



ROOTED

GROUND & ESTABLISHED
2025

PATH TO PARTICULARIZATION
FALL 2025

CONTENTS:

Particularization Timeline	iii
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ROOTED:

In the Gospel	1
In our MISSION	6
In our LOVE	12

GROUNDLED:

In our History	18
In God's Word (Doctrine & Theology)	29

ESTABLISHED:

In our Leadership (Elders & Deacons)	36
In our Ministry (Spiritual Gifts)	Appendix A1
Pages for Notes	A12
In our Future (Ministry Tree)	A16



PARTICULARIZATION TIMELINE - 2025

- **March-August 2025 (Officer Training)**
 - **Elder Candidates:** Jack Clifton, Ashley McLeod, Jason Prouse
 - **Deacon Candidates:** Ashley Boatwright, Andrew Clark
 - Materials: “Gospel Eldership” & “Gospel Training for Deacons” & Westminster Standards
 - March, April, May, June, July, August
- **April 2025 (Session Meeting)**
 - Finalize Officer Exams
 - Written Testimony & LifeMap
 - Letter of Resignation/Disqualification Letter
 - Short Answer-Open Book Test
 - Follow up by Oral Exams on Character
 - Set Date for Interviews & Follow-Up Oral Exams **(10/18)**
 - Schedule Meetings with Candidate Families
- **August/September 2025 (Exams/Interviews)**
 - Bookwork & Discussion
 - LifeMaps & Congregational Testimonies
 - Turn in Written Exams & Assignments (Early September)
 - Oral Interviews (Mid-September) (2nd Tuesday?)
 - 30-Day notice for Congregational Meeting to elect officers. **(9/28)**
- **October 2025 (Final Exams/Interviews & Congregational Meeting)**
 - **Oct. 18 - Saturday Exams/Interviews with Provisional Elders/Temporary Session**
 - **Oct. 26 - Congregational Meeting to vote on Elders/Deacons/Pastor**
 - Elect New Officers (Elders & Deacons)
 - Approve the Call of the Pastor
 - Sign Petition to Presbytery to Particularize
 - Send to Admin, MNA & CMH Chairs:
 - *Petition to Particularize*
 - *New Call of Pastor*
 - *Membership Roll*
 - *Date, Time & Roles for the Commission of Particularization Service (TE's & RE's)*
- **October 30 at 2:00pm (Thursday)**
 - Presbytery Admin. Committee to Approve Docket for November Presbytery
- **November 13, 2025 (Thursday)**
 - Location: Lebanon Presbyterian Church
 - Presbytery to Approve Commission, Call of Pastor & Particularization of CCCBL
 - *Invitations for Particularization Service (December 7th, 2025 - Sunday Evening)*
- **December 7 - Particularization Service**
 - Send out “Wedding” Invitations
 - 8 years since Kent Started
 - 10 years since talks began with Kevin T. and Presbytery
 - Commission Meets at 5:00pm
 - Particularization Service - 5:30pm
 - Significant Documents and Pictures on Display and/or Slideshow.
 - Celebration & (Wedding) Reception Following (Caterer?)

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

ROOTED

IN THE GOSPEL

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the Good News about God's love and justifying grace through Jesus' perfect life, His substituting death on the cross and the victory of His resurrection for sinners; promising the forgiveness and washing of sin through repentance which is granted by the Holy Spirit, and the hope of eternal life in heaven with the Father for anyone who believes and trusts in Him alone for salvation from sin, hell and punishment when He returns or we leave this world.

Gospel Summary:

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus' life, death and resurrection for sinners.

Main Points of the Gospel:

Good News: *Announced to sinners throughout the whole world.*

About Jesus: *Life. Death. Resurrection. Return.*

For all who Repent & Believe: *Loved. Forgiven. Washed. Eternal Life. Salvation.*

A Simple Gospel Definition:

The Gospel is the Good News of God's love and justifying grace through Jesus's Life, Death & Resurrection for sinners;
which is received by faith alone.



THE GOSPEL STORY:

GOD.

Creator:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1) That’s how the Bible, the Word of God, starts. God made all things. He created all things. Everything was made by Him and was intended to bring him honor and praise and glory. Everything was made good by him for him. (Gen. 1:27-28, 31; Col. 1:15-20; John 1:1-3).

Lord:

“The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:4-6). Because God created all things, He is Lord over all things. He is the rightful King (Ps.24). As our LORD and God, He deserves our obedience, love, honor, glory and praise.

Trinity:

God the Father - The Sovereign LORD over all.

God the Son - Jesus Christ. The Son of God and Savior of all who would believe in Him.

God the Holy Spirit - The Breath of God, Life-Giver, power-source and Helper of believers.

The Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit are all equally God, and all three distinct persons, yet there is still only One True God.

YOU.

All of mankind (male and female) was made in the image of God (Gen.1:26-27). This means we were created by God to represent and reflect him and to give him honor, praise and glory in and for all things. We exist to glorify God (to give him the honor, respect, praise, obedience and attention He deserves) and to enjoy Him (to have a relationship with him and find love, joy and purpose in Knowing Him) forever.

SIN.

Sin entered the world through Adam when he disobeyed God (Gen. 3; Rom 5:12-21, 1 Cor. 15:22). Because of this, all people everywhere have been infected with the disease and curse of sin. We are born in sin and with sin in our hearts and will (Ps. 51:5). This is called Original Sin. This means that we are not only sinners because we sin, but that we sin because we are sinners (Rom. 3:9-23, 6:23; Jam. 1:14-15).

Look around and you’ll see that the world is a broken and sinful place: selfishness, hatred, wars, envy, death, sadness, pain, murder, adultery, betrayal, insulting, gossip, slander, judging, pride, boasting, injustice, scandals, lies, stealing, addictions, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, substance abuse, crime, sexual immorality, pedophilia, pornography, corruption, etc. *People don’t need to be convinced of sin and evil existing in the world; they need to be convinced of sin and evil existing in their own hearts and lives.* Only the Holy Spirit is able to convince the world, and individuals, of sin (John 16:8).

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JESUS.

Jesus came as God's own Son, born of a woman as a human being, to save His people from their sins (Gal. 4:4; Matt. 1:21). Though He was God Himself, He was willing to be made man in order to become like us and fulfill the demands of God's law for us, so He could save us from our sin (Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 4:14-16). Jesus lived a LIFE of sinless perfection and offered his LIFE on the cross for our sins. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to become sin for us, so that in Him (Jesus), we could become righteous, forgiven and holy (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus died a real physical and spiritual DEATH on the cross for our sins, carrying the weight of our sin and God's just punishment that we deserve. Therefore, God raised Him from the dead through the power of the RESURRECTION on the third day, because death had no right over him, and he now offers forgiveness, righteousness and life (justifying grace) to all who believe in Him (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Jesus is the only way to the Father in Heaven (John 14:6). *This is the Gospel: the Good News of God's justifying grace through Jesus's Life, Death & Resurrection for sinners; which is received by faith alone.*

FAITH.

"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him (Jesus) whom He has sent." (John 6:29). "If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved." (Acts 16:31). "...everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life." (John 6:40). "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." (Rom. 10:9). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

LIFE.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever* believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting LIFE." (John 3:16). Jesus came "that they might have LIFE and have it to the full." (John 10:10). "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Those who believe are "born again of the Spirit" (John 3:3-8). "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:3-7). "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, *made us alive* together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" (Eph. 2:1-5).

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.



WHAT NOW?

REPENT & BELIEVE.

All you have to do to Know Jesus Christ and know that your sins are forgiven and that you will have eternal life with God in heaven is to believe that God is God and you are not.

Believe and confess that you have sinned against God and are in need of His forgiveness and the gift of eternal life, and turn from your life of sin and believe that Jesus came to offer His own life on the cross so that you could be forgiven of your sins and have eternal life through faith in Him. Believe that your only hope for eternal life with God in Heaven is through a personal relationship and faith in Jesus Christ. If you do this, then God promises you in the Bible that you will be forgiven, you will be saved and you will have eternal life with Him in Heaven. (Acts 2:37-39, 16:31, 17:30, 34; Mark 1:14-15; 2 Cor. 7:8-10; Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 1:8-10).

GROW.

God promises for all those who believe in Jesus, that they receive the Holy Spirit who bears fruit in their life and helps them continue to grow and become more like Jesus for the rest of their lives (Rom.8:28-30; 1 Thess.5:23-24). None of this will be perfect, and you will often fall, backtrack, drift, slip and stumble, but you will make progress through the grace of the Holy Spirit. It will often be 3 steps forward and 2 steps back, but Jesus has promised to stay with you all the way (Phil. 1:6, 2:5-13; Acts 26:20; Titus 2:11-14; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 2:10; 1 John 3:14-18; James 2:14-18).

Some of the normal ways God has designed for us to grow are:

Prayer - Prayer is simply having a conversation with God. Talk to Him. Tell Him how you feel. Your concerns. Your hurts. Your requests. Confess and give thanks to Him. Use the Bible to help guide you. (1 Thess. 5:16-18; Phil. 4:4-6).

Scripture - The Bible is God's very own Word, written down so that we can hear from Him today. He gave us the Bible through men who were inspired by His Holy Spirit to communicate exactly what God wanted them to communicate to us from Him. The Bible is God speaking to you! (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21).

Worship - Worship personally, with your family and especially with other believers in a church. It's important to be part of a local church where you can hear the Word of God preached, sing with other believers, love, have fellowship and encourage one another, and receive the benefits of the sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). (Deut. 6:4-9; Heb. 10:23-25; Ps. 78, 117).

Witnessing - Tell others the Good News of Jesus. Tell them how you came to believe in Him. Share your story of New Life and Faith in Jesus. There are many more people like yourself; lost and sinful and without the hope of eternal life apart from a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Tell others the Good News. Share the Gospel of Jesus! (Ps. 67; Is. 55:10-13; Ps. 51:12-15; Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8-10).

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More Key GOSPEL Passages:

Job 33:19-30

Psalms 32

Psalms 51

Isaiah 53

Luke 24:44-49

John 3:16

Romans 3:21-26

Romans 5:6-11

Romans 10:9-13

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Galatians 4:4-7

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-16

2 Timothy 1:8-14

2 Timothy 2:8-10

Titus 3:3-8

1 John 4:9-11

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
ROOTED in

OUR MISSION

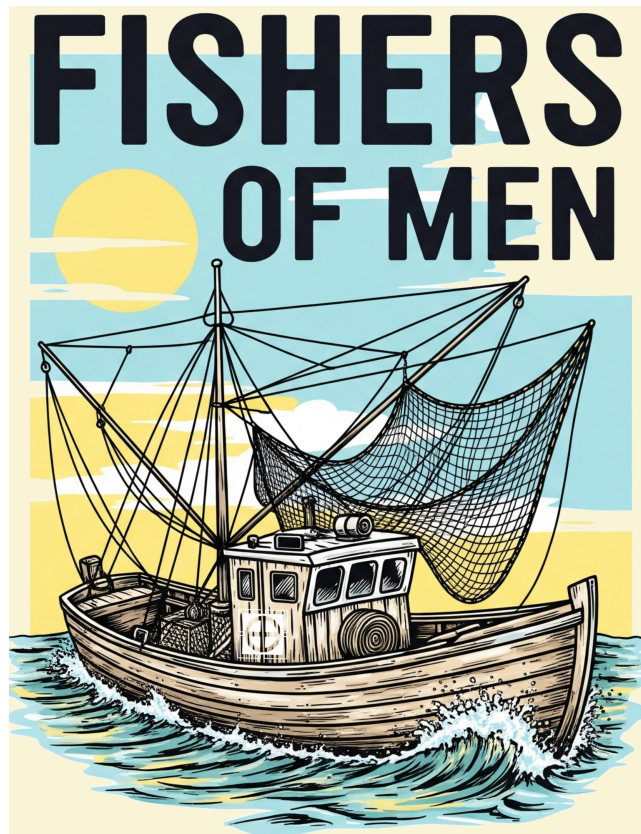
We exist to help people Know Jesus Christ and
Serve the Community by Being the Church.

OUR VISION

We hope to be a Growing, Loving and Diverse Church,
that Serves, Blesses and Reflects our Community
for the Kingdom, Name and Glory of Jesus Christ.

I. The Purpose of Church - “MAKE DISCIPLES FOR GOD’S GLORY”

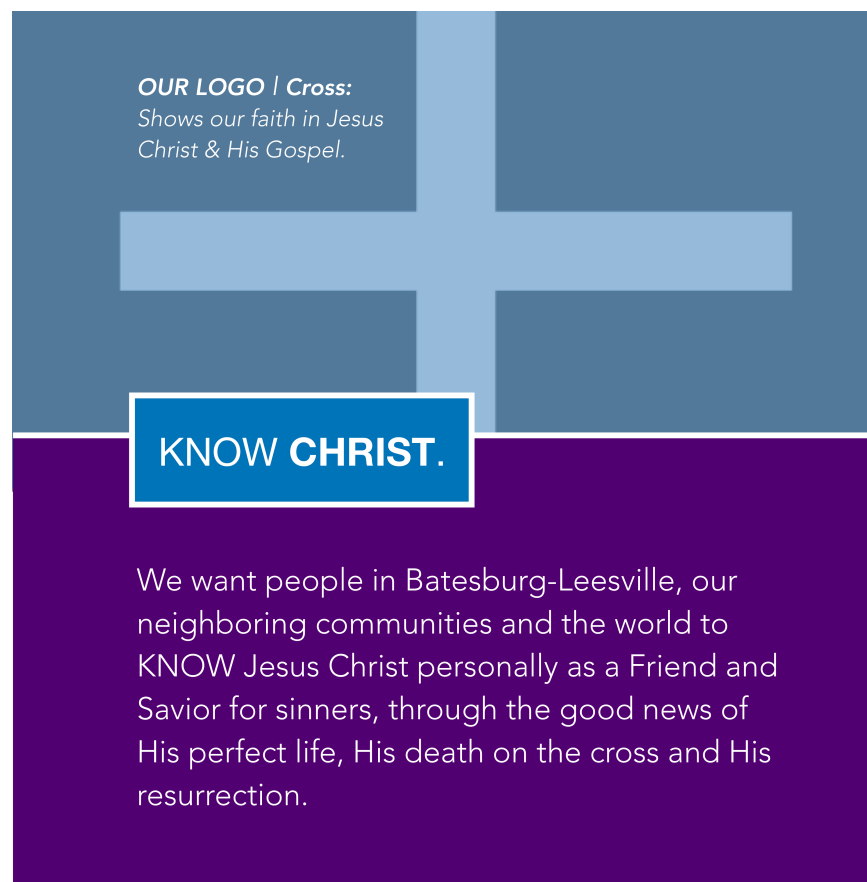
- A. *What is a Disciple?* - A Christian. Follower of Jesus & Fisher of people. Acts 11:26; 14:21-22; Luke 5:2-11; Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20
- B. “Make more of you”. Reproduce.- Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8
- C. What is “The Church”? - “Ecclesia” = “Gathering, Congregation, Assembly”
 - 1. Visible Church & Invisible Church.
 - 2. Church Militant & Church Triumphant.
 - 3. Local Church & Global/Universal Church.
 - 4. There is One Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church.



KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

II. Expectations for Members (Not Required, but Expected of Members)

- A. **KNOW CHRIST.** To be a member you must demonstrate through a credible profession of faith that you have a personal relationship with Jesus. As you grow in this relationship, you will demonstrate ongoing repentance from sin, humility, love for God and love for your neighbor. You will also have a desire for others to Know Jesus in the way that you have come to Know and Love Him.
- **SUMMARY:** *“Knowing Jesus Christ” means having a genuine, growing and loving relationship with Jesus, and wanting others to know Him and His love for sinners.*
 - **COMMITMENT:** By the grace of the Holy Spirit, you will be committed to learning and growing as a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 24:44-49).



KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

- B. **SERVE THE COMMUNITY.** As a believer, the Bible says we are “reborn” of the Spirit and given the fruit and gifts of the Spirit (***Spiritual Gifts***). This means that God has gifted you in specific ways to Serve Him and others. Everything we have is a gift from God, given to us for His glory and the good of others (job, skills, personality, interests, time, resources, energy, etc.). We are stewards of His grace, by serving Him and others with those gifts.

Examples:

- > *Manual labor:* maintain (lawn, trash, clean), improvement, construction, etc.
 - > *Hospitality:* Welcome Team, facility care, coffee, cooking/baking, etc.
 - > *Arts:* Photography, Video, Design, Decor, Paint, Music Ministry, etc.
 - > *Discipleship:* Teaching, Leadership in small group, Bible study, youth, etc.
 - > *Care:* nursery/kids, elderly, sick, mercy, outreach, volunteer, generosity, etc.
 - > *Administration:* plan/organize/supervise events & projects, office help, etc.
 - > *Financial:* Tithes (10%) & Offerings (above and beyond). Helping others privately. Generous tips.
- **SUMMARY:** *“Serving the Community” means identifying how you have been uniquely gifted by God (Spiritual Gifts), and using those gifts to help with the needs in our church and our surrounding community by giving of your time, energy and resources.*
 - **COMMITMENT:** By the grace of the Holy Spirit, you will be committed to using the gifts God has given you to serve this church and community for the glory of Christ.

OUR LOGO | Arrows:
*Shows our mission to be an
“outward looking” church.*

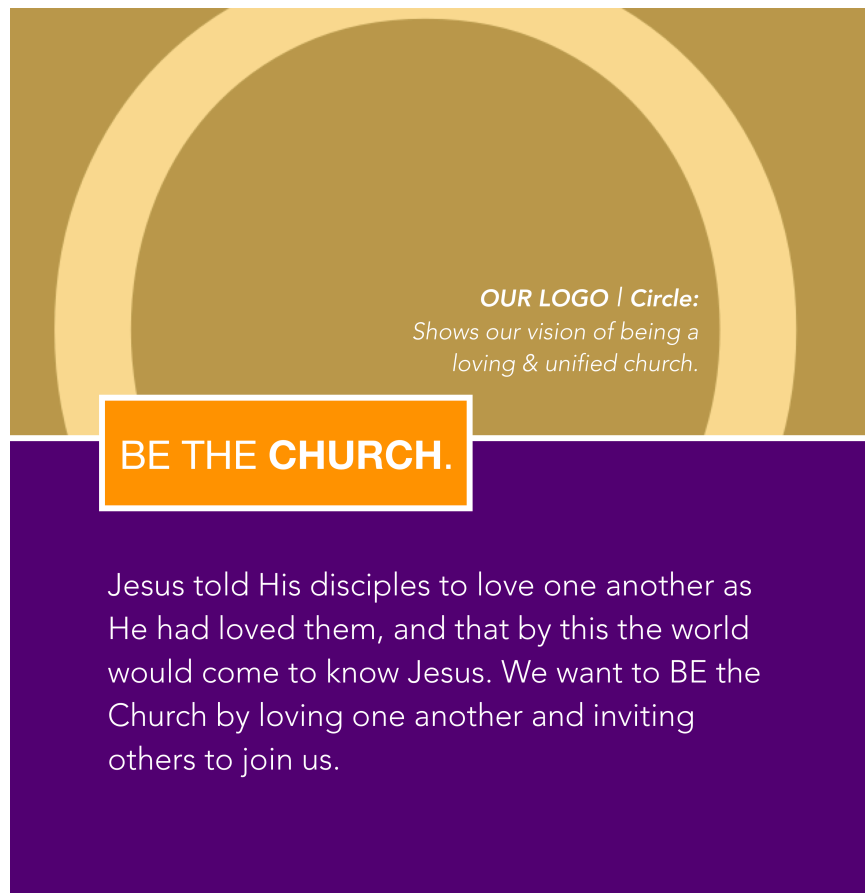
SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

We are a church located in Batesburg-Leesville for Batesburg-Leesville and our neighboring communities. We want to SERVE the Community and be a blessing to Batesburg-Leesville.

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

C. BE THE CHURCH. Jesus told His disciples to “love one-another as I have loved you and by this the world will know you are my disciples by your love for one-another (John 13:34-35). Hebrews says to stir one another up in love and good works, not to neglect meeting together, and to encourage one another all the time as the final day draws closer (Heb. 10:24-45). We are also told elsewhere to show hospitality to one-another (1 Peter 4:9) and to strangers (Heb. 13:1-2).

- **SUMMARY:** *“Being the Church” means loving one another radically, demonstrating the unity we have in Jesus in light of our diversity (not despite of), and by inviting others to be a part of our fellowship through hospitality.*
- **COMMITMENT:** By the grace of the Holy Spirit, you will be committed to attending corporate worship, meeting in groups, inviting and showing hospitality to others in our church and in your home.



OUR LOGO / Circle:
Shows our vision of being a
loving & unified church.

BE THE CHURCH.

Jesus told His disciples to love one another as He had loved them, and that by this the world would come to know Jesus. We want to BE the Church by loving one another and inviting others to join us.

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The PCA

I. PCA Distinctives

- A. History: 1973. A necessary split/exit from our former denomination P.C.U.S.(A.)
- B. "5 Fundamentals". (Auburn Affirmation = Bad/X)
 - 1. *Inerrant Scriptures*
 - 2. *Virgin Birth (Jesus' Deity)*
 - 3. *Substitutionary Atonement*
 - 4. *Bodily Resurrection of Christ*
 - 5. *Jesus' Miracles*
- C. Core Values: *"Faithful to the Scripture, True to the Reformed Faith and Obedient to the Great Commission."*
- D. Which means: *"We Believe the Bible. We Believe in the Grace of God for sinners. & We Believe in Telling People the Good News of Jesus."*
- E. Authority & Foundation: *The Bible**
- F. PCA Constitution:
 - 1. *Westminster Standards*
 - 2. *Book of Church Order*
 - 3. *Individual Churches: By-Laws.*

*(*The Bible does not change. It is the Word of God and is the one binding document we have.)*

II. PCA Vows (Required for Membership)

- 1. **Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His punishment, and without hope except for His saving mercy?**
Answering this question with a "yes" means admitting publicly that you are a sinner and are not good. You deserve God's punishment for sin (which is Hell). Without His mercy and forgiveness, you would be lost and without hope (Heb.3:13; Rom.12:4-5; 1 Cor.12:12; Eph.2:12, 4:11-16; Titus 3:3-5).

- 2. **Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered to us in the Gospel?**
Answering this question with a "yes" means acknowledging that Jesus is God, that He came to earth as man to live a perfect life and die on the cross for your sins, He took the punishment for sin that you deserved, and you now trust in Him alone for salvation from sin and its consequences so that you can have peace with God. (Gal. 2:20-21, 4:3-4; John 3:16-18; Rom. 10:9-11). No works done by us can make us right with God (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7).

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3. **Do you now resolve and promise, in humble dependence on the Holy Spirit, that you will live as a follower of Christ, becoming more like Him as you learn to repent & obey Him by grace through faith?** *Answering this question with a “yes” means committing to becoming more like Christ as a follower and disciple of Jesus, learning more about who God is, who you are, and walking in ongoing repentance from sins and faith in the Gospel. (Eph. 2:1-10; Phil. 2:5-13; Gal. 5:16-24; John 15:1-11).*

4. **Do you promise to support Christ Community Church and the Universal Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability? (See Expectations for Members)** *Answering this question with a “yes” means committing to supporting this local church with your love, prayers, attendance, time, gifts, service, tithes and offerings; and the global Church through prayer, giving, evangelism and missions. (1 Pet. 4:7-11; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Thess. 5:11; Eph. 4).*

5. **Do you submit yourself to the leadership, teaching and accountability of the Church, and promise to seek its purity and peace?** *Answering this question with a “yes” means trusting and following the Officers (Elders & Deacons), helping fulfill the Mission & Vision of Christ Community Church, praying for the church, holding one another (leaders and members) accountable and being held accountable, sitting under the preaching of the Word and taking part in the Sacraments and Means of Grace; having a desire to see a church whose members and leaders are committed to loving one another and loving and obeying Jesus. (Eph. 2:11-2, 4:1-7, 32; Rom. 12:9-21; 2 Cor. 13:11; 1 Thess. 5:12-24).*

ROOTED in LOVE

JOHN 13:34, JOHN 15:12, JOHN 15:17
ROM 13:8, 1 THESS 4:9, HEB 13:1,
1 PET 1:22, 1 PET 3:8, 1 PET 4:8,
1 JOHN 3:11, 1 JOHN 3:14, 1 JOHN 3:23,
1 JOHN 4:7, 1 JOHN 4:11, 2 JOHN 5



THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS US TO TREAT ONE ANOTHER
WITH LOVE, HUMILITY, AND RESPECT.
WE ARE ALSO TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BE UNIFIED.

I. Why Membership?

A. Commitment to the Family of God ("Added to their numbers")

1. One-Another Commands.

- a) Be at Peace with - Mk. 9:50
- b) Wash Feet - Jn.13:14
- c) Love - Jn.13:34-35, 15:12, 17; Rom.12:10, 13:8; 1 Thess.4:9; 1Jn.3:11, 23, 4:7, 11-12; 2Jn.1:5; 1Pet.3:8, 4:8
- d) Honor above self/Outdo in showing love/Devoted - Rom.12:10
- e) Live in Harmony - Rom.12:16; 1Pet.3:8
- f) Don't pass judgment - Rom. 14:13
- g) Welcome just like Jesus - Rom. 15:7
- h) Hospitality - 1 Pet. 4:9 (without grumbling)
- i) Greet with Kiss - Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Pet. 5:14
- j) Instruct - Rom. 15:14
- k) Teach - Col 3:16 → "Admonish"
- l) When you eat... wait - 1 Cor. 11:33
- m) Have the same care/no division" in the body - 1 Cor. 12:25
- n) Serve w/ love - Gal. 5:13
- o) Use every gift to serve - 1 Pet. 4:10
- p) If you bite/devour, you'll destroy - Gal. 5:15
- q) Don't slander - James 4:11
- r) Not conceited, provoking, envying" - Gal 5:26
- s) Bear Burdens - Gal. 6:2
- t) Humble, gentle, patient, bearing, eager unity/bond of peace - Eph. 4:2-3; Col 3:13
- u) Kind and compassionate - Eph. 4:32 → "Forgiving" ;Col. 3:13
- v) Speak Psalms/Hymns/Songs - Eph. 5:21
- w) In humility consider others - Phil. 2:3
- x) Do not lie - Col. 3:9
- y) Make love increase/overflow - 1 Thess. 3:12
- z) Encourage - 1 Thess. 4:18, 5:11; Heb. 3:13, 10:25 (Don't neglect assembling together)
- aa) Confess + Pray - James 5:16
- bb) Don't grumble - James 5:9
- cc) Humility "clothed" - 1 Pet. 5:5
- dd) Build up - 1 Thess. 5:11
- ee) Spur on to love/good works - Heb. 10:24
- ff) Brothers and Sister in Christ. Member of One Body (1 Cor. 12). Rom. 12:4; Eph. 3:6, 4:25; Col. 3:15.
- gg) Identification as a Disciple.

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

The 59 “One Others” 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)*

The “One Another” Passages

The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word *allelon* which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to *allelon*, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of *allelon*.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

Love one another (John 13:34 - *This command occurs at least 16 times*)
Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
Honor one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16) **Greet** one another (Romans 16:16)
Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
Speak to one another **with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
Consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another **to love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)
Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

NEGATIVE COMMANDS (how *not* to treat one another)

Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9) **Stop passing judgment** on one another (Romans 14:13) **If you keep on biting and devouring** each other...**you'll be destroyed** by each other (Galatians 5:15) Let us **not become conceited, provoking and envying** each other (Galatians 5:26) **Do not slander** one another (James 4:11) **Don't grumble against** each other (James 5:9)

We do all this because we are in a real sense “**members of one another**” (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25).

2. Too easy to leave and break fellowship without membership.
 3. Not wrong to leave, but still shouldn't be easy.
- B. Access to the Sacraments ("Keys of the Kingdom" - Matt.16:19. Given to the Church. "Stewards of the Mysteries" 1 Cor. 4:1)
1. Baptism - Make Disciples. Baptize them in Name of Father, Son, Spirit.
 2. Communion - Lord's Supper. "Discern the elements." (1 Cor. 11).
- C. Local Churches
1. Biblical Evidence of Local Church Commitment, Accountability and Affiliation. As well as "roll keeping."
 2. Local Leaders - "Appoint Elders in Every town."(Titus 1; 1 Peter 5; James 5).
 3. Local Churches - Church of "...." Rome, Laodicea, Ephesus, etc.
 4. Accountability Commands & Church Discipline. (Matt. 18; 1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 2; Titus 3; 1 John 3:11-24; Heb. 13).

GROUNDED in our History

II. Church History Outline

A. Why Study Church History?

1. It's "His Story" of steadfast love & faithfulness. (Psalm 115-118).
2. It's the Fulfillment of His Promise. (*Matt. 16:13-20; 28:16-20*)
3. It's Discipleship. (Ex. 1:8-10, 12:24-27; 2 Kings 22:8-13, 23:21-23; Deut. 6:10-12; 1 Chron. 16:8-12; Heb. 11; Acts 7; Ps. 78(5-8); 126)
4. Helpful Resources:
 - a) "5 Minutes in Church History" Podcast
 - b) "Lineage" Youtube Series
 - c) "The Church in History" by B.K. Kuiper

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B. Jesus & The NT Church (AD 1-90)

1. Jesus Born - 1-3 AD
2. Jesus' Death & Resurrection - 33-35AD
3. Expansion of Early Church - 35-70AD
4. Fall of Jerusalem - 70AD
5. Death of John - 90AD

C. Early Church Fathers (90AD-300AD)

1. Polycarp - c.70-150AD (John's Disciple). Smyrna Pastor. John's scribe? Killed in Smyrna in stadium.
2. Clement - c.100AD. Rome. Peter's successor. 2nd Pope.
3. Ignatius - c.35-108AD. Antioch.
4. Tertullian - c.155-220AD. Apologist.
5. Justin Martyr - c.100-165AD. Rome. Beheaded.
6. Origen - c.185-253AD. Alexandria.

D. Councils & Creeds (1 Pet. 3:15-16)

1. *Nicea 325 - Jesus is God/Man. Homo-ousia "Same Nature". Athanasius. Fully God. Fully Man. Not 50/50.*
2. *Constantinople 381 - "Spirit-Fighters". Trinitarian doctrine.*

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TRINITY

GOD ETERNALLY EXISTS AS THREE PERSONS, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, AND EACH PERSON IS FULLY GOD, AND THERE IS ONE GOD

MODALISM

ONE PERSON WHO APPEARS IN DIFFERENT FORMS OR MODES

BAD ILLUSTRATIONS



THE TRINITY IS LIKE WATER BECAUSE IT CAN BE LIQUID, SOLID, AND STEAM WHILE REMAINING H₂O.

EACH PART IS NEVER IN THE SAME FORM AT THE SAME TIME. GOD IS ALWAYS FULLY GOD WHILE BEING THREE DISTINCT PERSONS.

THE THREE PERSONS ARE COEQUAL & COETERNAL

IF YOU DENY THIS YOU COMMIT THE ERROR OF SUBORDINATIONISM.

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

IF YOU DENY THIS YOU COMMIT THE ERROR OF TRITHEISM.

SUBORDINATIONISM

CLAIMS THAT THE SON AND SPIRIT ARE SUBORDINATE TO THE FATHER IN NATURE AND BEING

BAD ILLUSTRATIONS



THE TRINITY IS LIKE THE SUN BECAUSE IT IS COMPRISED OF A BODY, LIGHT, AND HEAT YET ALL ARE THE SUN.

LIGHT AND HEAT RADIATE AND ONLY EXIST BECAUSE THE BODY EXISTS.

GOD

SON IS

THERE ARE THREE DIVINE PERSONS

IF YOU DENY THIS YOU COMMIT THE ERROR OF MODALISM.

TRITHEISM

DENIES THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD AND CLAIMS THERE ARE THREE GODS

BAD ILLUSTRATIONS



THE TRINITY IS LIKE AN EGG BECAUSE IT HAS THREE PARTS - EGG, YOLK, AND SHELL BUT IS ONE EGG

EACH PART IS ONLY THAT, A PART, AND CANNOT BE SAID TO BE THE ENTIRE THING.

GOD THE FATHER IS THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF CREATION, REDEMPTION, AND CONSUMMATION, WHO PLANS, DIRECTS, AND SENDS. THE SON AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE WILLINGLY SUBORDINATE TO HIM IN ROLE EVEN WHILE EQUAL IN DEITY.

GOD THE SON OBEYS THE FATHER, ACCOMPLISHES REDEMPTION, AND WITH THE FATHER SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO APPLY THE WORK HE HAS BEGUN. IN ALL THINGS HE GLORIFIES THE FATHER.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS TO COMPLETION THE WORK PLANNED BY THE FATHER AND BEGUN BY THE SON. IN ALL THINGS HE WORKS TO GLORIFY THE SON.

RESOURCES

THE FORGOTTEN TRINITY
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

JAMES WHITE
BRUCE WARE
WAYNE GRUDEM

3. *Ephesus 431 - Theotokos “Mother of God.” Cyril.*

4. *Chalcedon 451 - Clarify the Hypostatic union. 2 Natures of Christ. Chalcedonian Definition.*

E. Holy Catholic (Universal) Church (A.D. 30-1054)

1. Athanasius - c.325

2. Constantine - 300-400 - Edict of Milan - 313AD

3. John Chrysostom - 337-407AD. “Golden Mouth.” Constantinople.

4. Jerome - c.337-408AD. Latin Vulgate. Apologist. Roman scholar.

5. Ambrose - c.339-397AD. Milan. Mentor & Preacher to Augustine. Logic. Apologist. Intellect.

6. Augustine - c.400s. Hippo. “City of God” = Two Kingdom Theology. Fall of Rome.

7. Eusebius - c.260-339AD. Early Church Historian. Primary Source. “*Ad Fontes*”. “*To the Source!*”

8. Cyril - c.378-444. Alexandria.

9. Patrick of Ireland - c.385-461AD. Roman Britain.

10. Charlemagne - c.800. Christmas Day. Holy Roman Emperor.

F. Schism of 1054 (*Filioque Clause* = “And the Son”).

1. *Catholic/West - Rome (Roman/Latin)*

a) Anselm - c.1033-1009AD

b) Bernard of Clairvaux - c.1100

c) Crusades - 1100-1300

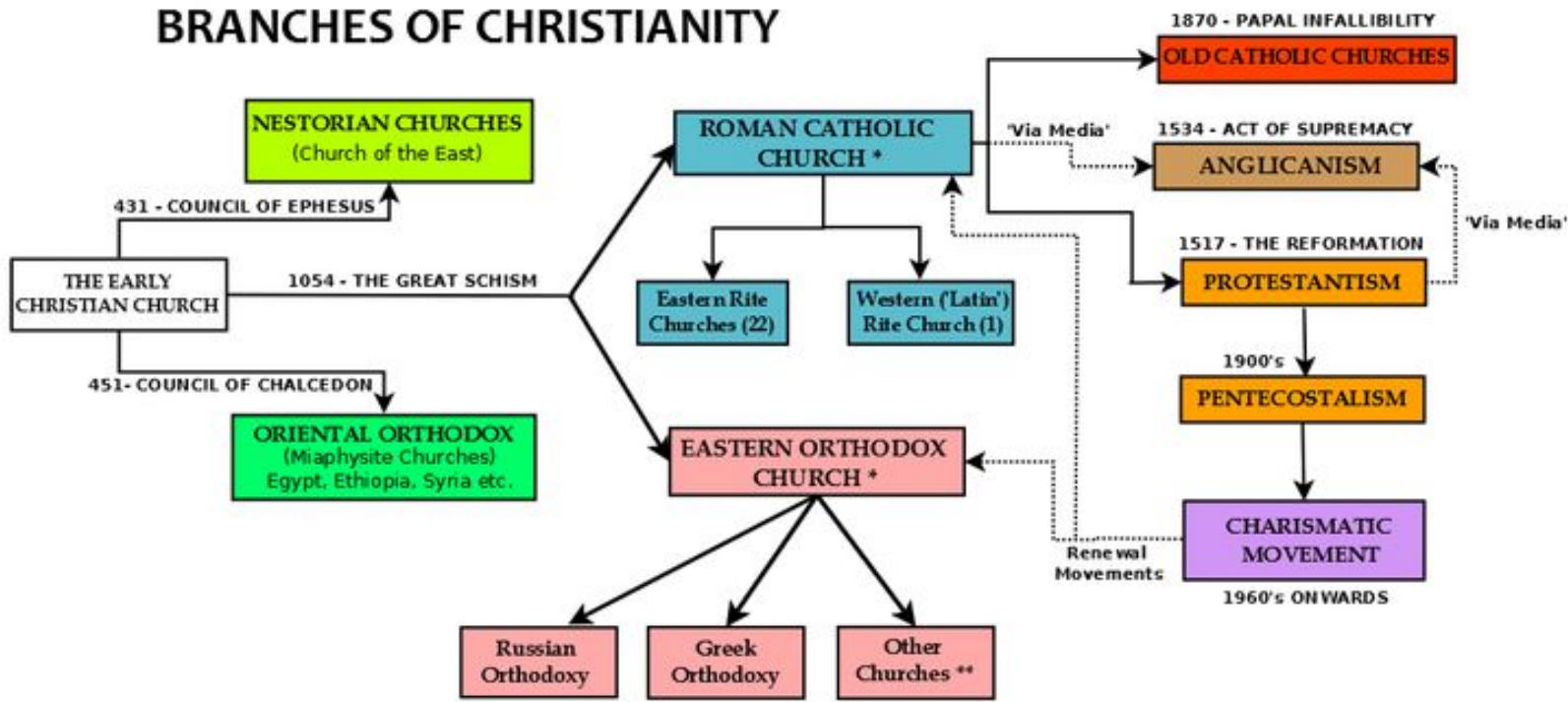
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d) St. Francis of Assisi - c.1200

e) Thomas Aquinas - *Summa Theologica*

2. Orthodox/East - Constantinople (Greek)

BRANCHES OF CHRISTIANITY



* Both Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches claim the title of the 'One True Church'.

** There are several other autonomous and autocephalous churches within Eastern Orthodoxy.

3. Denominations - Pros & Cons

- People are sinners. Individually & Corporately. Disagreements. Interpretations. Practice. Application. Imperfection. Time. Exponential Multiplication. Weakness (2 Cor. 12:9-10).
- There are a lot of things that happen and that we do that weren't part of God's "design", but it doesn't mean it's not His "plan." Denominations are one of those.

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c) *There's always been splits & "denominations" (1 Kings 12)*

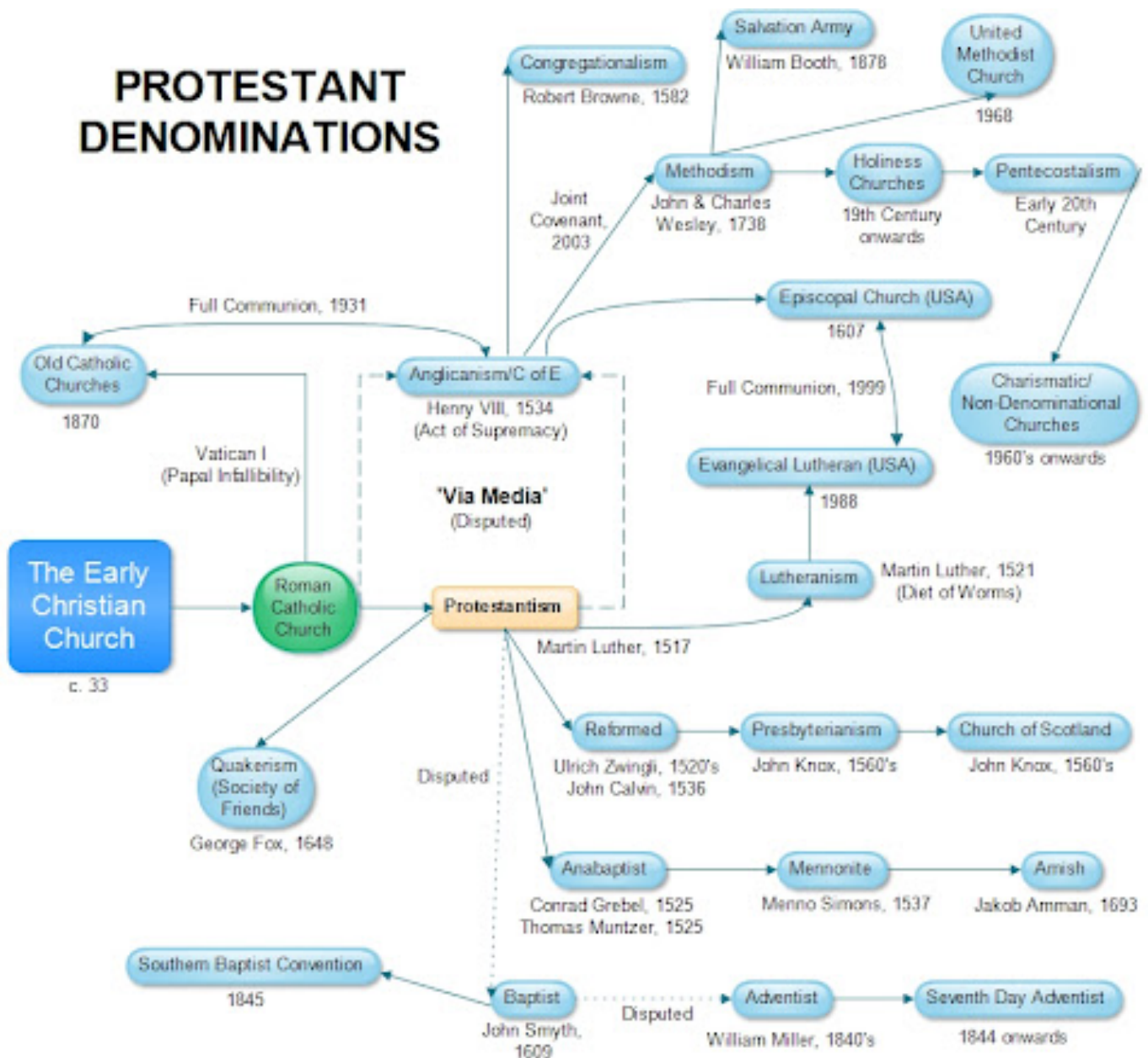
d) *"Remnant", "Exiles", "Sojourners" (1 Pet. 1:1-12)*

(1) *Benjamin & Joseph (Gen. 37-50)*

(2) *Joshua & Caleb (Num. 13-14)*

(3) *Gideon's 300 (Judges 7)*

(4) *Those who did not bow to Baal (1 Kings 19)*



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G. Protestant Reformation

1. Key Issues

- a) *Justification* - Righteousness & Acceptance before God.
(Rom. 1:16-17; 3:19-26; Gal. 2:18-21; 3:21-26; 4:3-4)
- b) *Authority* - Tradition? Bible? Pope? Church? Abuses by RCC.
Money. Indulgences.
- c) *Access to Scripture* - Latin. Limited copies. Expensive.
Accuracy of translations. “*Repent vs. Penance*”
 - (1) “Most Dangerous Idea” - Scripture for commoners?
“*Vulgate*” = “*Vulgar*” = “*Common*”
 - (2) “More people would be saved” - Luther.

2. Pre-Reformation (cir.1100-1500) (“*ad fontes*”)

- a) Anselm (1050-1100) - *Cur Deus Homo*
- b) Wycliffe (1324-1384) - “Morningstar”. Translated Bible to English from Vulgate. “Lollards” = “Lull”. Mumbler/Mutter.
- c) Huss (1373-1415) -
- d) Guttenberg (c.1450 - Latin Bible - “Vulgate”)
- e) Erasmus (c.1450-1500)

3. Key Reformers (1517-1650)

- a) Luther (1517 - “Theses”; 1521 - “Worms”, 1525 - Married)
- b) Zwingli (1522 - March 9. “Feast of Sausages”)
- c) Calvin (c.1536-1564) - “Institutes”. Farel/Geneva. Beza. Bucer.
Pastor for French Huguenots. “Exiles” Strangers in Foreign land
 - (1) *Sinner? Yes. Always Reforming* - “*Semper Reformanda*”.
Not perfect. Who wants their worst sins on record? Even
culturally acceptable sins.

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- (2) *Murderer? Michael Servetus* - Anabaptist. Teaching heresy. Warned. Exhorted. Pleaded. Tried. Condemned. Protect souls. Eternal Sin. Murder? This was seen as worse. Going all the way back to Augustine. Instead of burning, Calvin wanted to behead. Culturally influenced.
- (3) *Disrespect of Women? Adultery*. Was a capital crime. Domestic Violence. Wife punishment? He and others were the first to elevate the housewife as a noble calling and vocation. Misogamist? Chauvinist? Equally sinful.
- (4) *Puritans* - Salem Witch Trials? “Scarlett Letter.” Sinners. That’s where pride and fear takes you in a culture of violence & acceptance.
- d) Knox (c.1546-1572) - Time in Geneva under Calvin. Presbyterianism “Re”-Formalized on his return to Scotland.
- e) Tyndale (1522-1536) - First English Bible from GNT
- f) “3 Forms of Unity” - Dutch Reformed = Belgic Con. (1561), Synod/Canons of Dordt (1618), Heidelberg Cat. (1563)
- g) Westminster Assembly - (1643-49) - “Standards” = Confession, WLC, WSC, Directory of Worship, etc.
- 4. Puritans & Pilgrims (1600-1750) = “Purify” Church of England. “Dissenters”. “Separatists”.
 - a) John Owen - Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell
 - b) John Bunyan - Pilgrim’s Progress.
 - c) Richard Baxter - Chaplain to George II.
 - d) Samuel Rutherford -
 - e) John Flavel -

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- f) Thomas Goodwin -
- g) Jeremiah Burroughs -
- h) Richard Sibbes -
- i) Matthew Henry - Whole Bible Commentary.
- j) Jonathan Edwards - Great Awakening (1725). Greatest American Mind and Theologian. Princeton.
- k) Whitefield - Anglican Reformed Methodist. Oxford. Evangelist
- l) Spurgeon (1834-1842) - "Prince of Preachers". London.

5. Protestant Denominations 1600-Present

- a) *Lutheran (Luther/Melanchthon)*
- b) *Anglican/Episcopal - Great Britain (Westminster)*
- c) *Presbyterian- (Calvin/Knox)*
- d) *Anabaptist - Mennonite/Amish*
- e) *Puritan - Non-Conformist/Dissenter (Calvin)*
- f) *Baptist - (Calvin/Zwingli/Spurgeon)*
- g) *Methodist - (Wesley/Whitefield)*
- h) *Restorationist - Church of Christ*
- i) *Holiness/Pentecostal/Charismatic*
- j) *Non-denominational/Congregational*
- k) *Other*

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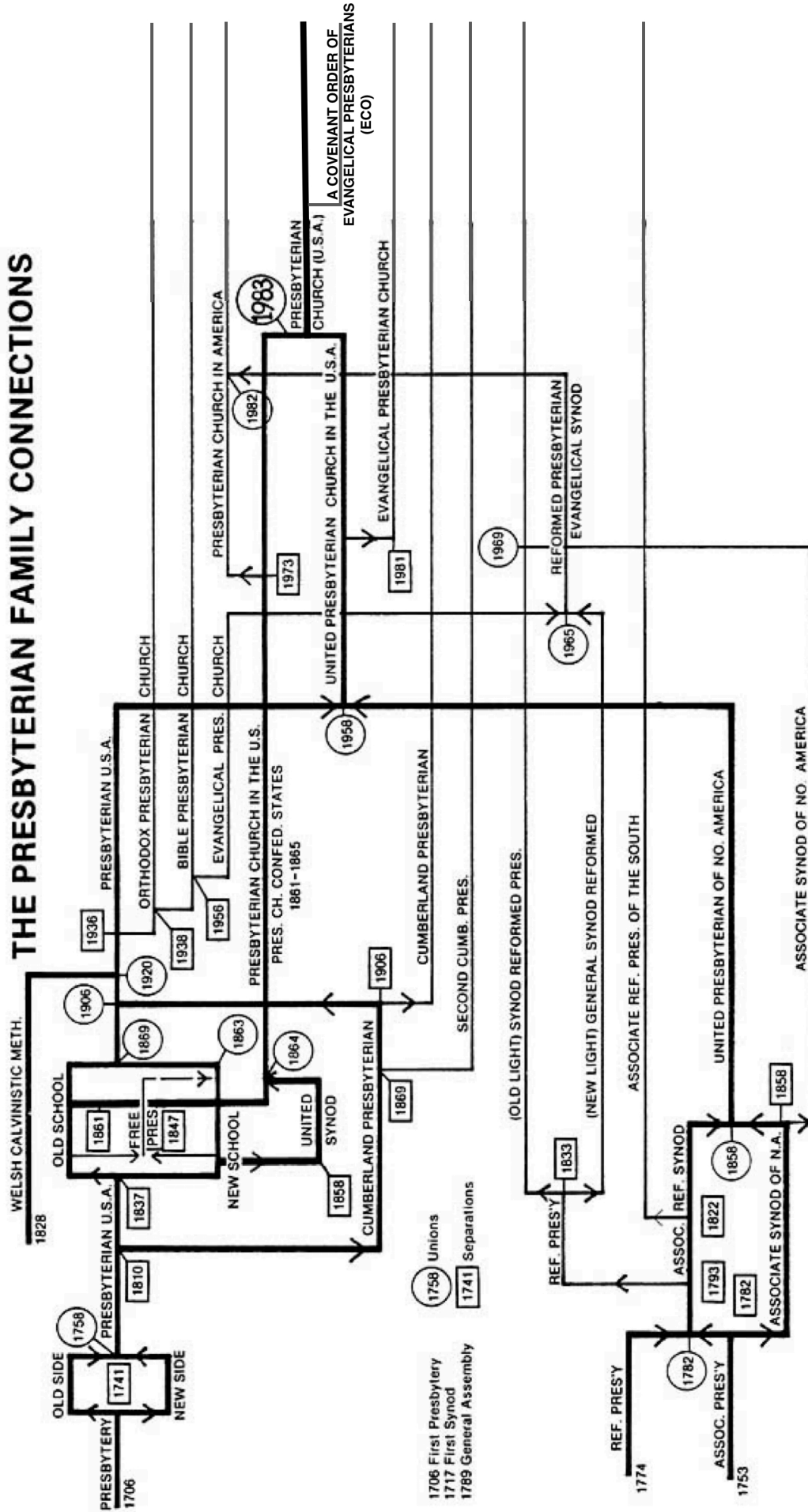
6. *Forms of Church Government*

- a) *Presbyterian - Representative Leaders. (Reformed Baptist-ish)*
- b) *Congregational - (Non-denom, Baptist, Independants)*
- c) *Episcopalian - Descending Power. Hierarchical. (Priests, Bishops, etc.) - Catholic. Episcopal. Methodist. Anglican.*
- d) *Apostolic - Semi-Pentecostal. NAR. Non-Denoms. Semi-Charismatic.*

7. *American Presbyterianism 1706-Now*

- a) *Scottish Presbyterians - “Covenanters”. ARP.*
- b) *New-American Presbyterians*
 - (1) *Frances Mackemie- Irish Presbyterian - “Father of Am.Pres”*
 - (2) *Philadelphia Presbytery - 1706*
 - (3) *Machen - Westminster Sem.(1924) - OPC (1936)*

THE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY CONNECTIONS



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GROUNDDED

in God's Word

III. Reformed Doctrine (Gen.1- Rev.22 - :-D)

A. The 5 Solas of the Reformation

1. *Sola Gratia* - Eph.1:3-14, 2:1-9; Titus2:11-14, 3:3-8; Rom9:16; Jn.6:32-40, 44, 60-65, 68
2. *Sola Fide* - Phil.3:9; Gal.2:15-3:14; Rom.1:16-17, 5:1-11; Jn. 6:28-29; Hab.2:4; Heb.10:35
3. *Solus Christus* - Rom.3:21-26; Jn.3:16-18; Mat..11:25-30; Acts 4:12(2,18); Col.1:16-20; Jn.14:6
4. *Sola Scriptura* - 2 Tim.3:16-17; 2 Pet.1:16-21; Rev.22:18
5. *Soli Deo Gloria* - Eph.1; 1Cor.10:31; Phil.2:5-11; Jn.6:61-71

B. Covenantal Theology - Biblical Theology - One God/One Story

1. Systematic Theology - Grouping the Bible's teaching into logical categories. *God. Scripture. Jesus. Holy Spirit. Sin.*
2. Biblical Theology* - Studying topics of Theology as they are revealed in the Story of Scripture. *Redemption, Marriage, Trees, Gardens, Water, Light, etc.*

**Not better or more Biblical, just a different method for study and approaching understanding and interpretation. Genesis —> Revelation.*

C. Sacraments & Means of Grace

1. What are Sacraments?
 - a) Rite/ritual practice instituted by Jesus personally during earthly ministry.
 - b) Commanded by Jesus to be an ongoing practice.
 - c) Material elements used as signs of the spiritual blessings/ substance of the covenant.
 - d) When received/applied by faith, they seal to the conscience. What grace is promised "means of grace."
 - e) Display Central truths of Gospel to all witnesses: forgiveness, cleansing, adoption, fellowship, strength, union with Christ.

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2. Lord's Supper (Communion, Eucharist, etc) - 1 Cor.11:23-32; Rom.4:9-11; Acts2:38; Ex.12:43-51; Josh.5:1-9
 - a) Transubstantiation - Roman Catholic
 - b) Consubstantiation - Lutheran
 - c) Spiritual Presence - Calvin
 - d) Symbolic Remembrance Only - Zwingli
3. Baptism - Covenant Baptism (Why babies?) -
 - a) Matt.28:19-20; Col.2:8-14; Rom.4:1-13; Gen.17:9-14, 22-27
 - b) Commanded in the Great Commission for all who are added to the Fellowship of God's people. (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:41)
 - c) Union with Christ and God's family. (Eph. 4:4-6, Rom. 6:3-6, Gal. 3:27, 1 Pet. 3:21)
 - d) Does not save or regenerate or wash/cleans, but signifies the necessity of cleansing, even for children b/c of original sin, and the seal/promise to cleanse when they believe.
 - e) There is a humble and hopeful expectation for covenant children to one day believe and receive cleansing through faith in Jesus. However, it is also possible for them to reject the covenant promise and become covenant breakers, which is a serious offense and "greater sin."
 - f) Baptism has taken the place of circumcision in the New Testament b/c of what it symbolizes. (Col. 2:11ff, Gal. 3:27, 1 Cor. 12:13, Rom. 2:28-29, Eph. 4:11)
 - g) Based on continuity of the Covenant, we include children in the covenant family and sign, unless otherwise told not to. Like when the Bible says that someone should be able to "examine themselves", "discern the elements" and "come in a worthy manner" to the Lord's Supper. (1 Cor. 11)
 - h) It is clear from Jesus' earthly ministry, that he wanted to include children in the fellowship and receive them, not exclude. (Matt. 19:13-15, 1 Cor. 7:14, Mark 10:13-16)
 - i) It also signifies the Holy Spirit's anointing. (Ezek. 36:25-27, Is. 44:3, Acts 2:2, 4, 17, anointing, Mark 1:8, Jn. 1:33, Matt. 3:11, Acts 10:44-48, Titus 3:5-7, 1 Cor. 12:13)

- j) Those who believe at a later age can remember their baptism and praise God for His faithfulness, as well as rejoice in their new identity in Christ through communion/Lord's supper. (Jn. 1:33, Matt. 2:11, Luke 3:16)
- k) What About Modes?
 - (1) While immersion is acceptable, it is not necessary or even implied. John the Baptist at the Valley of Aenon at Salim. "Much Water" Plural = "Many Springs/Waters". (John 3:22-24). "Aenon" = "Springs or Fountains".
 - (2) Pouring & Sprinkling are the common "modes" of ceremonial/symbolic cleansing in the Old Testament and would have been an assumed mode for symbolic, cleansing and washing rituals that continued in the New Testament Church. (Is. 52:15; Acts 8:36).
 - (3) The word "baptizo" can mean "to plunge or immerse" but is a biblical language... It most commonly means "purification" and often is also translated sprinkle, pour, cleanse, washings and anoint. (Matt. 15:2, Mark 7:2-5, Lk. 11:38, Heb. 9:13-22, 10:22, 12:24, 1 Pet. 1:2).
 - (4) In fact, the word "baptizo" does not always mean "immerse" in Greek. It can also mean "wash, cleanse, bathe, drench, drench in color." In past Greek literature, it can also mean to "wash clothes."
- l) History: Didache (100-150AD), Iraeneus (180AD), Origen (244 AD. Grandfather. Baptized), Cyprion (253AD), Augustine (396-430AD), Tertullian (198AD - first on record to suggest waiting). Most accepted practice of the church. Adult only immersion is a more recent, broadly accepted view.

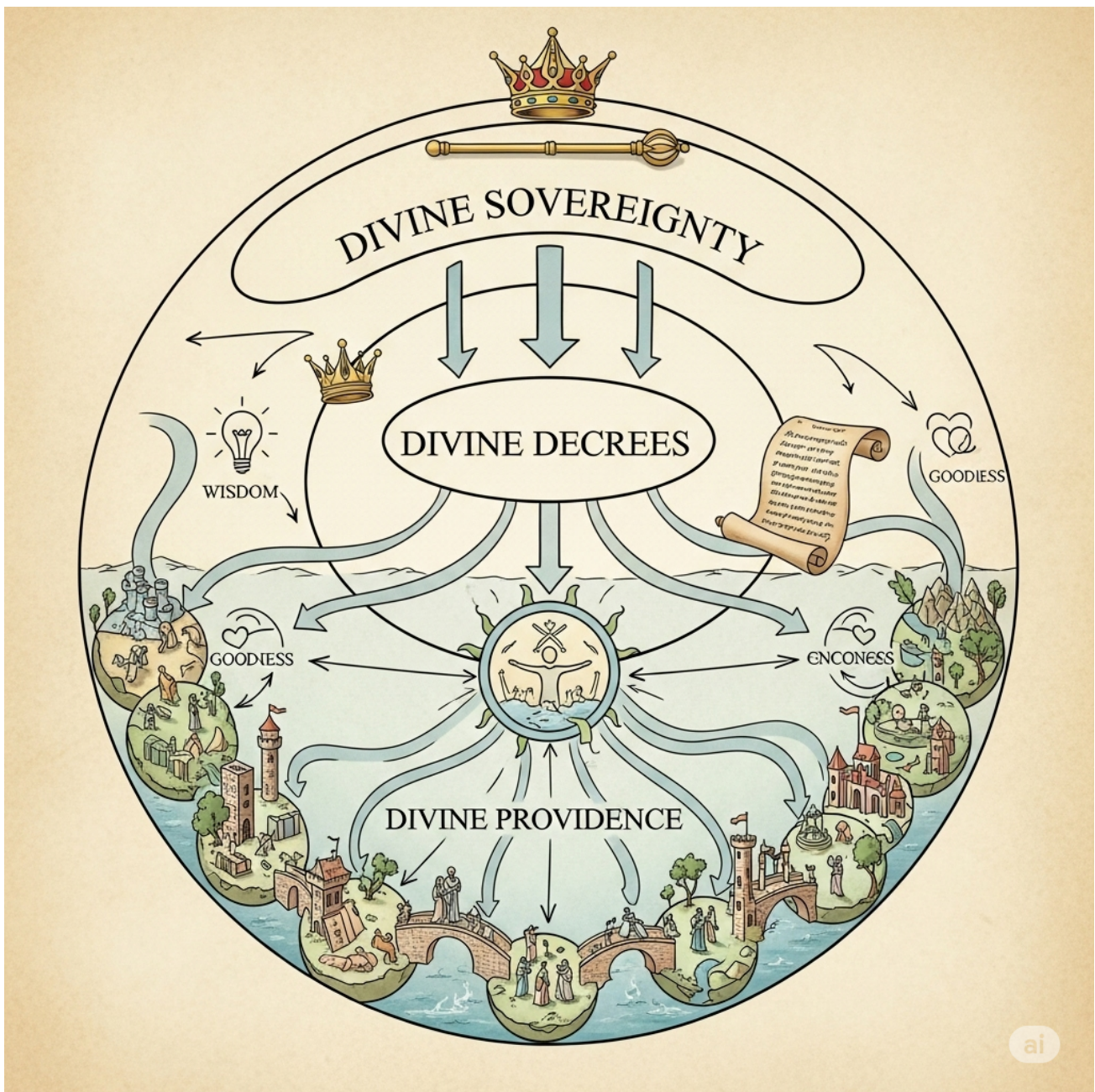
D. The Sovereignty of God - *God is All-Powerful, All-Knowing, All-Present, All-Good, All-Loving, All-Wise and All-Glorious, (Omni's)*

- 1. Sovereign in All Things - *Decrees, Providence, Governing, etc.*
 - a) *Sovereignty* = God's right and power to rule and control. (*Psalms 103:19; Psalm 24. He's KING!*)
 - b) *Decrees* = God's eternal plan or purpose. (*Is. 40:13-14; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 10:29; Prov. 16:4*)

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- c) *Providence* = God's active involvement and work in carrying out his decrees and upholding his creation. (Rom. 8:28-30; Dan. 4:35; Matt. 6:26; Prov. 16:9; Jer.1:5)

Example: God Decreed that Jesus would die on a cross for our sins. In His Creation, He made trees and maintains them. In His Sovereignty He oversees it all and commands how to care for them, and His Providence enables people to cut trees, build and shape a cross. And He sent Jesus at “just the right time” when Roman Crucifixion existed (Acts 2:23; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom.5:6).



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2. Sovereign in Salvation - TULIP

a) ***Total Depravity***

Gen.6:5-8; Rom.3:9-23; Eph.2:1-3; Titus3:3-5; Deut.7:6-11; Rom.9:6-23

b) ***Unconditional Election***

Prov.16:4-9; Rom.9, 11:7; Rev.13:8,17:14,19:1-3, 20:16, 24:22-24; Rom. 8:28-29, 33; Eph.1:3-14; Jn.15:16, 19; Acts13:48, 18:1-11; Luke18:7; 2 Tim.1:9, 2:10; 1 Pet.1:1; 2 Pet.1, 2:4-9, 3:8-10, Lk.15:10; Rom.2:4; Rev.7; Rom.10:9-15; Acts13:48, 18:9-11; Titus 1:1; Col.3:12; Mk13:14; Is.65:9, 22; Rom. 9:1-13

c) ***Limited (Particular) Atonement***

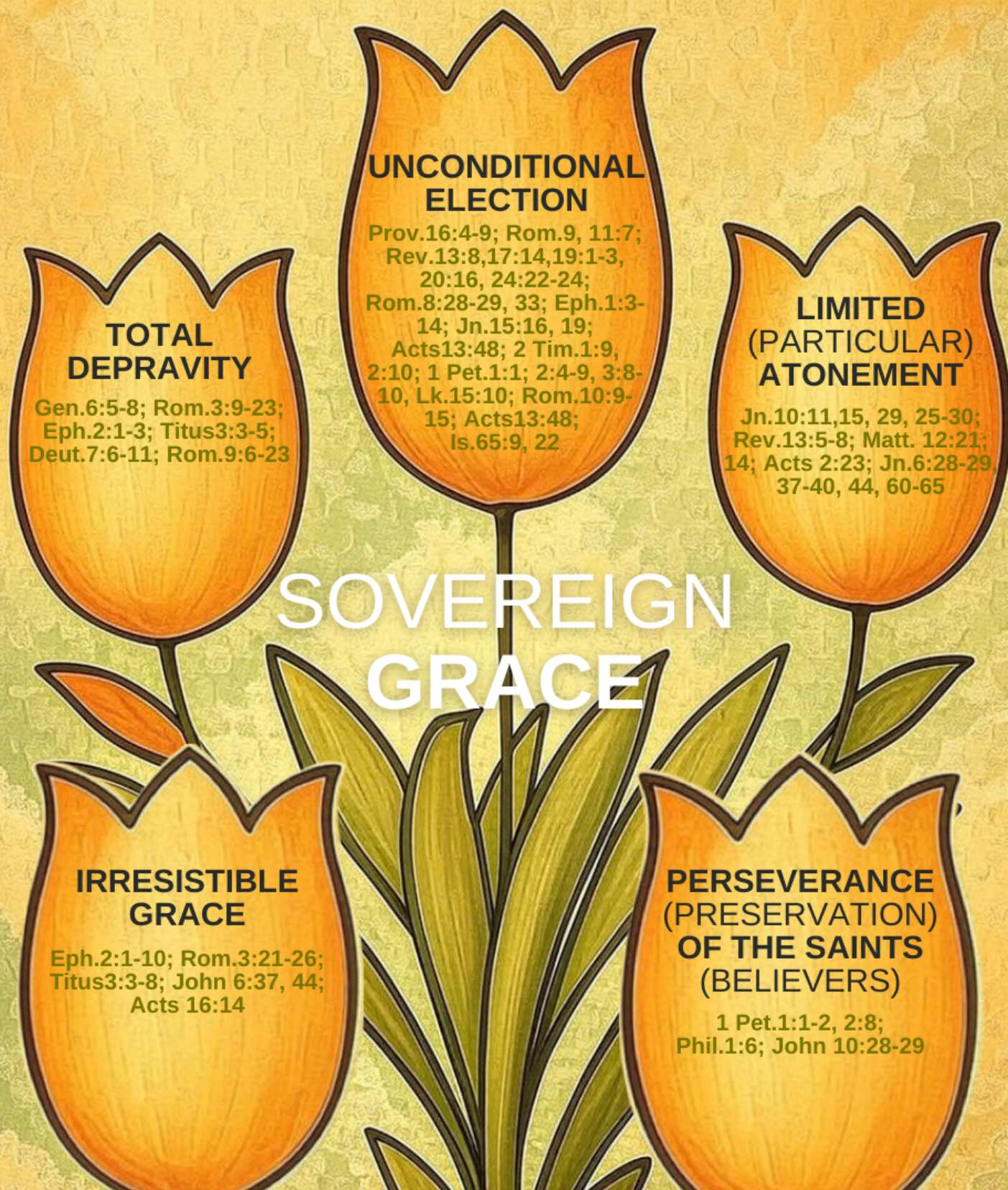
Jn.10:11,15, 29, 25-30; Rev.13:5-8; Matt. 12:21; 14; Acts 2:23; Jn.6:28-29, 37-40, 44, 60-65

d) ***Irresistible Grace***

Eph.2:1-10; Rom.3:21-26; Titus3:3-8; John 6:37, 44; Acts 16:14

e) ***Perseverance (Preservation) of the Saints (Believers)***

1 Pet.1:1-2, 2:8; Phil.1:6; John 10:28-29



- E. **The Gospel** - "The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus' life, death and resurrection for us." (Evangelical = Greek: *evangelion*; "gospel")

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F. Union with Christ. Gal. 2:20-21. Col. 2.



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G. **All for His Glory!** Glory of God either hardens/softens. Clay/Wax.

H. **The Westminster Standards** - “*The Westminster Confession of Faith*” and “*The Westminster Larger & Shorter Catechisms*.”

IV. Presbyterianism

A. **Elders** (From Greek: *Presbyteros* = “Elder/Overseer/Bishop”)

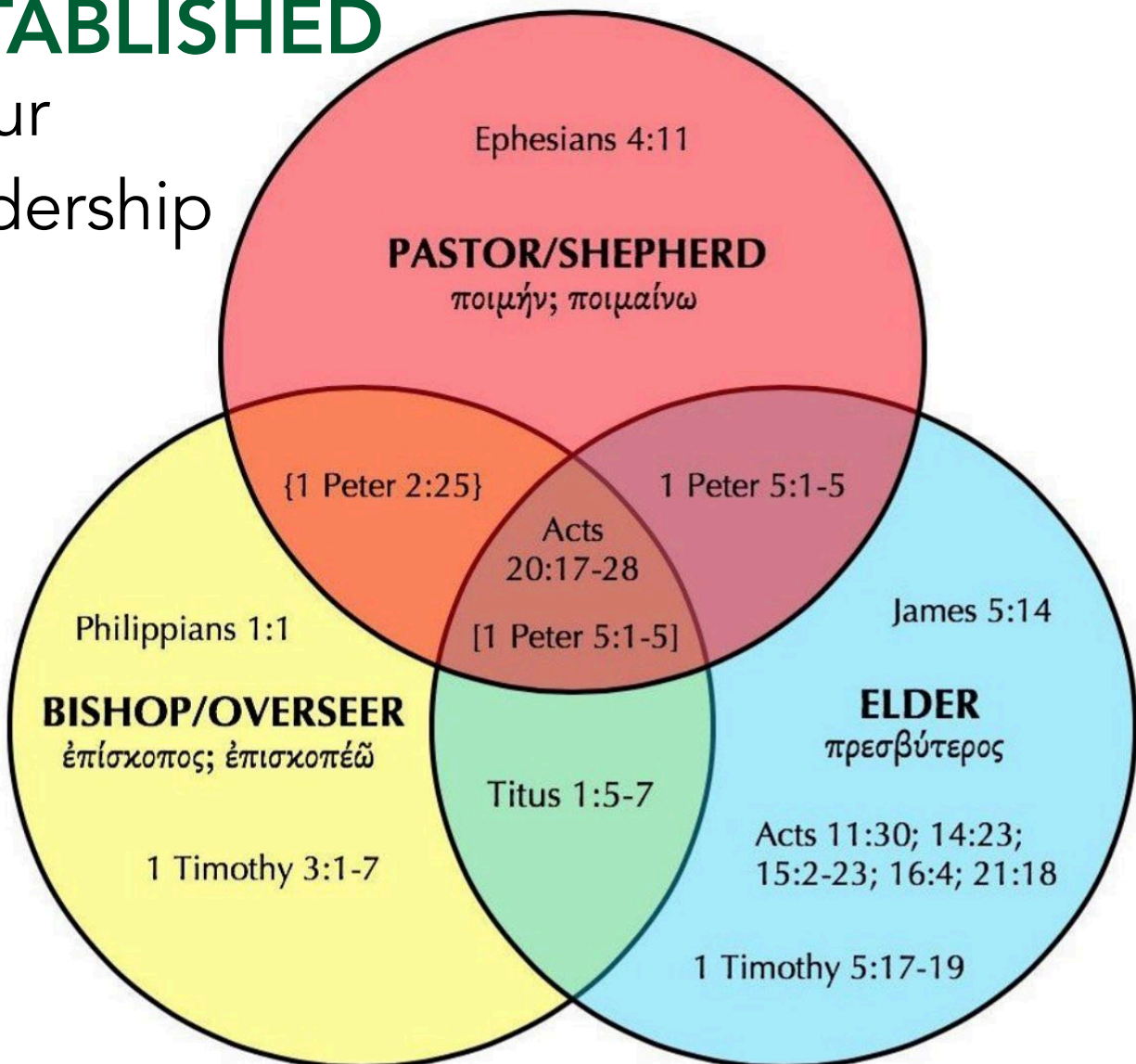
1. Ruled by Elders, elected by the people as representatives.

B. (Ex. 18:13-27; 24:9-11; Num. 11:16-30; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-7)

1. Teacher Elders and Ruling Elders. (1 Tim. 5:17)

ESTABLISHED

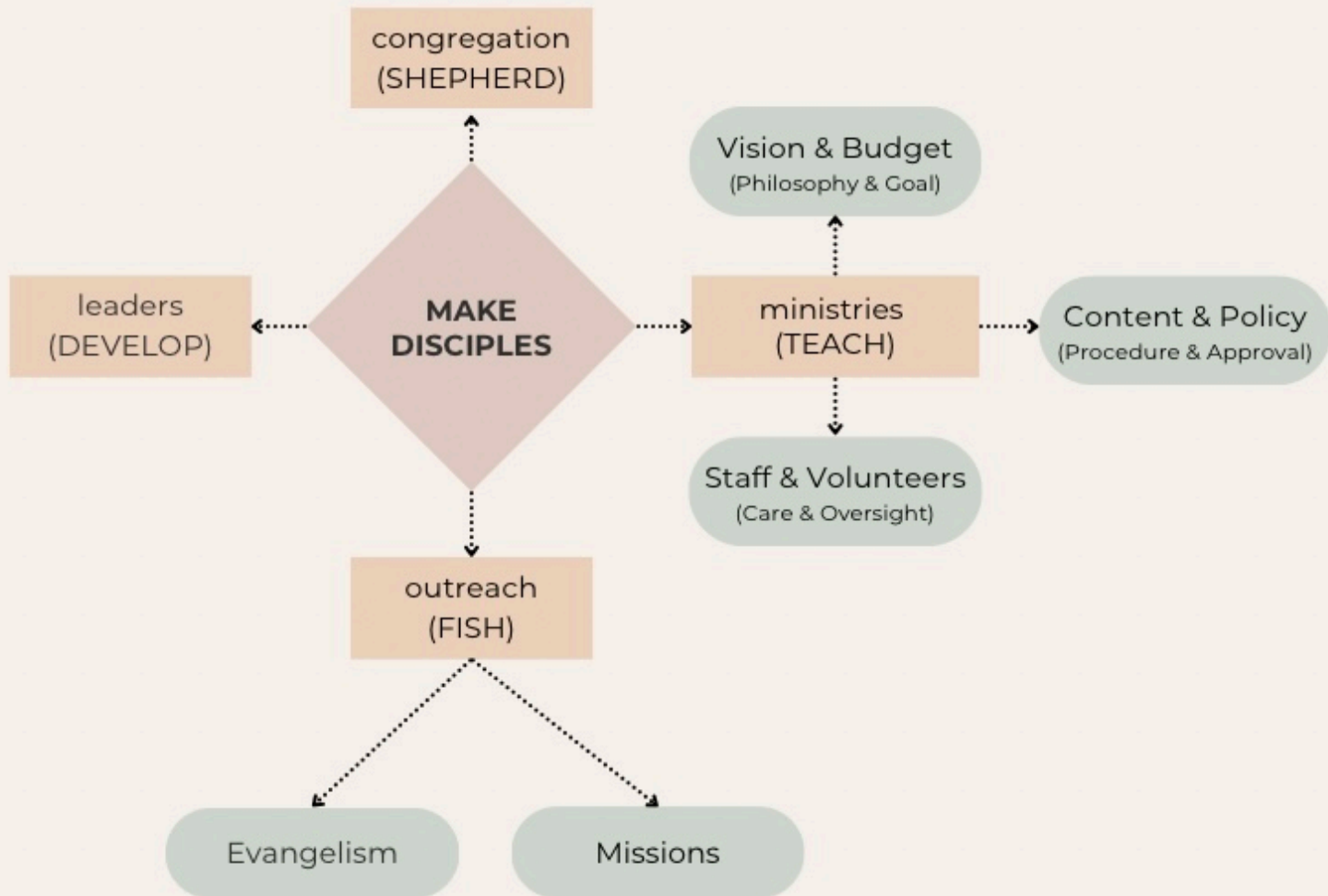
in our
Leadership



KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

a) Local Church = Session

CCCBL ELDERS



b) Regional = Presbytery (Palmetto)

c) National = General Assembly (Synod)

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2. Negative/Imperfect Examples of “Leadership”:

- a) *The "Anointed Leader" model:* Emphasizes a single, charismatic (gifted/energetic/motivating/visionary) leader at the helm, often with significant authority and influence.
- b) *The "Ecclesiastical Hierarchy" model:* Top-down structure. Accountable to a hierarchy. Priests, bishops or a central denominational authority.
- c) *The "CEO/Board" model:* Often seen in larger churches, resembles a corporate structure with the senior pastor acting as a CEO and a board of directors (Elders, Admin Committee, Leadership Team, etc.) overseeing staff & operations.

C. Deacons (From Greek: *Diakonos* = “Servant/Helper”). (Acts 6).

- 1. Leads the church and community in mercy ministry (helping the poor, widows, orphans, basic needs, etc.)
- 2. Serves the physical needs of the church (facility, finances, etc.)
- 3. Gifted in physical service, generosity, mercy and compassion.



4. Ministry of CARE. 1. Congregation. 2. Community. 3. Facility.

CCCBL DEACONS

- Provisional & Financial needs
- Meal & Supply needs
- Prayer & Visitation needs



- Food Pantries and Mission Houses
- Poor & Needy Ministry (Bill Pay, Groceries, Drives, etc.)
- School & Social Service Networking

- Budget Supervision & Revision
- Property Maintenance & Capital Improvement

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

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in our Ministry



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

When you accepted Christ, you not only got saved...you were given something very special from God: a giftedness to serve God in a unique way. God's plan for your life is that you would meet a specific need in the church family, and He has gifted you in a special way to meet that need.

"As each one of us has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." —1 Peter 4:10

If you have trusted Christ, then you have a spiritual gift! Even if you don't know what it is or don't feel particularly gifted in a specific area, the Bible teaches that you do have a special gift that you can use to serve God. And, believe it or not, your gift is vital to the work of God in our church family, otherwise God would not have placed you here.

God's Word teaches that as a member of His Body, you are important to His work in this place. He has appointed you a gift and a purpose for being here...and you will greatly enjoy discovering and using that gift for His purposes!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT?

First Peter says that God wants you to be a "good steward" of His gift to you! The best way to do that is to begin now discovering, developing, and using your gift to serve the Lord and His church. The great result of using your gift is that the entire church family ministers to each other and to the community. That's the way the church, the Body of Christ, is supposed to work!

TAKING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

- To complete the assessment, answer every question in order by circling the number, 0 to 5, that most accurately describes yourself.
- While answering, refer to the scale indicator above the questions.
- When completing the spiritual gifts assessment, do not think as much as react.
- For the most accurate assessment answer quickly and honestly.

For best results, PRAY BEFORE ATTEMPTING.

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	True sometimes	True most of the time	Always true
	0	1	2	3	4	5
1. I relate & measure everything I experience accordingly to God's Word.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. Others seem to look to me for advice and help.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. I'm easily bothered by others' lack of compassion.	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. I don't take anything at face value.	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. I can visualize the "big picture" of a major project.	0	1	2	3	4	5
6. When others are in my home I like to wait on them "hand and foot."	0	1	2	3	4	5
7. I feel compelled to give financially to others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
8. I will speak the truth whether or not it causes hurt feelings.	0	1	2	3	4	5
9. I can organize and delegate people and resources easily.	0	1	2	3	4	5
10. I feel compelled to share knowledge.	0	1	2	3	4	5
11. Discouraged people are often encouraged by my words.	0	1	2	3	4	5
12. I neglect my own work in order to help others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
13. I easily identify tasks that need to get done and do them myself.	0	1	2	3	4	5
14. I enjoy doing little things to help people.	0	1	2	3	4	5
15. My natural tendency is to step up and take control.	0	1	2	3	4	5
16. I cheerfully give time or money, regardless of how much I have to give.	0	1	2	3	4	5
17. I have compassion for all living creatures.	0	1	2	3	4	5
18. I don't hesitate to give constructive criticism.	0	1	2	3	4	5
19. People see me as a frank and outspoken person.	0	1	2	3	4	5
20. People seem to learn easily from me.	0	1	2	3	4	5
21. I can be described as responsible, charitable, and disciplined.	0	1	2	3	4	5
22. I don't expect repayment for favors I do for others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
23. Others tell me I'm a good listener.	0	1	2	3	4	5
24. Communicating the facts in a situation is something I do well.	0	1	2	3	4	5

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	True sometimes	True most of the time	Always true
	0	1	2	3	4	5
25. I am a task oriented person.	0	1	2	3	4	5
26. I find it easy to maintain an optimistic outlook.	0	1	2	3	4	5
27. I will stand alone on something I believe in strongly.	0	1	2	3	4	5
28. I will not confront others if I feel it may hurt them.	0	1	2	3	4	5
29. I give well above my tithe to the Body of Christ.	0	1	2	3	4	5
30. While I'm frugal in personal spending, I'm often led to give to others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
31. I enjoy research as well as sharing what I find.	0	1	2	3	4	5
32. I am compelled to comfort people who are hurting or suffering.	0	1	2	3	4	5
33. Deadlines challenge me & I usually meet them on time.	0	1	2	3	4	5
34. I can discern the motives of others fairly easily	0	1	2	3	4	5
35. I find strength from bearing other's burdens.	0	1	2	3	4	5
36. My use of knowledge may appear prideful.	0	1	2	3	4	5
37. I can create order out of organizational chaos.	0	1	2	3	4	5
38. I volunteer my time and talents to worthwhile causes.	0	1	2	3	4	5
39. I'm moved with compassion to cry with others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
40. I can select the best person for particular tasks.	0	1	2	3	4	5
41. My focus on right and wrong may be read as being judgmental.	0	1	2	3	4	5
42. I enjoy helping others develop a plan of action to deal with their concerns.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Spiritual Gifts Test Scoring Key

Directions: Transfer the number you circled to the blank beside the corresponding question. Add the totals up in each column. The highest possible score in one column would be 30.

	1.	6.	4.	2.	7.	5.	3.
	8.	12.	10.	11.	16.	9.	17.
	19.	13.	20.	18.	21.	15.	28.
	27.	14.	24.	23.	22.	33.	32.
	34.	25.	31.	26.	29.	37.	35.
	41.	38.	36.	42.	30.	40.	39.
Totals							
	Prophet/Perceiver	Server	Teacher	Exhorter/ Encourager	Giver	Leader/Administrator	Mercy/Compassion

SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

PROPHET/PERCEIVER

The God-given ability to communicate God's message in relation to the truth already revealed (Jude 3). It is not necessarily or even primarily a prediction. Rather, it is done for the purposes of encouraging, strengthening and comforting (1 Cor. 14:3). These have the ability to perceive the spiritual needs of others and meet those needs through Scripture.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PROPHET / PERCEIVER:

1. Able to recognize good and bad and hates what is bad.
2. Sees everything clearly not dimly; no foggy or indefinite areas
3. Recognizes character in people, whether good or bad
4. Encourages repentance for the glory of God
5. Is an introvert rather than an extravert?
6. Sees the Bible as the foundation for truth
7. Courageously holds to spiritual truths
8. Outspoken
9. Powerful and persuasive speaker
10. Distraught over the sins of others
11. Sees their own shortcomings and those of others
12. Desires to see God's plans take place
13. Promotes spiritual growth in others
14. Fanatical about integrity
15. Strongly communicates what they perceive
16. Self-examiner
17. Opinionated and holds to convictions
18. Holds to a high standard
19. Desperately desires to obey God

CHALLENGES OF THE PROPHET/PERCEIVER:

1. May be judgmental and upfront
2. Delights in goal accomplishment not forward progress
3. Forcefully pushes others toward spiritual growth
4. Intolerant of other views
5. Struggles with self-image

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Small group leader
2. Any type of lay counseling
3. Security at any church function
4. Providing oversight of any ministry function
5. Great mentors and peacemakers

SERVER

A server has the God-given ability to recognize a need and administer assistance to others. In relation to other believers, this releases them to utilize their God-given gifts (e.g. Deacons in Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:28; and Romans 12:7).

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SERVER:

1. Willingly meets the needs of others
2. Has a hands on approach
3. Precise and orderly
4. Detail oriented
5. Friendly
6. Has trouble turning others away
7. More interest in others than self
8. More short term orientated than long term
9. Actively expressive rather than verbally expressive
10. Desires appreciation
11. Goes above and beyond what is asked of them
12. Enjoys being helpful
13. High energy level
14. Orderly; does not like clutter
15. Perfectionist
16. Places an importance on serving
17. Would rather do than delegate
18. Supports the leadership

CHALLENGES FOR THE SERVER:

1. Criticizes those who are not serving
2. Helps others to the extent of neglecting personal family
3. So enthusiastic to help, may come across as pushy
4. Does not like to be served
5. Saddened when unappreciated

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Hospitality ministry
2. Children's ministry
3. Homeless ministry
4. Taking meals to ill or injured
5. Set-up or tear down at special events
7. Serving anywhere, anytime, anyway
8. Construction of any type
9. Maintenance of anything
10. Putting together anything with the hands

TEACHER

The God-given ability to study, research, explain and communicate truth (e.g. Paul and Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2).

CHARACTERISTICS OF A TEACHER:

1. Logical presenter of truth
2. Confirms truth by examining facts
3. Enjoys study and investigation
4. Knows how to do word studies
5. Uses biblical illustrations
6. Detests Scripture used out of context
7. Establishes truth biblically
8. Objective rather than subjective
9. Extensive vocabulary
10. Accurate presenter of truth
11. Tests the information of others
12. Favors teaching over evangelism
13. Starts with Scripture when answering questions
14. Intellectual
15. Disciplined
16. Emotionally stable
17. Has a close circle of friends
18. Strong convictions based on solid research
19. Believes God's truth leads to life change

CHALLENGES FOR THE TEACHER:

1. Can neglect application in exchange for information download
2. Slow to accept views of other
3. Prideful due to knowledge
4. May be legalistic and dogmatic
5. Easily distracted by love of new interests

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Small group leader
2. Bible study leader - Men's ministry, Women's ministry, Children's ministry
3. Rock U instructor
4. Research assistant
5. Developer of curriculum
6. Child, youth, teen mentor

EXHORTER

The God-given ability to draw near to individuals in time of need; encouraging and counseling them accurately with the Word of God; and persuading them to take courage in the face of something they must do or assuring them to take comfort because of something that has occurred (E.g. Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26; and 15:36-41).

CHARACTERISTICS OF A EXHORTER:

1. Verbally encouraging
2. Likes to apply the Word rather than investigate it
3. Prefers practical application over theological truth
4. Works best with others
5. Verbally encourages others to excel in ministry
6. Loves to do personal counseling
7. Loves to talk
8. Excels in communication
9. Perceives trials as opportunities for personal growth
10. Has a positive attitude
11. Easily makes decisions
12. Prefers to quickly resolve problems
13. Needs to bounce ideas off others

CHALLENGES FOR THE EXHORTER:

1. Frequently interrupts others
2. Uses Scripture out of context
3. Out spoken and opinionated
4. Slightly overconfident

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Lay counseling
2. Stephen minister
3. Table facilitator
4. Hospitality ministry
5. Drama ministry
6. Nursing home ministry
7. Homeless Ministry Team
8. Small group leader
9. Anyplace where encouragement is needed

GIVER

The God-given ability to give freely of what God has entrusted to them. This includes giving time, material goods and financial resources with joy and eagerness and without any “ulterior motives” that would benefit the giver (E.g. David in I Chronicles 29:1-19).

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GIVER:

1. Gives as led by the Spirit
2. Freely and happily gives
3. Often gives anonymously
4. Understands giving is an intricate part of serving
5. Takes pleasure in meeting the needs of others
6. Gives not only quantity but quality
7. Gives to bless and enhance ministries
8. Sees hospitality as a chance to give
9. Financially wise
10. Strongly believes in tithes and offerings
11. Understands that God owns everything
12. Strong business skills
13. Appreciates value
14. Is not gullible

CHALLENGES FOR THE GIVER:

1. Tends to be controlling with money
2. Pressures others to be more generous
3. May over commit
4. Uses financial giving as a way out of other requirements
5. Leads others on guilt trips

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Homeless ministry
2. Small group leader
3. Fundraising
4. Any serving opportunity
5. Hospitality ministry
6. Financial counseling ministry Team
7. Support of church special projects (i.e. building)
8. Financially support any ministry

LEADERSHIP / ADMINISTRATION

The God-given ability to lead others in meaningful endeavors which demonstrates personal care and concern in order to meet the needs of others and encourage their growth (E.g. Fathers in I Tim. 3:4-5; 12).

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEADERSHIP / ADMINISTRATION:

1. Motivates others to action
2. Clearly communicates
3. Thrives when given authority
4. Happily receives authority when given
5. Naturally assumes leadership when there is a lack
6. Takes on long-term projects
7. Is a visionary
8. Has good networking abilities
9. Delegates well
10. Takes criticism well
11. Is passionate and enthusiastic
12. Enjoys accomplishing goals
13. Gives credit to others
14. Meets challenges as they arise
15. Is a natural and capable leader
16. Understands the Big picture
17. Discards what does not work and keeps what does
18. Enjoys people
19. Dislikes the mundane routine

CHALLENGES FOR THE LEADER / ADMINISTRATOR:

1. May have trouble dealing with opposition
2. May become callous due to constant criticism
3. Pushes hard to the point of neglecting family
4. Ignores family responsibilities due to love of work

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Small group leader
2. Jr. High ministry
3. High School ministry
4. College ministry
5. Singles ministry
6. Prison ministry
7. Any type of leadership/oversight role
8. Creator of new ministries
9. Coach of Sports ministries

MERCY / COMPASSION

The God-given ability to have immediate compassion for those who are suffering combined with great joy in meeting their needs (E.g. the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37).

CHARACTERISTICS OF MERCY / COMPASSION:

1. Loves to love
2. Searches out the good in people
3. Brings out the good in people
4. Recognizes the spiritual and emotional condition of others
5. Acts out of concern for others
6. Cares for the emotional, spiritual, and physical well being of others
7. Considers others more important than self
8. Chooses words carefully
9. Recognizes the affect words can have
10. Detects insincerity
11. Loves to be thoughtful
12. Is trustworthy
13. Non-confrontational
14. Unusually cheerful
15. Thinks with the heart rather than the head
16. Rejoices and/or grieves with others

CHALLENGES FOR THE MERCY/COMPASSION:

1. Overly sensitive
2. Caring may be misunderstood by the opposite sex
3. Easily takes up others problems that are not their own
4. Thinking with their heart leads to indecision
5. Can be easily hurt by others unintentionally

PLACES IN THE CHURCH BODY WHERE THIS GIFT COULD BE UTILIZED:

1. Small group leader
2. Homeless ministry
3. Counseling ministry
4. Hospitality of any sort
5. Visitation and follow-up
6. Prison ministry
7. Greeters
8. Any type of phone work
9. Children's ministry

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Keep in mind that oftentimes the Holy Spirit gives us more than one gift which serves to keep our other gift (gifts) in check or harmonize to create a blended gift that God uses in unique ways. This is another reason why each and everyone of us has a unique role to play in the Kingdom even if your gift may seem just like someone else you know!

1. Scripture commands us to minister in many areas whether or not we have the corresponding spiritual gift(s). For example Scripture clearly tells us that some have the following gifts, yet all are to minister in these ways... Gifts to some Commands to all

Ministering (serving) Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

Exhortation Exhort each other (Hebrews 10:25)

Giving all give (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Teaching Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)

Showing Mercy Be kind (Ephesians 4:32)

Faith Walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Evangelism all witness (Acts 1:8)

Oftentimes as we are faithful to these commands, after we discover our particular spiritual gift(s).

2. No matter what spiritual gift(s) we have received, the Christian virtue of love must accompany the exercise of those gifts; otherwise, they will prove unfruitful. "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIFTS AND TALENTS:

Talents have to do with techniques and methods; gifts have to do with spiritual abilities.

Talents depend on natural ability, gifts on spiritual endowment. Talents instruct, inspire, or entertain on a natural level. However, when a gift is exercised, something supernatural happens in and through the one who is ministering.

CONCLUSION:

Your God-given personality, talents, abilities and spiritual gifts all work together to make you uniquely you! "Whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:11

Additional Notes:

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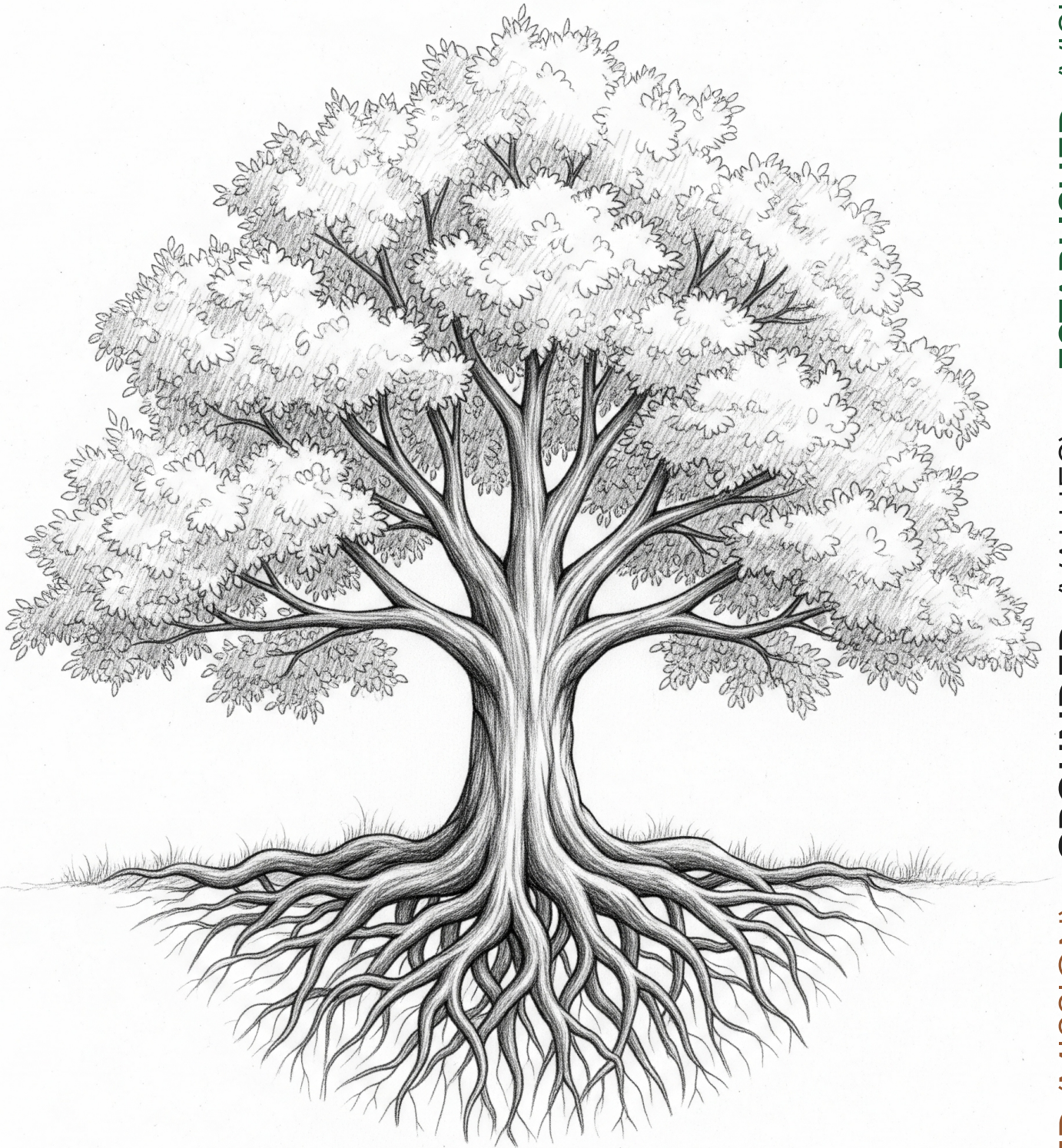
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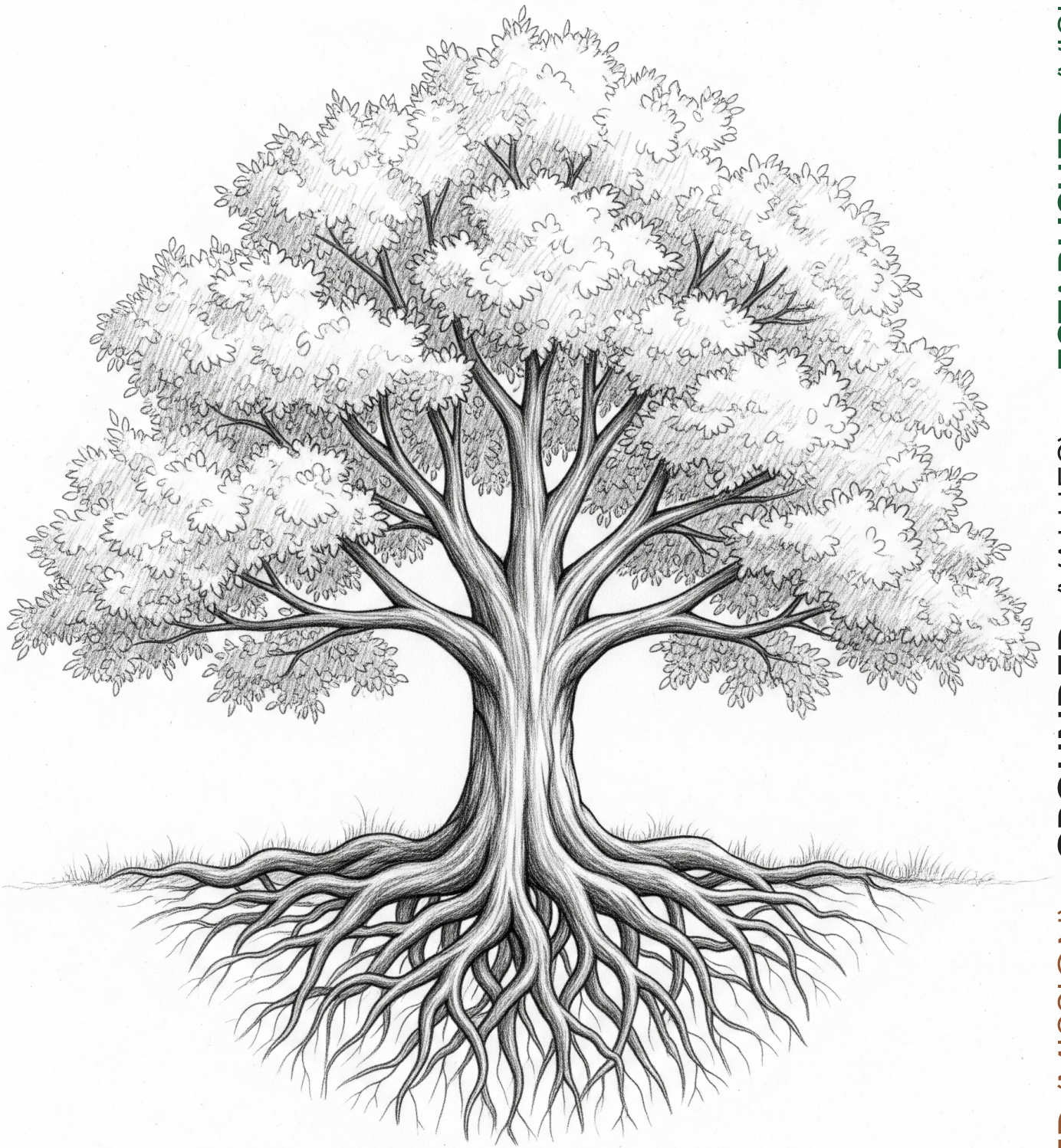
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ESTABLISHED for the Future



ROOTED (MISSION) **GROUND**ED (VALUES) **ESTABLISHED** (VISION)

KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.



KNOW **CHRIST**. SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**. BE THE **CHURCH**.

ROOTED (MISSION)

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