

Salvation

(Galatians 3:26-28) *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask it, “What is the meaning of life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try in many ways:

...Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.

...Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.

...Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power.

But real happiness comes from understanding my PURPOSE in existing.

I. Why Am I Here?

A. God made me to **Glorify** Him!

(Revelation 4:11) *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*

B. God made man in his **own image**.

(Genesis 1:26) *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”*

C. When man is in a right relationship with God there is great benefit for the individual.

1. **Clear Conscience**- (Romans 8:1) *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*
2. **Peace** – (Romans 8:6) *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*
3. **Help with Weaknesses** – (Romans 8:26) *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*
4. **Purpose** – (Romans 8:28) *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*
5. **Confidence** – (Romans 8:31) *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”*
6. **Security** – (Romans 8:39) *“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
7. **Power and Strength** – (Philippians 4:13) *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheth me.”*
8. **Fulfillment** – (Philippians 4:19) *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*
9. **Freedom** – (John 8:32) *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

II. What's the Problem?

Man has violated God's law and in many cases does not even know he is guilty before God. "Look out for #1. Do your own thing." "If it feels good, do it – regardless of what God says about it." "It's my life and I'll do what I please!" are all attitudes that man has toward himself. The Bible calls these attitudes: **Sin**.

- (Isaiah 53:6) *"All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way."*
- (1 John 1:8) *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

In reality before God we are lying, stealing, covetous, murderous, adulterers, because we have violated God's laws. - Exodus 20

We have broken our relationship with God by our sin. Therefore we will never know true happiness without restoring that relationship.

- (Isaiah 59:2) *"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God."*
- (Romans 3:23) *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*
- When our relationship to God is not right, it causes **PROBLEMS** in every area of our lives such as our marriages, careers, relationships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING INSTEAD OF TURNING TO GOD.

- (Proverbs 16:25) *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*
- (James 1:14) *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."*

People try to justify themselves by many means.

- "My Mother was a Christian so..."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work real hard and earn it."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."

III. What's The Solution?

God Himself came to earth in human form to seek and to save lost man. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way to God is through a Person not through religion.

- Jesus Christ said in (John 14:6) *"I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by ME."*

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM BY DYING ON THE CROSS, BEING BURIED, AND RISING AGAIN!

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

- (Romans 5:8) *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

IV. What MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- A. **Understand** that you are a sinner and are separated from God because of your sins.
(Romans 3:10) *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”*
(Romans 3:23) *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”*
(Isaiah 53:6) *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*
- B. **Accept** the fact that as a sinner, you will give an account for you sin before God and pay the price for your sin in hell.
(Ezekiel 18:4) *“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”*
(Romans 6:23) *“For the wages of sin is death’ but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
(Hebrews 9:27) *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”*
(Revelation 20:14-15) *“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*
- C. **Believe** that Jesus died to pay for your sins, was buried, and that he rose again and is alive today.
(Romans 1:16) *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*
(Romans 10:9) *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*
(Acts 4:12) *“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”*
- D. **Receive** God’s free gift of salvation. Don’t try to earn it.
(Ephesians 2:8-9) *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”*
Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!
(Romans 10:13) *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.”*

Baptism is the NEXT STEP!

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth or life, but He did instruct them to remember His death, burial and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols that we call ordinances as continual reminders of His death, burial, and resurrection. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord’s Supper.

I. **Why Should I Be Baptized?**

- A. Because Christ **Commands** it.
(Matthew 28:19-20) *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even into the end of the world. Amen.”*

B. To follow the example set by **Christ**.

(Mark 1:9) *“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.”*

C. It demonstrates that I really am a **Believer**.

(Acts 18:8) *“...many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”*

(I John 2:3) *“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”*

II. What is the Meaning of Baptism?

A. It illustrates Christ's **Death, Burial, and Resurrection**.

(I Corinthians 15:3-4) *“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.”*

(Colossians 2:12) *“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”*

B. It illustrates my **New Life** as a Christian.

(2 Corinthians 5:17) *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.”*

(Romans 6:4) *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life!”*

- Baptism doesn't make you a believer – it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

(Ephesians 2:8-9) *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.”*

III. Why be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because **Jesus** was baptized that way.

(Matthew 3:16) *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water”*

B. Every baptism in the **Bible** was by immersion.

(Acts 8:38-39) *“...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip...”*

- The word “Baptize” is a transliteration of the Greek work baptizo and means, **“to immerse or dip under”**.

C. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther –“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin- “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley- “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has **Believed** in Christ.

- (Acts 2:4) *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...”*
- (Act 8:13) *“Simon himself believed also: and...he was baptized...”*
- (Acts 8:12) *“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”*

At **Cochran Ridge**, we wait until our children are old enough **to believe and understand** the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is for many what they consider Christian or Bible baptism. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe.**

- “Confirmation” is not baptism. The purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ, therefore only someone who has been born again may partake of the ordinance.

At **Cochran Ridge**, it is a membership requirement that every member must be **baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though you may have been “confirmed” as a child.**

V. When should you be baptized?

A. As soon as you have believed!

- (Acts 2:41) *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls!”*
- (Acts 8:35-38) *“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.”*
- There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel “good enough”!

B. What should I wear when I am baptized?

We ask that you wear something modest and dark colored. Please, nothing see-through when wet. You need to bring a change clothes. Towels are provided. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

C. You can meet with a Pastor to schedule a baptism.

The Lord’s Supper (Communion)

The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents several great spiritual truths for believers.

I. What is the Lord’s Supper? (I Cor. 11: 23-26)

A. It is a **Simple Act** with great **Spiritual Meaning.**

(I Corinthians 11:23) *“The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread...”*

B. It is a constant **Reminder.**

(I Corinthians 11:24: "...and when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, 'Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.'")

C. It is a **Symbol or Picture.**

(I Corinthians 11:25) "After the same manner also, he took the cup when he ad supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me"

D. It is a **Statement of Faith.**

(I Corinthians 11:27) "For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come"

II. Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already Believers

(Mark 14:22-26) "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is she for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. And when they had sung and hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

(I Corinthians 11:29) "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

At **Cochran Ridge Baptist Church** you do not have to be a member to join us in the Lord's Supper, but you should be a believer in Christ having trusted Him as your personal Savior according to Scripture. As the Lord's Super is an individual matter between the person and the Lord, we pray that those who partake of it understand the seriousness of the ordinance.

III. How Do I Prepare Myself for The Lord's Supper?

(1 Corinthians 11:27-28) "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man **examine** himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

- **Self Examination-**

(1 Corinthians 11:27) "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 10:21) "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's Table, and of the table of devils."

- **Confession of Sin-**

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Jeremiah 3:13-15) "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and has scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. Turn, O Backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: and I will give you

pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. “

- **Recommitment to Christ-**

(Romans 12:1) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- **Restoring of Relationships-**

(Matthew 5:23-24) “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to the brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

Our Structure

(I Corinthians 14:33) “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

(I Corinthians 14:40) “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

I. The Church is a Body

(1 Corinthians 12:27) “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

(Ephesians 1:22-23) “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.”

(Ephesians 5:23) “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

(Colossians 1:18) “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

(Colossians 2:19) “And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.”

A. We are a body – not a business!

B. We are an organism – not an organization!

1. Therefore, we function on the basis of Abilities and Talents (spiritual gifts) not so much by Elected Offices.

(Romans 12:4-6) “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;”

2. In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

3. At **Cochran Ridge** we have a simple structure so we can maximize **MINISTRY** and minimize **MAINTENANCE**.

(Ephesians 4:11-12) *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*

Every member is a “MINISTER”.

The Leadership Team are the “ADMINISTRATORS”

Our Pastors are responsible to keep the church committed to the biblical vision of the church in Doctrine, Practice, and Purpose

4. Our Government as an Independent Baptist Church

We believe the model for scriptural church government is:

- A. Christ is the head. Colossians 1:18
- B. The Pastor is the human leader. Hebrews 13:7:17
- C. The Deacons serve. Acts 6:3,4
- D. The Leadership Team of our church consists of the Pastor, and Deacons.

II. What It Means To Be a Member

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: **Commitment.**

At **Cochran Ridge** we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A Biblical Reason

Christ is committed to the church.

(Ephesians 5:25) *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”*

At **Cochran Ridge** we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to honor our Core Values and Membership Covenant.

II. A Cultural Reason

It is an antidote to our society: We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

III. A Practical Reason

It defines who can be counted on. Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

IV. A Personal Reason

It produces spiritual growth. The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family.

Our Mission Statement

Why We Exist As A Church “To be a Church Without Walls by Loving God, Loving Others, and Serving Both”

Our Purpose

The Great Commandment: (Matthew 22:36-40) *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

The Great Commission: (Matthew 28:19-20) *“Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

To **Communicate** God’s Word Through **World-wide Evangelism**

- *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,”* is Evangelization
- Unreached, Unengaged, People Groups (Romans 15:20) *Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:*

To **Celebrate** God’s Presence in **Worship**

- *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”* is worship.

To **Incorporate** God’s Family Into our **Fellowship**

- *“baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”* is to incorporate into our fellowship

To **Educate** God’s People Through **Discipleship**

- *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:”* is discipleship

To **Demonstrate** God’s Love Through **Service**

- *“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”* is service.

What We Believe

I. **In essential beliefs we have unity.**

(Ephesians 4:4-6) *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

II. **In non-essential beliefs we have liberty.**

(Romans 14:1) *“Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.”*

(Romans 14:4) *“Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*

(Romans 14:12) *“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

