

Saddle Up 101

Lesson Three: Joining up with this Outfit called Cowboy church of Erath County!

As a church body, we commit to seek together to fulfill, through authentic relationships, the biblical purposes of the church as shared in this seminar:

Membership – to give you a family to belong to.

Maturity – to provide you opportunity to grow spiritually.

Ministry – to meet each other's needs and the needs of our community.

Mission – together to build bridges between God and those who need him.

Magnification – to provide opportunity to worship God together.

The Commitments of the Member

Grace – Committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to sharing Him with others.

This first chapter of 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-2 gives us ideas on how we are to grow in the Lord. From the very first verse we see patterns of instruction on how God will help us to reach our Christian potential in him. As we examine this passage, we will learn how to grow in God's grace.

Growth – Commit to grow spiritually by spending time alone with God and attending worship services.

The Bible says in 2 Peter 1:3 that as we grow in our knowledge of God, through his divine power he gives us everything we need for life and godliness. Jesus relied on the Word of God alone to overcome obstacles, including the devil. God's Word is alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12), useful for correcting us when we are wrong and teaching us what is right (2 Timothy 3:16). It makes sense for us to carry God's Word in our hearts through memorization, to be ready to face any problem, every difficulty, and whatsoever challenge that life can send our way. Presented here are a number of problems, difficulties and challenges that we face in life, along with corresponding answers from God's Word.

Gifts – Committed to discover and use my gifts.

Use the online **Spiritual Gifts** Questionnaire to reveal what **spiritual gifts** you have and how strong they are. Taking this questionnaire will give you ...elmertowns.com/spiritual_gifts_test/

There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (1 Cor. 12:4-5)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Pet. 4:10)

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 have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:4-6a)

Romans 12

exhortation
giving
leadership
mercy
prophecy
service
teaching

1 Corinthians 12

administration
apostle
discernment
faith
healing
helps
knowledge
miracles
prophecy
teaching
tongues
tongues interpretation
wisdom

Ephesians 4

apostle
evangelism
pastor
prophecy
teaching

Good Stewardship – Committed to support the church financially through the giving.

I. God Owns It All.

- *'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. -- Haggai 2:8*
- *I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. -- Psalms 50:9-10*

II. God Trusts It To The Faithful.

- *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' -- Matthew 25:21*
- *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. -- 1 Corinthians 4:2*
- We are stewards not owners of God's resources.
- Now that we know what business we are in, how is business?

III. God Wants Us To Give It Generously

Giving is to be generous.

- *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. -- 2 Corinthians 9:7*
- Giving is to be done cheerfully whatever you decide .
- *Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. - 2 Corinthians 16:1-2*
- Planned & According to your income.
- *Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 2 Corinthians 8:2-3*
- *Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on." -- Mark 12:41-44*
- How much? Give until it hurts.

Gossip – Committed to **NOT GOSSIP!** This includes about your fellow members, leaders, pastor, lay pastors, or anyone that is breathing. Nothing will divide a church or cause you to lose your witness faster than being a gossip. In the Cowboy Church we handle it the Cowboy way, **FACE TO FACE!!**

Your Response

Final thoughts:

It is now your time to respond, we pray that you will join our fellowship; however, we do not want to rush you into making a decision. It is truly our desire to see you and your family grow, even if that is not with our fellowship. This is why we take the time to share what we are about, where we are going, and how we plan to get there. So again I say thank you for your time and I pray that wherever God leads you and your family you will be blessed beyond measure.

If you are committing to join, WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

If you still have questions, we welcome the opportunity to discover the answers together with you!

If you have decided this is not the right time for you to join, we pray that you would understand we would love to have you as a partner in ministry in God's church! We DO NOT publicly distinguish between non-members and church members in our church services and or in our service to you and your family. We still desire to pray with you and minister to you in any way we can. We just realize that not everyone is ready to be a member right now. By not becoming a member today you in NO WAY disqualify yourself from becoming a member in the future; you are always welcome at the Cowboy Church. Please hear me, Pastor Charles Higgs, says once again you bless us by coming and we pray you will continue to allow us to partner with you.

WE ONLY NEED 1 PER FAMILY FOR THIS SHEET***

Mr. _____

Mrs. _____

Miss _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **Cell** _____

Occupation _____

Email Address _____

Birth Date: Name _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Birth Date: Name _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Anniversary Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Names of Children and Birthdays:

COWBOY CHURCH OF ERATH COUNTY MEMBERSHIP

- I am ready to join and commit to become a part of making this a great church.
- I desire to attend the Cowboy Church and be an active partner in ministry, but do not feel called to be a member at this time.
- I need more information.
- I do not want to join.

Why?

