

FOUNDATIONS WRBC, 2015

I. WHAT MATTERS MOST?

What Is a Christian?

Is Christ the Only Way to Salvation?

How Do I Get to Know God?

II. HOW ARE WE PUT TOGETHER?

Some Basic History

How We Are Organized

Frequently Asked Questions

III. WHO AND WHAT IS WRBC?

Our Purpose Statement

Basic Beliefs

Our Core Values

**Practices That Demonstrate the Gospel:
Lord's Supper and Baptism**

IV. WHAT'S NEXT?

Steps to Getting Connected and Involved

What is a “church”? Does it really matter in today’s world?

How does being a Christian relate to being part of a local church? What difference does the church make in your life?

What should you know about how a church is organized and how it functions?

What should you know about its history—how it got started, how it has survived; and possibly, where is it going?

How important are the basic beliefs of the church? How does it differ from other churches? How does it look at the traditions, the sacraments, and other church practices?

How can you get involved? Is membership important? If so, how do you become a member?

These are just a few of the questions that may come to your mind as you consider the question of “church”. This little course, *Foundations*, is designed to touch on these issues. It will not answer all the questions you will think of. (There are other courses you can take here that explore your questions and many others at greater depth.) But it will provide you with enough information to allow you to decide for yourself and your family how you will relate to this church.

So, make a commitment to give the next four weeks to this study. Take a few notes and feel free to ask questions as we go along. Let’s pray that God will guide

our thoughts and lead us to follow His purpose for our lives as we journey together.

SESSION ONE: WHAT MATTERS MOST?

In this session, we will look at three basic questions. These questions deal with your relationship with Christ. We will seek to be true to Scripture in this discussion. We will work hard to bring all our conclusions, presuppositions, and traditions in line with what the Bible teaches.

Answering these questions will equip you to pursue your relationship with His people, the church.

The three questions:

What Is a Christian?

Is Christ the Only Way to Salvation?

How Do I get to Know God?

A. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

Obviously, there are a variety of answers to this question. Various church traditions, not to mention secular perspectives, each have a ready response!

Before we try to get at the heart of the question, let's explore for a moment what is NOT a Christian.

1. One is not a Christian by virtue of keeping many _____. (Mt. 5:20)

2. One is not a Christian because he follows a particular religious _____ . (Jn. 6:39-40, 44-45; Phil. 3:3-7)
3. One is not a Christian because she attends _____, is against _____, or is a really _____ .
(Ro. 3:9-12, 23)

OK, so if these things do not make a person a Christian, what does make a person a genuine Christian?

1. You are a fully committed _____ .
(Mt. 10:38-39; 16:24-25)
2. You actually believe that the historical Jesus was the _____ of God and that He was truly _____ from the dead. (Mt. 3:17; 17:5; Ro. 10:8-11; I Co. 15:17-20)
3. You have accepted the _____ of God, the gift of forgiveness God gives freely to those who accept it.
(Eph. 2:3-9)
4. You have chosen to _____ yourself and to put your ultimate _____ in Christ, and to _____ Him to the end of your life. (Ti. 2:11-15)
5. A Christian is a _____ person. (Ro. 6:4; II Co. 5:17)
6. A Christian is continually being _____ .
(Ro. 12:1-2; 8:29; II Co. 3:18)
7. A Christian grows in _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

_____ . (Gal. 5:22-23; cf. Eph. 4:26-5:21; Col. 3:1-17)

B. IS CHRIST THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION?

Christianity is often criticized for being exclusive. Why? Because Christianity claims to have the only way to God. It declares that other religions that profess to be paths to God are on the wrong track. Christianity, in fact, does teach that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

Let's look at some Scripture that confirms this belief.

1. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible that Jesus used, Israel is instructed to choose God and His way only. (Deut. 30:15-20)
2. In the New Testament, Jesus said, "I am the _____.... No one comes to the Father except through _____." (Jn. 14:6)
3. Those who believe in Jesus are promised _____ life. They become _____ of God. (Jn. 1:12; 3:16; Ro. 8:14-17)
4. Peter declared that "Salvation is found in _____." (Acts 4:12)
5. Paul wrote, "If Christ is in you, your spirit is _____." (Rom. 8:6)

Christianity extends an invitation to every person to consider carefully the claim that Jesus is the only way.

Where are you in your conviction that the path to salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone?

If you believe this, what difference does your conviction make in your life?



WHITE
ROCK
BAPTIST CHURCH

C. HOW DO I GET TO KNOW GOD?

This question is the heart's cry of honest seekers. Most of us wish we could know God and His plan for our life.

The answer is not confined to the realm of creeds, liturgy, or church traditions. It is found in a variety of means, several of which we will explore.

1. The _____ is the starting point. (II Tm. 3:16)
2. It gives us insight into the _____ and _____ of God. (II Pe. 1:20-21)
3. "It tells people how to be _____ and saved people how to _____." (*TBMaston*)
4. The _____ introduce us to Jesus. It is in Him that we see God most clearly. (Jn. 14:7-11)
5. If you want a place to start reading the Bible, begin with the Gospel of _____.
6. The _____ of God guides a believer deeper into the things of God. (Jn. 14:26; I Cor. 2:9-16)
7. Engagement with the _____ of God is a powerful means to getting to know God. This is the _____ of Christ. I Co. 12:27-28; Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 11:23-25)

What does it mean to "have the mind of Christ"? (I Cor. 2:16)

What does the phrase "the Body of Christ" imply for the importance of the church in your life?

At its best, how does the church manifest Christ in the world?

You may begin to know God immediately when you come to Him in faith in Jesus Christ but you will spend the rest of your life on the journey of getting to know Him.

What will you do to get to know Him more and more?

What will you “look like” as you get to know Him?

