In the waters of Baptism we are cleansed, and renewed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry on the work of Christ begun in his earthly ministry. Baptism calls us to repentance, to faithfulness, and to discipleship; it gives the church its identity and commissions each of us for ministry in the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-47; Romans 6:3-11; Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 4:7-15, 7:37-38).

2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Christ. During his earthly ministry Jesus shared meals with his followers as a sign of community and acceptance and as an occasion for his own ministry. In his last meal Jesus took and shared with his disciples the bread and wine, speaking of them as his body and blood, signs of the new covenant. He commended breaking bread and sharing a cup to remember and proclaim his death. When we gather to celebrate Holy Communion, it is as a participation in Christ and with one another in expectation of the Kingdom and as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet of our Lord.

**The Living God
in our Daily
Lives**

Jesus Christ is the living God present in our daily lives and common walk as believers. As the One who is proclaimed in the witness of faith, he is —

1. the Word of God spoken at creation
2. the Word of God promising and commanding throughout the history of God's faithful dealings with us as his children
3. the Word of God
 - (a.) who became flesh and dwelt among us
 - (b.) who was crucified and raised in power
 - (c.) who shall return in triumph to judge and to reign

Scripture (the Word written), preaching (the Word proclaimed), and the Sacraments (the Word acted out and sealed), bear witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word. Through Scripture, proclamation, and Sacraments, God in Christ is present by the Holy Spirit acting to transform, empower, and sustain our lives. In Christian Worship the people of God

1. hear the Word proclaimed
2. receive the Word acted out in Sacrament
3. discover the Word in the world, and
4. are sent to follow the Word into the world.

**Becoming a
Member of
Pleasant Hill
Church**

You are invited to become a member of our church either by transfer of letter from another Christian fellowship, or by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. You may arrange an appointment with the pastor to discuss either option by calling the office at 704/588-0686. This will include attendance in a membership class, at the completion of which you will be asked to sign the Membership Covenant.

You are encouraged to go to the link "Steps to Peace with God" to learn more about personal faith and church membership. <http://www.billygraham.org/believe/stepsToPeace.asp>

"...but you are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)