



Church Membership Class

A Family of Missionary Disciples

Rooted Church Membership Class

Who We Are

Vision

To see the communities of Northwest Arkansas transformed by the gospel, creating a missional movement that spreads across Arkansas and unto the ends of the Earth.

Mission

Create a thriving gospel community growing deeper in love for Jesus Christ and reaching wider in love for our neighbors.

Identity

We are a family of missionary disciples for the good of our cities and the glory of God.

We Are Family

We were made for community, for family. As Christians, we are children of God and thus brothers and sisters with one another. It means we're committed to one another. We covenant with one another, much like in a marriage. We stay true to one another, just like in a healthy family. In addition, the fact that we're family together shapes our priorities. Church is not just one interest to juggle among many. It stands in the center, defining and giving meaning to all other commitments. We're meant to grow by sacrificially caring for one another, meeting each other's needs, and demonstrating to the world what true family looks like. God is committed to making us family together.

We Are Missionaries

We believe that God calls his people to live as missionaries in the places he has put them. We want to be an everyday church with an everyday mission to share the gospel in word and deed. We want to take active steps to seek the good of the cities of Northwest Arkansas by proclaiming the truth of the gospel and by seeking the restoration and redemption of the brokenness experienced in our community.

We Are Disciples

We believe as followers of Jesus we are called to learn from him and live like him, becoming obedient from the heart to his truth in every part of life. We are not perfect, we need more of the Gospel everyday. By his grace, we want to bring more of our life into submission and obedience to Jesus. We are disciples of Jesus who are intentional about our own spiritual development and the development of others.

Values

Hospitality--We have open hearts and open homes

Humility--We put others before ourselves

Service--We all have a part to play

Gratitude--We give thanks in every season

Generosity--We give freely

Why The Name Rooted?

For a tree to be healthy it has to have deep roots in healthy soil, when this happens it will continue to grow even when the hard winds blow. Much like that tree we want to be Rooted firmly in Jesus because we know the hard winds are always coming. We recognize that we live in a culture where we are constantly called to be rooted in many things such as our job, our family or even our hobbies. None of those things are bad, as a matter of fact they are all good, but they're not meant to take the place of Jesus. We desire to be a people who are firmly Rooted in Jesus and the good news of the Gospel.

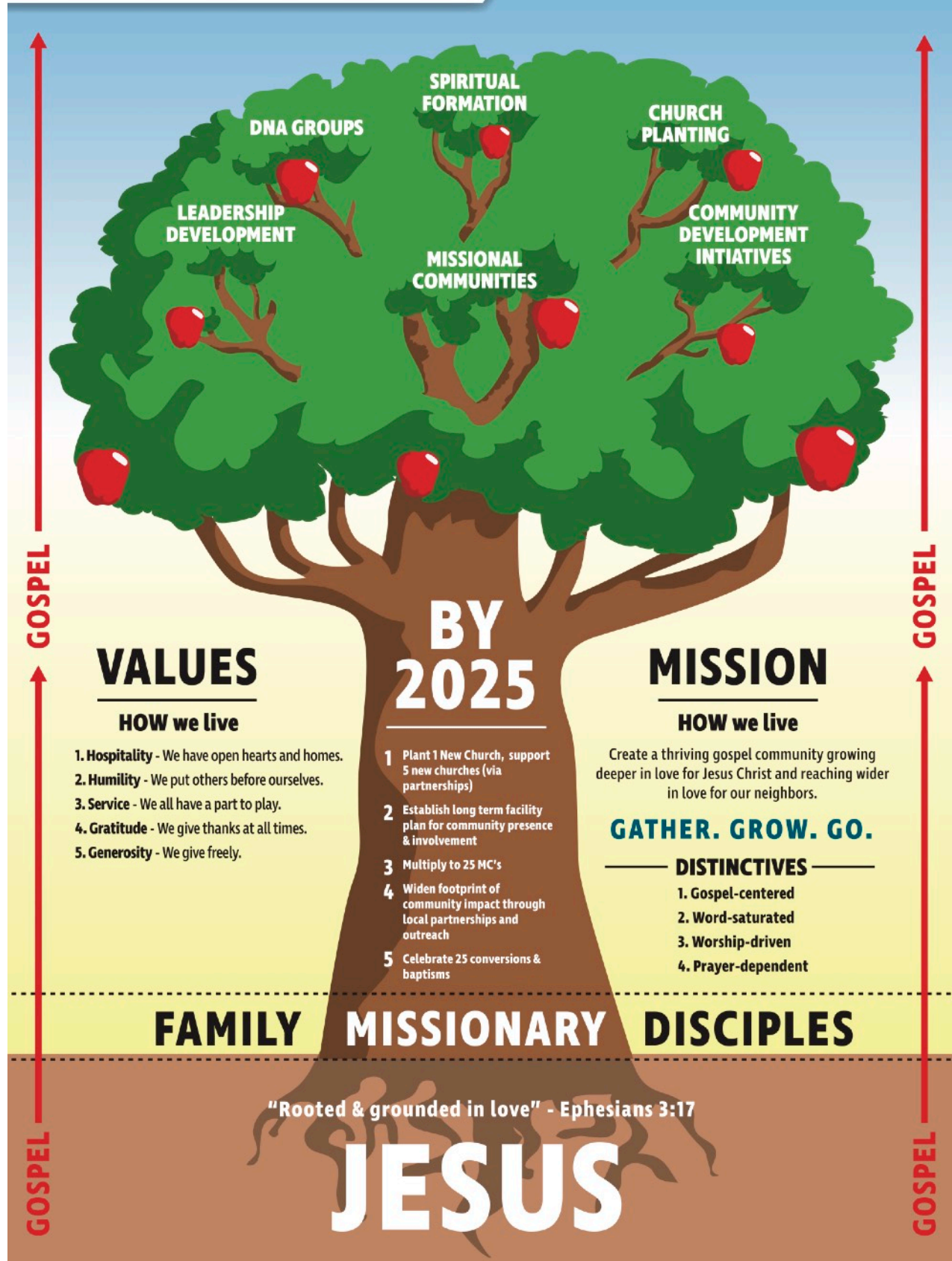
14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, **16** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being **rooted** and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:14-19

GROWING DEEPER. | 2020-2025 REACHING WIDER.

VISION

The **IMPACT** we hope to make

To see the communities of Northwest Arkansas transformed by the gospel, creating a missional movement that spreads across Arkansas and unto the ends of the earth.



What We Believe

Rooted Church is a confessional church. This means that we affirm together, as a local congregation, what we believe about God and His gospel. In a post-modern age that resists absolute truth and considers sacred texts or creeds to be oppressive, we as a family proclaim our unity around a confession of faith, agreeing to hold each other accountable to it.

Our final authority is God's word, the Bible. Only Scripture is inspired by Him. We must seek to understand God's word and clearly declare the Christian faith. We must cling to that faith, knowing that rightly understanding God and His gospel is the key to our joy and His glory. We must contend for our beliefs, understanding that the Lord calls us to defend the biblical portrait of Him and the truth of His gospel (Jude 3). We must contextualize that truth, recognizing that the unchanging message must find relevant expression in every culture (1 Cor. 9:19-23). We must not compromise our doctrine, committing to cling to the historic gospel in diverse cultures while maintaining biblical fidelity (2 Tim. 4:1-3).

Our Teaching

Elders and others who teach and preach in Rooted Church worship gatherings, as well as in Missional Communities and other spheres, agree to teach in accordance with and not contrary to our statement of faith. Related, there are three convictions that guide all of our church's teaching.

Expositionally-shaped: A biblically faithful sermon or lesson takes the points of the message from the points of the passage of Scripture. Because God saves and grows sinners through His word, our approach in the vast majority of our teaching is an expositional one, where we seek to expose the meaning of the text and apply it to hearers. However, we shouldn't just teach God's word. We should put it into practice. In our personal lives, but also in our life together as a church, we seek to obey what we read.

Gospel-focused: Teaching that doesn't proclaim God's gospel never gets to the ultimate point of the Bible. Every sermon, every MC discussion, every Sprouts lesson, and every counseling session, for that matter, must set forth Christ's death for sinners and its sufficiency for all of life, regardless of the passage of Scripture.

God-centered: Our teaching also strives to magnify the glory of God. Man-centered preaching leaves us disappointed and empty. We desire to take people to our great, glorious, good, and gracious Lord, regardless of the teaching topic or context.

Our Worship

While worship should be an all-of-life endeavor, we do come together regularly, as God's people for Sunday Gatherings, as well as in our Missional Community Gatherings, for worship. Rooted Church worship gatherings are very intentional in terms of their structure and purpose.

Expositionally-shaped, Gospel-focused, and God-centered: Our worship gatherings reflect those three values stated above. Preaching stands at the center of the meeting, holding chief importance. In all things, whether songs, prayers, or readings, we desire to open and listen to God's word, longing particularly to hear of God's glory and His gospel there, knowing it's what our souls desperately need.

Liturgically-intentional: The word "liturgy" refers to an order or form of worship. All churches have a liturgy. Some, however, are more intentional and focused than others. Rooted Church follows a historic liturgical model that seeks to usher people during a worship Gathering to God through the gospel. That explains why we always begin with call to worship which invites us to magnify the glory of God together. Then we sing a song or reading about God's holiness and glory and then immediately move into confession of sin and a reminder of our assurance of our pardon in Christ. We then spend the rest of the Gathering praising God for the forgiveness in Christ, hearing it proclaimed in the preaching of God's word and seeing it pictured in the bread and the cup. We take the Lord's Supper weekly, believing we need the weekly reminder of God's grace and the fellowship of sharing that experience as a church family.

Our Doctrine

Rooted Church doctrine is expressed clearly in both our Member Affirmation of faith, to which members adhere, as well as in our Rooted Church Elder Affirmation of faith. We cling to our beliefs with much conviction and believe that sound biblical doctrine is the foundation of a healthy church.

To describe what kind of church we are, you could use the following terms and reference their subsequent definitions:

We are Christian, Protestant, Evangelical, Reformed, Baptist, and Missional

These six adjectives express where Rooted Church Church fits in the modern, American church landscape.

Christian: distinguishing ourselves from other world religions and cults, holding to the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

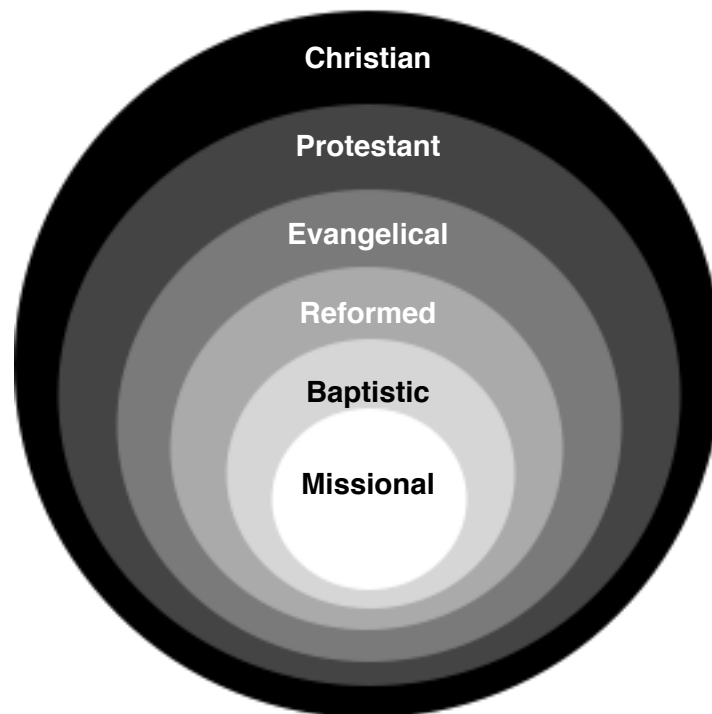
Protestant: distinguishing ourselves from Catholicism and Orthodoxy (Greek, Russian, etc.), cherishing the five solas of the Reformation (sola scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia, solus Christus, and soli Deo gloria).

Evangelical: distinguishing ourselves from mainline Protestantism, holding to, and proclaiming forth, the historic, orthodox gospel.

Reformed: distinguishing ourselves from Arminian or Semi-Arminian Christian groups, clinging to the historic emphasis on God's sovereignty from the Protestant Reformation.

Baptistic: distinguishing ourselves from paedobaptist congregations (orthodox or otherwise), teaching and practicing believer's baptism, seeing it as the wisest path to a regenerate, Christ-honoring church.

Missional: distinguishing ourselves from fundamentalism, seeking to be a part of the broader culture, serving and engaging our community so as to win persons and cities to Jesus.



How We Are Structured

Church Leadership

Christ gives two offices for His church in His word. His people are to be led by elders and served by deacons.

Elders: Churches were never meant to be democracies or dictatorships. They are to be led by a group called elders who serve to protect, guide, and provide God's people. Three terms in Scripture all speak of that same group - elders, overseers, and pastors - and they're all used together in Acts 20 and 1 Peter 5. Their responsibilities are to teach and lead the church, while also equipping God's people for ministry (Eph. 4:12). Biblically, they must be men and possess the qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 3:3-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Rooted Church is an elder-governed church where elders seek to lovingly, faithfully care for their members. Members seek to lovingly, respectfully follow and submit to their elders. Remember, though, that Rooted Church is a family. There is much opportunity for interaction, mutual learning, and constructive input.

Deacons: All Christians are called to serve, but deacons lead in this way. They assist pastors with hands-on tasks so that those men may be devoted to the teaching of the word and prayer (Acts 6:4). Deacons must possess the qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. We believe deacons may be men or women.

Members: Rooted Church believes strongly in lay-driven ministry. Elders are not professionals who do all the ministry. They have responsibilities, of course, but a key aspect of their calling is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Eph. 4:12). We try to accomplish as much ministry as possible through the people and gifts the Lord has provided. We do as much ministry as possible in teams, as well.

Affiliations

Rooted is proud to work with like minded denominations and networks for the purpose of mission, fellowship, training, and partnership in the gospel. We have three leading affiliations:

Acts 29 Church Planting Network- The Acts 29 Network is a diverse, global family of church-planting churches characterized by: Theological Clarity, Cultural Engagement, and Missional Innovation.

<https://www.acts29.com>

Arkansas Baptist State Convention- The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) is known as a family and network of Arkansas Baptist churches, agencies, and institutions around the state that have chosen to cooperate together to advance the Kingdom of Jesus.

<https://www.absc.org>

Southern Baptist Convention

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is a fellowship of over 47,000 Baptist churches scattered across the United States and its territories. These congregations, comprised of numerous racial, ethnic, language, and socioeconomic people groups, are called "cooperating churches." They have organized themselves to accomplish a specific set of missions and ministry initiatives, all for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere.

<http://www.sbc.net>

Financial Stewardship

Rooted Church operates with the utmost financial responsibility and accountability. We strive to be faithful stewards of the resources the Lord has given to our church family. We want our financial stewardship to reflect our gospel identities and in every way further our mission to reach NWA and beyond.

Rooted commits to devote at least 10% of our annual budget to church planting and world missions. We currently support churches in Turrell, Arkansas, Joplin, MO, Seattle, WA, and in Chile. We also support network initiatives through the A29 Network, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention.

Rooted also commits a portion of our budget to our Family Fund which provides emergency financial assistance to members of the church who are experiencing a crisis. The Family Fund also contains our adoption/foster care fund to support families pursuing adoption and foster care opportunities.

How We Live

Gathered

In the book of Acts, we see the early church gathering together regularly. Chapter 2 and verse 42 says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." This community regularly comes together to worship God, praising Him for His gospel. The church isn't a

building. It's a people who have been changed by Jesus and come together in a city or neighborhood for worship and mission.

People have long pointed out two essential marks of the church: the right preaching of God's word and the right administration of the sacraments. People may gather together, but if the gospel is not preached, it is not a church. Rooted Church commits to preaching God's word in a faithful, gospel-focused manner. A true church additionally practices the two sacraments or ordinances Christ gave His people, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Rooted Church practices believers' baptism, believing this best reflects biblical teaching and early-church practice. We immerse new Christians in water, displaying their union with Christ's life, death, and resurrection, as well as their forgiveness in Him. Rooted Church also partakes of the Lord's Supper weekly. The bread and the cup represent Christ's body broken for us and His blood spilled for our sins. Neither ordinance is saving. However, in our participation in them together, we experience God's grace in the gospel.

Scattered

In Acts, the early church experienced this community on the mission field. They regularly gathered, but they then were scattered to share Christ. They prayed for boldness. They acted in faith. Acts 4:33 reads, "And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." Acts 2:47 says, "The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." This community was not an end unto itself. They had been empowered by the Holy Spirit and had been sent as missionaries. Their gathering was for scattering. God calls us to go into our workplaces, classrooms, athletic clubs, and schools - wherever God leads - and share this gospel we have found.

Healthy Gospel Rhythms

We believe the life a healthy church member is expressed in rhythms where the gospel saturates our everyday life. The following rhythms express

Story

We understand, experience, and intersect with God's Story and other's.

God has been unfolding his Story since before time began. We believe we are participants in the Story and need to understand it and see how our lives intersect with it. Therefore, we regularly reacquaint ourselves with the Story by interacting with God's Word. We look for ways and times to tell the Story often. We also take time to

listen to others stories and help them find their lives within God's Story. (Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1; Psalm 1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Bless

We intentionally bless others through words, gifts, or actions.

God desires that all nations—all people—would be blessed through Jesus. And now, as his body, we believe we live out this mission as we bless others. We intentionally seek God's direction for who he would have us tangibly bless each week. (Genesis 12:1-3; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 2:12)

Listen

We set aside regular times to listen to God and discern his will.

Jesus listened to God in prayer to know his Father's will. We are also called to listen to God. We listen 'backward' by regularly interacting with God's Word-the Story and the Son. We also believe he speaks today through his Spirit in us and through creation. We spend time actively listening 'forward' to hear what God is saying to us today. (Mark 1:35-37; John 16:7-15; Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:20)

Create

We create and restore beauty in ways that reflect God to others.

God is the creator who so wonderfully made all that we see. We image our creator by being creative beings that add value to the world around us through the work of our hands, the creativity of our minds, and the beauty of things we make and enjoy. (Genesis 1-2:3; Colossians 3:23)

Rest

We take time to rest and have our souls and bodies refreshed by God.

God created the world and then rested to enjoy the beauty of his creation. Likewise, we regularly take time to rest and enjoy the freedom that God gives, ceasing our regular activities, and reminding ourselves of the providential care of God who loves us and provides richly for all our needs. (Deuteronomy 5:12; Mark 2:23-28; Hebrews 4)

Celebrate

We gather together to celebrate God's extravagant blessings.

God calls people to regularly celebrate his goodness and grace. We gather weekly in missional communities and regularly as a larger family, to share stories and

celebrate all that God is doing in and amongst us. We invite everyone to these celebrations as a way of displaying God's glory. (Leviticus 23; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Eat

We regularly eat meals with others to invite them into the community of God.

Meals are a daily reminder of our common need for God and his faithfulness to provide both physically and spiritually. Jesus called us to remember him and his sacrifice for us through a meal. When we eat together, we commune around this truth. We regularly eat meals with those not in our immediate family or circle of close friends, discipling them toward a life of dependence on God. (Leviticus 23; Matthew 6:11; 26:17-30; Acts 2:46-47; Romans 12:13)

Membership Covenant

Members of Rooted Church covenant with one another to live out the gospel together in repentance and faith. The covenant is cited and explained in detail below:

With the guiding help of the Holy Spirit, I, the undersigned, covenant to the following:

1. I am a Christian who has been saved from my sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. I have been baptized to give testimony of my identification with the body of Christ and in obedience to the Scriptures.

- Members must be believers, trusting in Christ alone for salvation. This is why the last step in membership is an interview with an elder.
- Members must also have been baptized as believers.

2. I have read, understood and hold to the Rooted Church Member Affirmation and agree to not be divisive regarding its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership, and thus I will submit to the guidance and teaching of the elders as set forth in the Rooted Church Elder Affirmation, and, where I have questions or concerns, will offer constructive, direct input, with diligence to preserve unity and peace (Heb. 13:7, 17; 1 Tim. 5:17).

- Members must hold to the beliefs of Rooted Church.
- Members agree to submit to church leadership, knowing that the elders always welcome and value input.
- Members agree to seek peace within the community, handling criticisms and concerns in healthy, unifying ways.

3. I will endeavor to maintain a close personal relationship with the Lord through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. My journey in Christ will be evident through my regular participation in the corporate worship gatherings of Rooted Church, along with consistent involvement in a Missional Community (Ps. 119:97, 105; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25).

- Members state that they will seek the Lord both personally and corporately.
- Members agree to prioritize the gatherings of the family, putting them high on their list of priorities, making them regular rhythms of their lives.
- Members are required to be a part of a Rooted Church Missional Community. This is non-negotiable. This is not only our primary strategy for mission. It is also an important shepherding mechanism for our body.

4. I will strive to properly steward the resources that God has given me, including my time, talent and treasure (Eph. 5:15-18; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:1-16; Gal. 5:22-26; Pr. 3:9-10). This includes giving to Rooted Church that is sacrificial, primary, systematic and cheerful (Mt. 6:19-21; 2 Cor. 9:6-8). Likewise, I commit to using the spiritual gift(s) God has given me for the building up of the church (1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-31).

- Members acknowledge that they are not owners, but are rather stewards, of the resources God has given them. They agree to invest them in the ministry of the church.
- Members commit to give in three realms: time, talent, and treasure.
- Members agree, in all three spheres, to give sacrificially (giving until it impacts them), primarily (giving first and chiefly to and through Rooted Church), systematically (giving regularly and not randomly), and cheerfully (giving with joy and not begrudgingly).

5. I commit myself to the Rooted Church family and agree to aid in fulfilling its missional purpose to bring the gospel to Northwest Arkansas. I recognize that this will be accomplished by pursuing Rooted Church' mission, vision, values and distinctives.

- Members must obviously endorse, as they understand it, the direction of Rooted Church.
- Members indicate that they want to be not only a part of the people of Rooted Church, but also a part of the direction in which that family is moving.

6. I covenant to practice the humility and sacrificial attitude of Christ by considering the needs of others before my own (Phil. 2:1-11), and to pursue the unity of his church in both words and actions, building up, and not tearing down his people (Eph. 4:1-3).

- Members agree to strive, by God's grace and in His strength, to consider others more than themselves.
- Members commit to be peacemakers, seeking the unity and peace of the Rooted Church family.

7. I covenant to follow the biblical procedures of church discipline and submit myself to discipline if the need should ever arise (Mt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-5, 1 Cor. 5). I realize that this covenant serves as a guideline for loving discipline designed to effect repentance and restoration, and that I cannot revoke my membership in the midst of the discipline process. I understand that absolute confidentiality in relationships with my brothers and sisters prevents obedience to Christ in the practice of biblical church discipline and therefore should not be promised or expected.

- Members commit to pursue brothers and sisters when they stray from Jesus in beliefs or lifestyle.
- Members ask now for others to seek after them, should they ever do the same.
- Members agree to follow the procedures outlined in Scripture. Matthew 18 gives a helpful outline.
- Members understand that tearing up this document in the middle of discipline does not take away the church's responsibility to continue in disciplinary action. Doing so would in fact render this document meaningless. It is the elders' expectation that almost all people under church discipline will demand this.
- Members understand that obedience to Christ trumps obedience to others. The Lord commands us to progressively involve others in the disciplinary process. Therefore, we shouldn't promise up front to someone not to do this. This is not a license to gossip. It's a warning against foolish secrets.

8. I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119, 2 Tim. 3:16-17). God enabling me, I will strive to consider my commitment to this Membership Covenant on a yearly basis. I understand that it is an evaluative tool, as well as an affirmation of my continuing conviction and purpose. My responsibility will be to notify the Rooted Church leadership if at any time I find difficulty keeping this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments or concerns regarding Rooted Church. Should God call me elsewhere, I will strive to find a church with like doctrine and similar covenant.

- Members commit to sitting under the authority of God's word and seeking to follow it supremely.
- Members agree to regularly reevaluate their covenant commitment, discussing it with the elders if they have concerns or difficulties.
- Members agree to seek a similar church in doctrine and life should God lead them elsewhere.

Why Church Membership Matters

Distinctive of Rooted Church is our emphasis on membership. We think it's critical, both for the health of the believer and of the family at large, that we commit our lives to one another.

Explained: Membership means living out the gospel with a local group of believers. You agree to live in repentance and faith with them, trusting Jesus alone to save you and transform you. More specifically, you agree to believe certain truths about God and His gospel, you agree to live a holy life in response to those truths, and you agree to give your life to the church's vision and mission. In Rooted Church, our membership commitments are expressed in the covenant that we'll consider shortly.

Needed: As previously mentioned, we need other believers who will encourage us and challenge us. We need to know, though, that those brothers and sisters are committed to us. We need leaders who will look out for us. They'll hold us accountable. They'll help us up when we're down. They need to know that we'll do the same for them. Many like to point to an informal commitment to the church, but that isn't worth much when times get rough. Making a covenantal commitment to each other is much needed. Mark Dever lists these reasons why we should join a church:

- join a church for non-Christians: display to the world how the gospel creates a loving community
- join a church for weaker Christians: come alongside those young in the faith and help them grow
- join a church for stronger Christians: truly learn, and help others learn, what it means to love, propelling us down the path of maturity
- join a church for church leaders: make it clear to your elders for whom they are responsible
- join a church for God: glorify Him by identifying with His people and laboring for His mission

The bottom line is that if we don't think we need the church or don't particularly like the church, we're on shaky, dangerous ground. Christ loves His people. He died for them. We should love them, too.

Defended: At Rooted, we believe the Bible calls us to a healthy practice of church membership. The biblical metaphors of body, building, and household all convey

the idea of a committed union with one another. Membership is pointed to in multiple ways as seen in the texts below.

- the call for leaders to lead and Christians to submit to them (Heb. 13:17)
- the call for church discipline and the possibility of excommunication (Mt. 18:15-20)
- the presence of lists or rolls in Scripture (Acts 2:37-47; 1 Tim. 5:3-16; Rom. 16:1-16)
- the "one anothers" found in Scripture and the need to apply them

In Rooted Church, we absolutely think church membership is biblical and important. Therefore, it's an important aspect of who we are. That is an important point not to rush past. This is a big part of our vision. Obedient, growing Christians should be an active part of a local church. Interestingly, one common question we get is this: "I love the community here, and I've never experienced anything like it, but why do you make such a big deal about church membership?" A response? Perhaps those two things are related. Indeed, we're convinced they are.

Disciplined: It doesn't get any more difficult and controversial than this, but God commands His church in Scripture to practice church discipline. We can speak of this in two senses. First, there is *formative discipline*, the proactive, teaching ministry of the church. This is positive instruction from God's word that helps God's people live self-controlled, Spirit-controlled lives. If there's a problem, however, we move to the second kind, *corrective discipline*. Motivated by love, we plead with a person in sin to repent and return to Christ, being willing to remove the person from church membership, if necessary. This is taught clearly in Matthew 18:15-20.

Matt. 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Notice the progression in this passage. You approach your brother in sin alone. If he doesn't listen, you involve others, both as witnesses and as people to pray and plead. If he doesn't hear that group, you involve a bigger one, the church. If he

doesn't listen to the church, you consider him a "Gentile or a tax collector," an unbeliever without the Spirit of God. You remove him or her from membership. You begin sharing the gospel with him or her again. All of this is done, verse 15 says, that you might gain or win your brother back to the Lord.

This is taught numerous times in the New Testament, but one other important passage is found in 1 Corinthians. There the sin is public and already in "stage three." Notice what Paul tells the Corinthian church to do:

1 Cor. 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. 3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. 4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

God tells His church to remove such people from the realm of safety, the church, and place them back in the realm of Satan, the world. Why? Paul says it's for his salvation, that this wayward brother would wake up and return to the Lord. This isn't easy, but the Lord tells us to do it. We must trust Him! There are good reasons for being obedient. Mark Dever lists these four reasons:

- for the good of the person: that he or she might be restored to Christ and His church
- for the good of the church: that God's people would see the consequences of sin and would not be harmed by such sin in their midst
- for the good of the world: that the church would look different and compelling and would not have its reputation stained by sin
- for the glory of God: that the Lord would receive honor from a people who reflect His image

Much like fathers and mothers who discipline their children, the Lord disciplines us, and He often uses - if we will only obey - His church as a means to do this. This is an act of love. In fact, if we fail to do this, we show hatred for that brother or sister (Prov. 13:24). As members of Rooted Church, we agree to love in this way. We ask others to show tough love toward us should we ever need it.



Member Affirmation of Faith

GOD

There is one, living, true God, who is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver and Ruler of all things. He has in and of Himself all perfections, including holiness, and is infinite in them all. He is an all-knowing and all-powerful, intelligent, spiritual, and personal being. His perfect knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

God has revealed Himself in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, His verbally inspired words. All Scripture is authoritative, infallible, and inerrant, and stands as the only sufficient standard for faith and life. God has also revealed Himself additionally in His creation, as well as finally and ultimately through His Son, who is the focus of divine revelation.

That true God eternally exists in three persons, the Trinity. God has always existed in community as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While there is diversity of role in the Godhead, there is unity in purpose. While there are distinct personal attributes, there is no division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father reigns with providential care over all His creation, His creatures, and the flow of human history according to the purposes of His grace. All-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise, He purposed redemption through Jesus and by the Spirit. While God is Father in truth to those who become children by faith in Christ, He is fatherly in His attitude toward all humans.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. He took upon himself human nature with its demands and necessities, identifying Himself completely with humankind, yet without sin. Our Lord won our salvation by completely obeying and thereby fulfilling the divine law on our behalf, and accomplished our redemption by sacrificially dying on the cross as our substitute. He proved His victory over death and demonstrated our salvation through His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now

exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry as our representative intercessor and advocate. We believe Jesus who came in humility will come once again in power and glory, visibly and bodily, judging at His return the living and the dead.

The Holy Spirit is an eternal, divine person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and brings glory to the Father and the Son. He applies the redemption of Christ, effecting regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, and indwelling, transforming, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. He inspired the Scriptures and illuminates believers in understanding God's revelation. He distributes spiritual gifts to all believers according to His sovereign good pleasure for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.

GOSPEL

The Lord God created all things in heaven and on earth and declared them good. He made human beings as the pinnacle of the creation, placing them in His place, under His rule, as His people to rule over His creation. He made Adam in His own image and likeness. Therefore, all humans of all races possess full dignity and are worthy of respect and Christian love.

However, through Adam's sin, the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Although humans are not utterly wicked, they are totally depraved and are of themselves utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. Sinners by nature, all human beings therefore choose to sin, due to the fall, and bring upon themselves the just wrath of God.

God, by His grace, sent His Son Jesus to earth to accomplish redemption. Christ lived the perfect life sinful, imperfect people could not live. He died the cruel death that fallen, rebellious sinners deserved. Jesus righted the wrongs of the first man, Adam, through His redemptive work. Salvation, then, is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. True salvation manifests itself in repentance over sin, living, abiding trust in and love for the Triune God, and sacrificial love for the people of God, the Church. At the point of faith, men and women are declared righteous and forgiven in God's sight. They are then transformed by God's Spirit progressively unto holiness until the final day when they are made perfect. The redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. Therefore, it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's word and His Spirit. Although genuine Christians will sin and stumble, God's preservation of His children manifests itself in persevering love for God and neighbor.

Jesus Christ will return one day to bring about the consummation of all things. While the kingdom of God has broken into the world through Christ's person and work, one day, He who came in humility will return in glory to reverse the fall, accomplishing

complete and final redemption. Men and women alive at His return will go to either eternal, conscious torment or joy, based on their relationship with the Son. Those dead will be resurrected with the same ends. God will renew His creation, reconciling all things to Himself. The second Adam, Christ, will rule with His children, the church, over a new heavens and new earth for all eternity. God's people will once again be in God's place under God's rule, and such will be the case forever.

CHURCH

The church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons in all places at all times. Primarily, however, the Bible speaks of the local church, an assembly of believers covenanting together in community in a specific place at a specific time for worship and mission. The establishment and continuance of these local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. Those churches exist to proclaim the gospel to each other and to the world, practice the ordinances of the church, and exercise church discipline. The local church is a self-governed, independent body, free of any external authority or control.

The ordinances of the local church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the church's entry rite and is properly administered to believers through immersion and demonstrates that one has been united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and has been washed clean from sin through Him. The Lord's Supper is a continuing rite of God's people, where the bread and the fruit of the vine are consumed corporately, representing the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ, and celebrating His person and work and anticipated return.

The officers of the local church are elders, which biblically must be men, and deacons. Elders, also biblically known as overseers or pastors, teach and lead the people of God, having authority to govern the local church. Deacons serve the people of God, caring for, in particular, the physical needs of the flock, freeing up the elders to teach and pray.

The Lord has gifted all members to serve the local body of Christ. It is the responsibility and privilege of every believer to develop and minister according to the gift(s) and grace of God that is given to him or her.

MISSION

The church of Jesus Christ is called to be on mission for her Lord. Since the fall, the Lord has always been about seeking a people to return to Himself. He is a missionary God, and He has always sought a missionary people. Although Israel failed to be a blessing to all peoples of the earth, the Father will accomplish this through Christ and His church. As God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to seek

and save the lost, so He also sends His new covenant people into the world to imitate that incarnation, proclaiming His gospel and making disciples of all nations in love. This is accomplished not simply by word, but also by deed, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God calls us to be His church, standing set apart from society, reflecting the holiness of God. Those believers are called to cling to His historic gospel, without compromise, proclaiming Christ's person and work in all its fullness and glory. Yet this message is to be boldly taken in to the culture, as well. Certainly the cross will be an offense and stumbling block to many, but others will be drawn to Jesus and His gospel through missionaries, at home and abroad, contextualizing that message among diverse cultures and people groups. God's promise is that all the nations will be blessed through Jesus. Every tribe and tongue and nation will come to worship Christ through the grace of God and the mission of His church.

Steps in the Church Membership Process

1. Attend Membership Class
2. Read Member & Elder Affirmation of Faith
3. Complete Membership Application
4. Schedule Membership Interview
5. Review & Sign Membership Covenant
6. Membership Affirmed by Elder Team
7. New Member Announced as to the Congregation

To schedule a membership application and schedule a membership interview contact Pastor Ryan or Alex Gossett.

Learn more at www.rootedchurch.com/membership

Thank you for attending the Rooted Church membership class! We believe belonging to healthy local church is a vital aspect of our walk with God and we look forward to discussing that more with you. If you have further questions or would like to take the next step in membership, please contact info@rootedchurch.com or reach out to Pastor Ryan directly, ryan@rootedchurch.com.