



# DISCOVER MEMBERSHIP

Name:



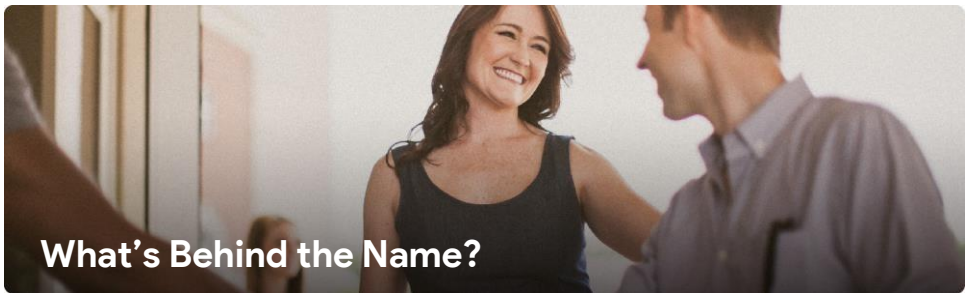
# What to Expect from this Class

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## What's Behind the Name?

**Village is significant.**

It suggests both genuine fellowship within our church family and an open door to those around us. As members of one body, we seek to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. As a light in our community, we hope to be a place of peace for those in chaos, a place of forgiveness for the guilty, and a place of hope for the hopeless.

**Bible is central.**

It is from God's Word that we learn our purpose. God has seen fit to reveal his promises and plans through the 66 books of Scripture. It is through the proclamation of the Bible that Christians are exhorted to exalt His son, Jesus Christ—the One whose death and resurrection gives us peace with God and the hope of Heaven. The grace and mercy of God is the theme of God's Word. It is our prayer that you'll find this focus on God's Word to be the common thread that runs through every ministry and expression of worship here.

**Church is paramount.**

The Church is absolutely unique. While "Village" and "Bible" were our choice in defining who we are, "Church" was mandated by God—as revealed in His Word. It is His designation for the assembly of people called by His name. As such, our course has been charted by God; our destiny has been planned by God; our members have been chosen by God; our purposes have been defined by God.

# Our History

JAN  
1971



JUNE  
1971



1974



2008



2013



2018



TODAY

## It Started with a Small Group

Village Bible Church of Sugar Grove resulted from a weekly Small Group begun in the home of Omar and Rose Sutherland in January 1971. Pastor Dick Martin led the study under the auspices of Plano Bible Church.

## Worshipping Together

The first service was held on June 27, 1971, in the Sugar Grove Elementary School gym. Those early days brought new families, new believers, and new challenges.

## Breaking Ground

In 1974, God opened the door for a new building to be built in Sugar Grove, on the corner of Route 47 and Bliss Rd. This building provided a context for endless avenues of ministry until it was replaced in 2008.

## A Vision to Reach the Community

In 2008, God called Village to a new vision through the adoption of two other area churches. Grace Bible Church of Aurora became our Aurora Campus and First Baptist Church of Shabbona became our Indian Creek Campus. This began a new chapter of multi-site ministry.

## Reaching Spanish Speakers

In 2013, God brought an incredible ministry opportunity our way, and our El Camino campus was born, worshipping in a dedicated space at the Aurora Campus.

## Expanding Further

In 2018, God brought Plano Bible Church back into the story of Village when God opened the doors for Village to adopt Plano Bible Church as our fifth campus, the Plano Campus.

## You've Joined Us Here

History lays the foundation for who we are, but it is the future that most excites us. We're thrilled that you're here with us, and we believe God has big plans for your time here.



## What We Believe

Village Bible Church is an evangelical church that focuses on the essential doctrines of the Christian faith, while allowing for a diversity of opinion concerning doctrinal matters that are less critical to our purpose of ministering to people's spiritual needs.

CHRISTIAN

PROTESTANT

EVANGELICAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, without error as originally written. It is the complete revelation of God's will for salvation and the only unfailing rule of faith and practice for the Christian life.<sup>1</sup>

We believe in one God, the Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and that these three are equal in dignity and power.<sup>2</sup>

We believe in the full deity and full humanity of Jesus Christ; His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit; His virgin birth; His sinless life; His substitutionary death on the cross; His bodily resurrection; His ascension to the right hand of the Father; and His personal, imminent return.<sup>3</sup>

We believe that humanity was created by and for God; that as a consequence of Adam's disobedience to God every human being has incurred the sentence of both physical and spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God; and that all people are sinners by nature and practice.<sup>4</sup>

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins and that all who turn from sin and place their trust in Him are declared righteous and come into right relationship with God.<sup>5</sup>

We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates and indwells all believers and that he empowers them for life and ministry.<sup>6</sup>

We believe that the Church, which is the body of Christ and of which Christ is the Head, is made up of all who have been truly born again.<sup>7</sup>

We believe in the bodily resurrection of everyone who has ever lived – the everlasting blessedness of those who are in right relationship with God, and the everlasting punishment of those who have rejected God's forgiveness in His Son.<sup>8</sup>

**\*For a complete doctrinal statement, please see our church constitution.** <sup>1</sup>2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; <sup>2</sup>Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Galatians 1:1; Colossians 2:9; Acts 5:3-4. <sup>3</sup>Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Romans 3:25, 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:50; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Peter 2:22, 24. <sup>4</sup>Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 3:23, 5:12. <sup>5</sup>Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21. <sup>6</sup>John 14:17, Romans 8:9, 11, 13; 15:13. <sup>7</sup>1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 1:18. <sup>8</sup>1 Corinthians 15:35-57; Revelation 20:11-15.



## Our Vision

Village Bible Church seeks to discover, develop, and deploy disciples who are ALL-IN for God’s Kingdom both here and around the world.



## Our Mission



**discover**

**develop**

**deploy disciples**



## Our Church Strategy



### **How Disciples Discover Jesus and Village**

#### **Community Events**

Each month, we host events where you can connect with the Village family. Our friendly Welcome Team would also love to answer your questions and give you a tour during a Sunday morning worship service.

#### **Dessert Nights**

We want you to know that there's a place for everyone here at Village. Our hope is that you will take the next step to get to know us better and get connected. One of the ways that you can jump in and get connected is by joining us for a Dessert Night at our pastor's home, where you can get to know our church, enjoy delicious desserts and meet some new people.



### **How Disciples Develop in Worship Services**

We love singing praises to Jesus in engaging music. Each week features a sermon from the Bible that will apply to your life.

### **How Disciples Develop in Small Groups**

This is the best place to make new friends. Expect real encouragement, spiritual growth, and yummy snacks. We'll study a Scripture passage the week before it's preached to better learn how God's Word impacts our lives.



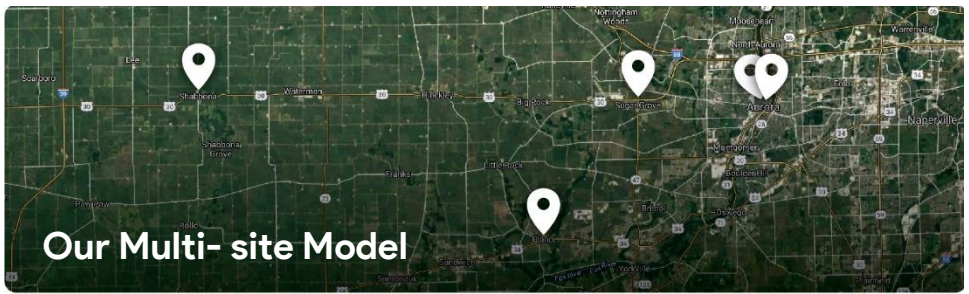
### **How Disciples Deploy in the Church**

We encourage each person in the Village family to serve God regularly through a ministry of the church. This helps the "body of Christ" care for each other.

### **How Disciples Deploy around the World**

We partner with local ministries all year for events and other outreaches. Our Global Action Teams also engage with partner ministries around the world on Short-Term Mission Trips.





The vision that God has given us to fulfill is to be "One Church, Meeting in Multiple Locations." Each of our locations are connected as one, despite physical distance, because each has a similar dynamic worship experience, including "personal touches" such as live bands and campus pastoral teams.

The teaching pastors at each campus preach through the same sermon series bringing continuity across all locations. The pastors of all campuses meet weekly to collaborate with each other regarding ministry locally and church-wide.

People who attend Village Bible Church will find the quality of a large church with the intimacy and personal interaction of a smaller church.

### **Shared Leadership**

The strength of the first site in terms of mission, leadership, and culture makes the new site stronger from day one. Shared resources: the processes for message planning, leadership training, communication, budget, etc., give the new location a jump start.

### **Shared Commitment**

The commitment of an established congregation in prayer, financial resources and relationships provides a mature base that is not as available to a smaller, independent church plant.

### **Strong Reputation**

Those considering participating in a church may have some knowledge of Village Bible Church that gives them some confidence in checking out the site near them.



## Our Elder- Led Leadership

A team of elders who uphold the principles of plurality, equality, and unity leads Village Bible Church.

### **PLURALITY**

Village is led by an entire team of elders - not just one person.

### **EQUALITY**

Each elder has equal status and influence.

### **UNITY**

Decisions are made only when each elder has given his consent.

The New Testament scriptures give examples of local churches being led by a plurality of godly men. The elders are given the ultimate responsibility and authority to see that the church remains on a Biblical course and the mission of the church is carried out.

They are responsible for shepherding by insuring the feeding of the body through insightful, relevant and accurate Biblical teaching. Elders are to guide the life of the church with the assistance of other spiritually mature individuals.

Each elder is responsible for the direct shepherding of a segment of the congregation, which we refer to as a flock group.

### **Shepherding and Guiding Elders**

All elders are shepherding elders and will be called to fulfill the biblical mandate of shepherding the flock. Some shepherding elders will take on added responsibility and be called to serve on the Guiding Elder Team, which makes the guiding decisions determining the course of our church and its ministry.



# MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

Name:

# Membership Commitments

## **By the members of Village Bible Church, our commitments to one another in the sight of God.**

As a follower of Jesus Christ, it is my sincere desire to unite with this church in membership. God, by His grace alone, has led me to repent of my sins and believe in Jesus Christ,<sup>1</sup> trusting Him alone as my Savior and Lord.<sup>2</sup> I have confessed my faith and have been baptized.<sup>3</sup> Therefore I joyfully and thoughtfully enter into a bond of mutual upbuilding,<sup>4</sup> fellowship<sup>5</sup> and accountability<sup>6</sup> with the other members of this body.

I recognize that I will be part of a larger group of believers who are together making this commitment to each other. The church is not just one person but it is a group of people who are called to love each other and relate to each other in a way that is faithful to Scripture.

Even though I know my sin nature will cause me to fail at times, it is the desire of my heart to love the Lord God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love others as He loves me. Therefore, in humble reliance upon the Holy Spirit and with help from my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I intend to the following:

1. I will faithfully participate in worship, prayer, study, fellowship and the ordinances of baptism and communion.<sup>7</sup> I will strive to use my spiritual gifts for the common good.<sup>8</sup> Through my involvement, and even sacrifice, I will endeavor to illustrate to my family and to a watching world the immense significance of life in the body of Christ.<sup>9</sup>
2. I will endeavor to diligently train myself and my family in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, seeking to develop Christian character, knowledge and skills.<sup>10</sup>
3. I will strive to accept and fellowship with all members, regardless of race, gender, background, social status or level of education, since all are of equal value in Christ.<sup>11</sup>
4. I desire to pursue peace with all people, and especially with other believers, striving to be slow to take offense and eager to reconcile.<sup>12</sup> I will strive to shun gossip and divisive words, knowing that they are destructive to Christian fellowship.<sup>13</sup>
5. I will seek the salvation of my family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances and people of all nations.<sup>26</sup>
6. I will endeavor to live a life that is above reproach. I will strive to be just and honest in my dealings and faithful in my responsibilities and commitments. I will abide by the standards of sexual purity and ethical integrity taught in the Bible.<sup>14</sup>
7. I will seek the preservation of marriage, knowing that God hates divorce, and will submit to biblical regulations regarding divorce and remarriage.<sup>15</sup>
8. I will endeavor to watch over the other members in love, as they watch over me.<sup>16</sup> I will strive to remember them in prayer,<sup>17</sup> help them in sickness and distress,<sup>18</sup> promote their spiritual growth,<sup>19</sup> restrain them from sin<sup>20</sup> and stir them up to love and good deeds.<sup>21</sup>
9. I will endeavor to be a faithful steward of my time, talents, treasures and testimony. I will contribute cheerfully and regularly to this church for its general ministry and expenses, the relief of the poor, the cause of reformation and revival and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.<sup>22</sup>
10. If I am called by God and affirmed by this congregation to serve in a leadership capacity, I will strive to faithfully and responsibly shepherd God's flock here at Village Bible Church in accordance with the guidelines set forth in God's Word and in the role set forth in our church constitution.

11. As the leaders of this church faithfully and biblically shepherd this flock, I will respectfully follow and submit to them, trusting and supporting their leadership and God's appointment of them to their role.<sup>23</sup>
12. I will submit to the church's discipline upon myself and lovingly assume my responsibility to participate in the discipline of other members, as taught in Scripture.<sup>24</sup> If I am offended in connection with a disciplinary matter, I will seek resolution within the church as laid out in the VBC *Relational Commitments*. I will not initiate or pursue civil legal action against the church in response to its disciplinary measures.<sup>25</sup>
13. I acknowledge that implicit within this commitment is the consent to be governed by the *Relational Commitments* of this church that address peacemaking and reconciliation, marriage and divorce, the protection of our children, counseling and confidentiality, accountability and church discipline, pure Christian living.
14. I will be in full agreement with the VBC *Statement of Doctrine*. I will also abide by the policies and procedures of the church constitution.
15. I will work toward doctrinal unity with a humble and teachable spirit,<sup>27</sup> showing a willingness to be taught according to the VBC *Statement of Doctrine*, VBC *Relational Commitments* and the VBC *Teaching Positions*, which this church believes to be an accurate summary of biblical truth. If I teach within the church, I will do so in a manner that is faithful to these documents.<sup>28</sup> Where there is disagreement or a lack of understanding regarding doctrinal convictions, I will ask questions and engage in edifying discussion.<sup>29</sup>
16. I will remain faithful to this church in membership. Should I ever sense that God is directing me elsewhere, I will have an honest dialog with an elder to share the reasons for my decision. If I must leave, I will strive to unite with another Bible-believing church.<sup>30</sup>

In summary, I will strive to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love others as Christ loves me.<sup>31</sup> I will not allow my weaknesses and failures to deter me from my intention to abide by these Christian standards. I will pursue holiness through genuine repentance and persevering faith in the One to whom I owe all obedience for time and eternity, the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>32</sup>

The VBC *Statement of Doctrine*, VBC *Relational Commitments*, and the VBC *Teaching Positions* can be found online at [villagebible.church/distinctives](http://villagebible.church/distinctives).

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Signature

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Date

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Print Name

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Elder's Signature

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Date

## Membership Commitment Scriptural Support:

- <sup>1</sup> Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20; 2 Corinthians 7:10
- <sup>2</sup> John 3:16; Acts 4:12; 16:30-31; Romans 10:9-10
- <sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:36-38; 10:47-48
- <sup>4</sup> Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:26; Ephesians 4:16, 29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- <sup>5</sup> Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-4
- <sup>6</sup> Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; James 5:16; 2 John 8
- <sup>7</sup> Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Hebrews 10:24-25
- <sup>8</sup> Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 18-27; Ephesians 4:11-16
- <sup>9</sup> Matthew 6:19-21, 24-26; 16:24; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 4:1-5; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 John 2:15-17
- <sup>10</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 5:13-14; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17-18
- <sup>11</sup> Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:26-28; James 2:1-5
- <sup>12</sup> Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-15; Hebrews 12:14; James 1:19-20
- <sup>13</sup> Proverbs 6:16-19; 10:19; Romans 16:17; Ephesians 4:29, 31; 1 Timothy 5:13; Titus 3:10-11; James 3:6-10
- <sup>14</sup> Proverbs 10:9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:16, 37; Luke 16:10; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Corinthians 6:3; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Titus 2:6-8; Hebrews 13:4
- <sup>15</sup> Malachi 2:16; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7
- <sup>16</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:24; Galatians 6:1-2, 10; Philippians 2:4
- <sup>17</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 1:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; James 5:14-16
- <sup>18</sup> Matthew 25:34-40; Romans 12:13, 15; Galatians 6:2, 10; Philippians 4:14; 1 John 3:16-18
- <sup>19</sup> Titus 2:1-15; Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Peter 3:17-18
- <sup>20</sup> Proverbs 24:11; Galatians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:20; James 5:19-20
- <sup>21</sup> Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:1-10; 3:8, 14; Hebrews 10:24; 13:16
- <sup>22</sup> Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 9:6-7; Philippians 4:18
- <sup>23</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:7,17
- <sup>24</sup> Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14-15; 1 Timothy 5:20
- <sup>25</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:1-8
- <sup>26</sup> Matthew 9:36-38; 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Peter 3:15
- <sup>27</sup> Psalm 133:1; Romans 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:2
- <sup>28</sup> Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 4:16; Titus 1:9; 2:1; Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1
- <sup>29</sup> Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 3:15; 6:3-5, 20-21; 2 Timothy 2:15-18; 4:3-4; Hebrews 13:8-9; 2 John 9-11; Jude 3
- <sup>30</sup> Proverbs 3:5-6; 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 18:1; 19:20; 20:18; 24:6; 1 Corinthians 12:18; Philippians 2:3-4; Hebrews 10:24
- <sup>31</sup> Mark 12:28-31; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 John 3:16-19; 4:7-21
- <sup>32</sup> Matthew 5:6; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-4; 1 Peter 1:14-19

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## Membership Questionnaire

Mr./Mrs./Miss

Date of Birth

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Mobile Phone

E-mail

Marital Status (circle one) S M D W

Spouse (if applicable)

Name and city of church in which you last held membership (if any):

**Please provide a short description of how and when you received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

**How has Christ transformed your life since you became a believer?**



Have you been baptized? If so, when?

What are some evidences or fruits in your life that would verify the genuineness of your conversion?

If you are able to do so, please identify your spiritual gifts.

In what ways might you like to serve at Village Bible Church?

“Having received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and having been baptized since becoming a believer, and being in agreement with Village Bible Church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Village family and be shepherded.”

Name

Date

COUNSELED BY

and

Date



Our deepest desire and privilege is the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all. We long that all who enter our doors will hear the gospel and come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

If you have any questions about what it means to live a life devoted to Christ, we would love the opportunity to talk with you and answer any questions you might have.

### Salvation Involves the Following Action Points

**1. Recognize your need of Christ.**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

**2. Remember God's love for you.**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

**3. Repent of your sins.**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. (Acts 3:19)

**4. Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

**5. Rejoice with other believers in your salvation.** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)



## Why Membership Matters

While all believers are part of the universal church, the New Testament also stresses the importance of all believers being a part of a local church. A local church is comprised of a definable group of people who, on the basis of their commitment to the Lord, have identified themselves with and committed themselves to one another. While membership in a local church does not guarantee one's salvation, it is imperative for all believers to be connected to a body of believers for the sake of encouragement, edification and equipping.

You might think that membership isn't mentioned in the Bible. Not participating in membership because the word "membership" isn't found in the Bible is like not worshipping the Trinity because the word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, it is implied. We affirm Sunday schools and missions agencies, but these too are not clearly stated in the Bible. Therefore, this line of thinking doesn't stand. Membership is all over the Bible.

While church membership gives believers certain rights within a local congregation, its purpose is far more biblical. In the God-ordained environment of a local church, members function as one body, building up each other in love according to the rule of Scripture. Throughout Scripture, it is clear that God intended for His people to enter into covenants with Him and with one another. Membership at Village Bible Church is a covenant relationship among fellow believers, as well as with their leaders under Christ.

In order to implement the principles of accountability and commitment to the local body of Christ as defined in the New Testament and practiced in the early church, Village Bible Church recognizes the need for formal membership (Acts 11:26; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1; Philippians 1:1).



## 4 Reasons Village Practices Church Membership

1.

### The example of the Early Church

The early church practiced it. In New Testament Christianity, walking with Christ is never separated from the accountability and care of the local church. Acts 2:47, Acts 5:15 and Acts 16:5 all state that people repented, were baptized and added to their number. What was “their number”? Acts 2 talks about the 120 in the upper room. They’ve experienced the signs and wonders of the gifts of the Spirit. They are filled with the Spirit. They spoke many different kinds of tongues. There was a great spiritual commotion. This breaks out into the marketplace in Jerusalem and people are blown away by what they see. Peter stands up and explains to all the people what is taking place. People receive the message and ask, “What must we do to be saved?” Peter tells them to repent of their sins and be baptized. They bowed the knee to Jesus and were baptized. The Bible says three thousand were added to their number that day. Who was “their number”? The church which grew from 120 to 3,120 that day. Over and over again in the New Testament, when someone followed Jesus Christ, they were “added to the number.” There was a particular number of Christians that were part of the church.

2.

### The existence of church government

Throughout the Scriptures it is made clear that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church (1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 4:15, Ephesians 5:23). He is the Chief Shepherd of the sheep. The Scriptures also make it clear that there are under-shepherds (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-16). These under-shepherds are elders who pastor the flock. They teach them, provide for them, minister to them, council them and care for them. Membership doesn’t mean blindly following your elders; it means submitting to their leadership and affirming them. They will be accountable to God for how they shepherd you. Without church membership, there is no accountability.

### 3.

## The exercise of church discipline

This is something foreign in many churches today, but it is something the Bible commands. Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 5 teach that there are times when a follower of Jesus Christ will live like he or she rejects God's commands and authority. The church's job is to hold him accountable. The leadership must approach that brother or sister, trying to bring that wandering sheep back into the fold.

### 4.

## The exhortation for mutual care

### The 59 One Anothers of the New Testament

1. "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
2. "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
4. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
5. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
6. "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
7. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
8. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
9. "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
10. "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
11. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
12. "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
13. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
14. "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
15. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
16. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
17. "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)
18. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
19. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
20. "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
21. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." (Galatians 5:15)
22. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)
23. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
24. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)
25. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)

26. "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
27. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs."  
(Ephesians 5:19)
28. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)
29. "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
30. "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9) 31. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
32. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)
33. "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
34. "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
35. "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. "...Encourage each other..." I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. "Encourage one another daily..." Hebrews 3:13)
41. "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds."  
(Hebrews 10:24)
42. "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
43. "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
44. "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
45. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
46. "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)
47. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
48. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
49. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
50. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)
51. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
52. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (I Peter 5:5)
53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)
54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
59. "...Love one another." (II John 5)

From Carl F. George, Prepare Your Church for the Future (Tarrytown: Revell, 1991), 129-131



# 4 Requirements for Membership at Village

## Qualifications for Membership

Those who give testimony and evidence of their faith in Christ as their Savior and Lord, who have been baptized, who affirm their commitment to follow the Word of God in all matters of faith and practice, and who voluntarily submit themselves to the authority of Village Bible Church are eligible to apply for membership.

- 1. Acknowledge Christ as your Lord and Savior
- 2. Affirm your faith through baptism
- 3. Actively participate by playing your part
- 4. Annually remember your commitments





## Becoming a Member

### Process for Membership

One who desires to become a member of Village Bible Church and meets the qualifications set forth is invited to take the following steps:

1.

**Complete the Discover Membership class**

2.

**Submit a Membership Questionnaire to the elders**

3.

**Read & commit to the *Membership Commitments***

Read and commit by signature to live in accordance with the *Membership Commitments* of this Church.

4.

**Declare a personal commitment of faith**

Before a team of at least one elder and another member of the church, declare a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, display evidence of a mature, active, love relationship with Jesus, and express a clear understanding of the responsibilities of membership



## 4 Steps to Authenticity in Church Membership

1.

### Be open about your sin

#### Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2.

### Stand up against wavering

#### Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

3.

### Stir up love and good deeds

#### Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...

4.

### Show up even when it's hard

#### Hebrews 10:25

...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



**VILLAGE BIBLE  
CHURCH**



For more information on Village Bible Church Distinctives  
go to [villagebible.church/distinctives](https://villagebible.church/distinctives).