

Leaders Guide Book



Level 101 Discovering the Christian Life
Required for membership

Otterbein United Methodist Church.

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Important information for teacher/leader

1. There may be seekers in this class—these are people who know very little about the Bible or Christianity. Be sure not to assume they know things which might seem common knowledge to you. You may make them feel uncomfortable. Our desire is to disciple every person that God gives us. Here are some guidelines to follow.

- Have everyone use the same Bibles and always give the page number when turning to a reference.
- Morality and social issues may become a topic. If so be sure you are speaking truth in love. Remember, the Holy Spirit might not have convicted others of things He has convicted you of. Do not push convictions on people—simply speak truth in love. Remember your main goal is to teach scripture, not your opinions.
- Constantly ask the participants if they have questions. If you make participants feel comfortable in asking questions then there will be more opportunity for you to minister to them.

Keep in mind the four types of people you may have in this class. Have fun and teach truth!

- 1. Non believer
- 2. Seekers
- 3. New believers
- 4. Mature believers

101 Intro to CFD

Introduction:

State your name and answer the following Question: What brought you to Otterbein?

What to Expect:

CFD is part of a training and equipping track developed by Otterbein. CFD was created to help individuals build new connections with others while learning the basics of the Christians life.

You can expect the following:

- **Expect** to ask lots of questions and to offer your insights. While you never have to ask questions or talk, it is fun to hear from each other.
The only dumb question is the one not asked
- **Expect** to bring your study guide each week we meet
- **Expect** that you will not be expected to know anything about the Bible. We will be using the Bible but we don't expect you to know where any of the books are or what order they are in. We will help you find the exact page we will be reading from.
- **Expect** that each meeting will last 45 minutes to 1 hour

Any Questions

Leaders NOTES

This class is a required before taking our official membership class. Otterbein's membership class is called Connected for Impact (CFI). While this study (CFD) that we are doing here lays a biblical foundation for further spiritual growth, CFI is more geared to helping potential members understand Otterbein's purpose and mission. CFI also exists to help individuals get connected into ministry at Otterbein.

101 CFD Session 1: Who is Jesus?

State name and answer Question: Where is your hometown & What is your favorite holiday?

Pontius Pilate (governor of Judea) asked the question: "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Matt 27:22

To answer that question personally you might first need to understand who Jesus is.

Was He more than just:
a man, a great teacher, a religious leader?
Matt 16:13-16

EVIDENCE FOR HIS EXISTENCE

- Evidence for Jesus outside the New Testament Includes:
 - Tacitus, & Suetonius (Roman Historians)
 - Josephus (Jewish Historian)
 - Lucian (Greek writer)
 - Mara Bar Serapion (Syrian Writer)
 - Gnostics (Gnostics were a cult that believed God was not personal and salvation came through knowledge)
(Gnostics is the Greek word for knowledge)
- Evidence within the New Testament (Primary sources for the life of Christ)
Bible is more trustworthy than any other ancient text. The chart below helps to prove this.

*How do we Know that what the New Testament writers wrote
was not changed over the years?*

Work	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span <small>Between written and earliest copy.</small>	# of copies
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
Sophocles	496-406 BC	1000 AD	1400 yrs	193
Livy's Roman History	59 BC– 17AD	900 AD	900 yrs	20
Tacitus	100 AD	1100 AD	1000 yrs	20
New Testament	40-100 AD	130 AD (Full manuscripts 350)	300 yrs	5,000 (Greek) + 10,000 Latin 9,300 others
Pliny	61 AD - 113 AD	850 AD	750 yrs	7

JESUS WAS HUMAN Luke 2:40, 52

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tired (John 4:6) - Hungry (Matt 4:2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Emotions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - anger (Mark 11:15-17) - love (Mark 10:21) - sadness (John 11:32-36) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temptation (Mark 1:13) - learning (Luke 2:46-52) - work (Mark 6:3) - obedience (Luke 2:51) |
|---|---|--|

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF - look up Matt 16:13-16 if u have not already

His Teaching about Himself

- I am
 - Bread of Life (John 6:35)
 - Light of the world (John 8:12)
 - Resurrection and life (John 11:25, 26)
 - Way truth and life (John 14:6)
- My Kingdom (Luke 22:30)
- Come to me (Matt 11:28, 29)
- Follow Me (Mark 1:17)
- Receive me-receive God (Matt 10:40)
- Welcome me-welcome God (Mark 9:37)
- To have seen me is to have seen God (John 14:9)
- Humanities supreme love (Matt 10:37, Luke 14:26)

Indirect Claims

- To forgive sin (Mark 2:5) U can forgive those who sin against u. Only God can forgive those who sin against others.
- Judge the world (Matt 25:31, 32, 40, 45)

Direct Claims

- Messiah (Mark 14:61, 62)
- Son of God (Mark 14:61)
- God the Son
 - “before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58)
 - “My Lord and My God” (John 20:26, 28)
 - Claim to be God (John 10:30-33)

Jesus didn't go around with a t-shirt saying “I am God.” When you look at everything he taught and said there is little doubt he was conscious of being a man whose identity was God.

C.S. Lewis Wrote:

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said, would not be a great moral teacher.”

Unless what He said was true!

He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.

3 choices

1. He was God
2. He was a liar (devil or madman)
3. He genuinely thought he was God (lunatic)

EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT WHAT JESUS SAID

- His Teaching *look at matt 5-7 and pull out some teachings that transcend time (love your neighbor as yourself).*
 - peruse Matthew 5-7 > read together Matt 7:28,29
- His works (John 10:37,38)
- His Character
- Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy (300 prophecies / 108 unique)

Jesus fulfilled all 300 hundred prophecies in the Old Testament. Mathematicians have figured the possibility of 8 prophesies being fulfilled has a probability of 1 in 10 to the 17th power, or equal to covering Texas in coins 2 feet deep and blindfolding a guy and he finds one marked coin on the first try.

- Conquest of death



EVIDENCE FOR HIS RESSURECTION

*Romans knew death well. Separation of clot
And syrum (blood) is evidence of death.*

Body not in the Tomb

Theories

- Jesus didn't die on the cross (John 19:32-34)
- Disciples stole his body (John 1:20:21-25)
- Robbers stole his body (John 20:1-9)
- Authorities stole his body (nothing to gain)

Appeared to many

- Appearances (Luke 24:36-43)
 - appeared at least eleven different times
 - appeared to 500+ people *People claim they were hallucinating but 500 people can't have the same hallucination.*
 - appeared over a period of 6 weeks

Profound effect

- Disciples boldness and intensity
- Incredible growth of the church all over the known world

Christian Experience through the ages

- Many Christians through the ages have experienced the power of Christ

8 Examples of prophecy:

- 1) Descended from woman**
[Genesis 3:15 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Galatians 4:4](#)
- 2) Descendent of Abraham**
[Genesis 12:1-3 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [John 8:56-58](#)
- 3) From the tribe of Judah**
[Genesis 49:10 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Hebrews 7:14](#)
- 4) From the house of David**
[2 Samuel 7:12 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Matthew 1:1](#)
- 5) Place of Birth**
[Micah 5:2 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Luke 2:4, 15](#)
- '6) His Name**
[Isaiah 7:14 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Matthew 1:23](#)
- 7) Gentiles bearing gifts (3 wise men)**
[Isaiah 60:6 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Matthew 2:11](#)
- 8) Forerunner to proclaim his coming**
[Isaiah 40:3 \(NIV\)](#) fulfilled in [Matthew 3:1-3](#)

We Can Conclude thus far:

There is a lot of evidence to support Jesus existence and resurrection
Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God

101 CFD Session 2: Why Did Jesus Die?

Ask if they have any questions thus far even if not directly about the material.

PROBLEM

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned” Admitting that we sin is hard but seeing the sin of others and calling it out is easier. For instance, we are very hypocritical. Example: tailgaters anger you to know end but it is okay when you tailgate because of course you have a good reason.

Results

- Sin contaminates and makes us unclean (Mark 7:20-23)
- Sin ensnares us (John 8:34)
- Sin’s condemning effect (Romans 6:23, James 1:15)
- Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2)

JUSTICE & HOLINESS OF GOD	LOVE OF GOD
<p>Proverbs 17:15 justifying the guilty and condemning the innocent — the Lord detests them both.</p> <p>Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.</p> <p>Something in us cries out for justice: Would we be happy with a judge who let criminals go free?</p>	<p>John 3:16 For God so loved the world</p> <p>Eph 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy. . . .</p>

Conclusion:
 *God cannot tolerate sin
 *God loves people

THE GREAT DILEMMA

God loves people and hates sin. God is loving but he is also just. Therefore, must God punish those he loves?

Remember the wages of sin are death (spiritual death)

SOLUTION

- God died in our place [Self Substitution] - (1 Peter 2:24)
- God's love compelled him (John 3:16)
- The Cross - (Isaiah 53:6)

Imagine a judge who sentenced to death a criminal then came around the bench took off his robe and said "I will die in this man's place." In essence this is what God did.

Rom 3:21-26

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are *justified freely by his grace* through the *redemption that came by Christ Jesus*. 25 *God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood*. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Many had suffered crucifixion on a cross but unique to Jesus was the spiritual suffering of the cross. He was cut off from God.

Four Images to help understand what was accomplished through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection

1. **The Altar** (explain concept of altar in O.T.)
 - Jesus' atonement for us through faith in his blood (VS 25)
 - Hebrews 10:4 - Blood required from the beginning
 - 1 John 1:7 - Jesus blood was shed for us
 - Sin's contamination removed
2. **The Prison**
 - Redemption by Christ (VS 24) Christ was the ransom so we could be redeemed.
 - Power of sin broken
3. **The Courtroom**
 - Justified freely by His grace (VS 24)
 - Penalty of sin removed
4. **The Living Room**
 - Reconciliation (Romans 5:10-11)
 - Partition of sin destroyed

Conclusion: The Dilemma is resolved in Christ

God's love and Justice are both demonstrated (Romans 3:22)
 Jesus' work on the cross is for all who will believe (John 3:16)

101 CFD Session 3: How is Salvation Applied

Popular/Cultural thoughts about Salvation:

- What matters is that you believe, not what you believe in. We must all have faith in something
- I don't believe a good God would send any one to Hell forever
- No matter what you do in life you will go to heaven if you believe in Jesus
- Doesn't the Bible say somewhere that God helps those who help themselves

Ephesians 2:1-7

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. 4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

How does this passage describe, “how we are saved”?

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, this not from yourselves it is a gift from God, not by works.

In the last lesson we looked at God's part in salvation but what is mans part?

Faith & Repentance (they are like two wings of a bird)

For repentance see (Matt 3:2, Acts 3:19, Acts 26:20) Repentance means to change your mind indicating a complete turn from one lifestyle and purpose to another.

In verse 8 we read that salvation is given by divine grace. What is grace?

How does Ephesians describe life before salvation?

The depravity of man is an important concept for believers and unbelievers to understand. If man is basically good then we have no need for a savior.

What are two of God's purposes in salvation (Vs 7, 10)?

**Salvation by Grace through faith is
what separates true Christianity from
all other religions**

- Gene Getz

Questions to ask yourself

1. Have I responded to God's love and experienced God's grace by receiving through faith His free gift of salvation?
2. If you are a Christian, are you allowing God's grace to teach you and to conform you to the image of His Son Jesus Christ?

How can we know that we are Christians?

1. God's Word:

- His Word is powerful to introduce Salvation (Romans 1:16)
- The promises of God's Word are unfailing: I will come near to you (James 4:8), I give them eternal life (John 10:28), You will be saved (Acts 16:31)

2. Jesus' Work: Jesus work on the cross was fruitful and powerful

- Gift of God (Romans 6:23)
- Jesus' death proves God's love (John 3:16)
- Jesus took our sin upon himself (Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. The Ongoing Ministry of the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit indwells and transforms us from the inside out (Romans 8:9-16)
- The Holy Spirit produces fruit in us (Galatians 5:22)

The power of salvation produces fruit in a person. No person can remain unchanged when saved. To be saved is to forsake a life of sin for the Kingdom of God. All Christians sin but no true Christian will choose to live consistently in sin his whole life.

5. Our Works

- James 2:18, 1 Peter 1:6-7, Titus 3:8

A Christian's life is all about ministering to others and our works will attest to that.

Popular/Cultural thoughts about Salvation:

- What matters is that you believe, not what you believe in. We must all have faith in something

The Bible is clear that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way for salvation.

Acts 4:10 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

- I don't believe a good God would send any one to Hell forever

God wishes all would be saved but many rejected His offer of salvation and stand condemned. God is love but he is also just (1 Tim 2:3-6, 2 Peter 2:1-9). It's hard to believe that God would crucify his only son just to help us escape a short stay in hell. Rather, Jesus gives eternal life; the opposite is eternal judgment which includes hell. A good judge is not afraid to give a life sentence & God is a good judge

- No matter what you do in life you will go to heaven if you believe in Jesus

Those who believe this have likely adopted such a belief because they want to live like they want to, however, there is no support or evidence for this belief in the Bible. In fact the opposite is true according to the Bible, God's grace compels us to live Holy lives (1Peter 1:13-16)

- Doesn't the Bible say somewhere that God helps those who help themselves

No where does the Bible say this. Concerning Salvation we are hopeless without God's saving grace. Concerning our works, salvation produces good works but we cannot by our good works

101 CFD Session 4: Why and How do I pray?

State name and answer Question: Where and what would your ideal vacation be?

The Purpose:

- Communication
Communication is important in every relationship. Likewise it is important in our relationship with God because it allows us to develop our relationships with Him. Communication is two way. In prayer God hears our prayers and we learn to listen to what He has to say in response. We come to God not just as servants but as His children
- Shows are dependence on God
When we pray we are acknowledging that we need and trust God. Prayer is both worship and a call for help. Sometimes prayer is simply focusing on God and exalting Him. Other time prayer is a asking God for help. Why would we ask for God's help if we didn't believe He can be trusted to hear and answer us.

Matt 6:5-13

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Christian Prayer

2. To the Father

- (Vs 6) your Father - relationships
- (Vs 9) transcendence (Exodus 15:11)

1. Through the Son

During the American Civil War a soldier was given a reprieve to go and talk with the president to request exemption from military service because of a family tragedy. When he came to the White House he was refused a hearing with the president and was sent away. Going to a nearby park he sat on the bench discouraged and frustrated. Along came this young man, who asked the soldier about his unhappy state. The soldier found himself pouring out his heart to the young man. After hearing the soldier the young man said, come with me.

The young boy went to the white house and around to the back. Strangely no guards bothered them. When the entered the back door the guards there also seemed to stand attention or rather ignore them. Finally the young man led the boy down a few hallways to the west wing and just walked right into the oval office where Abraham Lincoln was talking with the secretary of state. Abraham Lincoln looked at the young man and said, What can I do for you Todd. The young man, said, "Dad, you have to talk with this soldier."

Ephesians 2:18—we have access to God through the son, Jesus Christ

3. By the Spirit (Romans 8:26)

Why Pray

1. Prayer aids our purpose:

We were created for a relationships with God and prayer develops that.

2. Rewards: (Matt 6:6)

- Joy (John 16:24)
- Peace (Philippians 4:6,7)

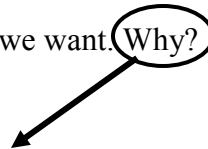
3. Prayer is effective: (Matthew 7:7-11)

- Much is accomplished through prayer (James 5:16)

Does God Always Answer Prayer?

Matt 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Answer: Yes, but we don't always get what we want. Why?



- **God will not do things that are inconsistent with His nature**

- **Things that impact our harmony with God:** *Just as there are things that create disunity in our relationships so there are things that can create disunity in our relationship with God .*

>Sin that is unconfessed: (Isaiah 59:2)

>Unforgiveness: (Matthew 6:14, 15)

>Disobedience: (1 John 3:21, 22)

- **Things we just get wrong or misunderstand**
 - Wrong Motives (James 4:2,3)
 - Misunderstanding God's will (1 John 5:14)
- **We don't like God's answer**
 - Yes / No / Wait

How to Pray

Jesus gave us a model to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). However, how we actually talk with God as long as we are doing so humbly, reverently, and with sincerity is not as important as when we should pray. Yet, looking at the model prayer of Jesus we can glean that there are a few specific areas that Jesus refers to.

Addoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

When to Pray

Always:

(1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 (Ephesians 6:18)

Alone: (Matthew 6:6)

Regular Pattern (discipline)
 Best part of the day (Mark 1:35)

With others:

(Matthew 18:19)

Conclusion

Prayer is part of our relationship with God

Pray Always

Pray is personal but it is also something to be shared corporately

101 CFD Session 5: Why and How can I read the Bible?

QUICK FACTS:

- The Bible is the best selling book of all time
- The Bible was written by over 40 different authors coming from all walks of life (Shepherds, Fisherman, Doctors, Priests, Prophets, Kings)
- The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years
- The Bible contains many types of literature (Poetry, Letters, History, Prophecy)
- The Bible is an extremely cohesive and unified book despite all the above

Matt 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**(The Bible is first of all God's revelation
of Himself—Nicky Gumbel)**

God Wrote a Book

2 Tim 3:16-17

- God Breathed/Inspired by God
 - Not dictation
 - 100 % the work of human authors
 - 100% the work of God
- Difficulties - most have been resolve but some still remain
 - Historical difficulties
 - Moral difficulties (God is love and yet there is much suffering)

Some reject Christianity on the basis of that but for the Christian, we struggle with these things. The more we struggle with them, the fact that God is love And there is suffering, the more we understand both suffering and God's love.

- Nicky Gumbel

Because the Bible is God breathed

It is our authority for:

- Teaching
 - Rebuking
 - Correcting
 - Training in Righteousness
- B**asic
Instructions
Before
Leaving
Earth

**(The Bible is our
manual for life)**

Objection: I don't want a rule book. following the Bible restricts you from enjoying life.

Rebuttal: In a sports game: are people more free if there are no rules and people can play however they want. Or are people more free when there are rules and within those rules people are free to enjoy the games.

God has given us guidelines for how to live, not because he hates us, but because he loves us. God didn't tell people not to murder because he wanted to ruin our fun, rather because he didn't want people to get he hurt—he loves us.

God's language is relationships

2 Timothy 3:15; John 5:39,40

1. To those who have no relationship with God (are not Christians)

(Romans 10:17; John 20:31)

Many regard the Bible highly and search it for truth and wisdom. However there are some that miss the point. They don't seem to realize that the Bible is all about Jesus—a relationships with Him.

2. To those who embrace Christ and are Christians

- Become like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- Joy an peace in the midst of troubling circumstances (Psalm 23:5)
- Guidance (Psalm 119:105)
- Health/healing (Proverbs 4:20-22)
- Defense against spiritual attack (Matt 4:1-11)
- Strength (Hebrews 4:12)
- Made clean (John 15:3)

How to read the Bible and hear God.

- 1. Time**
 - Plan ahead
 - Develop a regular pattern (reading plans)
- 2. Place**
 - A solitary Place (Mark 1:35)
- 3. Method**
 - Pray for God's help in learning His truth
 - Read the scripture passage
 - + use Bible notes
 - + use a devotional
 - + use more than one version
 - Ask 3 Questions
 - + what does it say
 - + What does is mean
 - + how does it apply

- Respond in Prayer
 - Put into Practice

Matt 7:24-25
 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Conclusion
 God speaks to us through the Bible

Make a habit of reading the Bible regularly.

101 CFD Session 6: What is the Christian Church?

Church is a Greek word (ekklesia) which means an assembly. However, there is much misconception about church. Which of the following misconception might you have about the church.

- Church = worship service
- Church = clergy
- Church = a specific denomination or religious sect
- Church = a building

The church is: People of God

1 Peter 2:9,10

- Church = a kingdom/a people belonging to God
- Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church (God's people)
 - Baptism symbolizes 3 main things:
 1. Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
 2. Incorporation into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12)
 3. Sealing of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)

3 Uses of "church" in the Bible

- 1. Universal Church** (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25) Includes all of (but only those) who are truly saved. This is the true church!

Roughly 1,900 million Christians on the earth (almost 1/3 of the world's population)

Church in some areas is in decline but in others it is growing rapidly

- Persecuted Church (in at least 60 countries yet it still grows)
- third world
- free world

- 2. Congregation** - a few to thousands typically meeting in a "church building"
Strengths: Exercise of spiritual gifts, impact on community, togetherness

Not all in the local church or those a part of a congregation are not necessarily part of the Kingdom of God (saved)

- 3. Local Churches** (1 Corinthians 16:1,19)

Cells - small groups of people often meeting in homes

Strengths: intimacy, accountability, close friends,

The church is: The Family of God

Ephesians 2:14-18; 1 John 5:1 **Think in terms of the universal church or those truly saved**

- Brothers and Sister (1 John 4:19-5:1)
- God as Father (John 1:12)
- Unity, Oneness (John 17:11; Ephesians 4:3)

(
 On the necessary points, unity; on the questionable points, liberty; in everything love - Rupertus Meldenius
)

- Faithfulness (Galatians 6:10)
- Forgiveness (Matthew 18:15, 35)
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)
 - Fellowship with God
 - Fellowship with one another

The church is: The Body of Christ

Acts 9:4

- Unity (Ephesians 4:3-6)
- Diversity (Ephesians 4:7,11)
- Mutual dependence (Ephesians 4:14-26)

The church is: A Holy Temple

Ephesians 2:19-22

- Built on foundation of apostles and prophets (vs 25)
- New Testament
- Jesus as corner stone (vs 20)
- Indwelt by God's Spirit (vs 21)

The church is: The Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:25-27, 32

- Christ loves for His church (vs 25)
- Christ's purpose for His church (vs 27)
- Our response (1 Peter 2:9)
 - holiness
 - worship
 - witness

Conclusion

Christianity is as much about belonging as it is about believing

The church is the Family of God—we are all one family

NEXT STEPS:

Now that you are finished with CFD you may be wondering, what's next? Below are some options for you to continue growing in faith and connection with our church family.

Membership

If you would like to move toward official membership at Otterbein then the next class you will take is called Connected for Formation (CFF). Many of you signed up for this class already—it will begin starting next Sunday right in the same room at the same time. If you have not signed up for it, you can let your teacher know now that you want to be a part of it or you can wait until next semester to sign up for it.

The next step after CFF will be Connected for Impact (CFI) which is the last step in becoming an official member. This class entails two to three classes and then a one on one meeting with a staff person. To sign up for CFI you will have to wait until our promotion months (January, May and September) and you will be able to sign up via your connection card. You can read more about Connected for Impact on our website.

Sunday School and Small Groups

In January, May and September a list will come out of all our groups and classes that participate in our churches semester schedule. These three months are what we call our promotion months, during which you will have opportunity to sign up for any of the classes or groups that are available. Many of our groups and classes will be beginning new studies and what they will be studying will also be listed.

However, if it is in the middle of a semester and you don't want to wait to get connected we encourage you to jump in on any of our groups or classes. You can see a list of our classes and groups on our church's website. This website will also list the leaders of each group along with the days and times they meet. Most groups will also have listed what they are currently studying. From the website you can also connect with the leaders of any group or class via e-mail. However, if you find you still have questions or need help with getting connected or knowing how to best grow in the faith then don't hesitate to ask your teacher or contact a staff person. Phone: 266.4525 or e-mail contact@altimus.org

WWW. OtterbeinChurch.com

We hope you will actively seek to grow in your faith and connection among your church family. Our hope for you is that you become an active part of our church family, ministering to others as you continue to grow in your love and faith of Jesus Christ.