



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF POINCIANA

*"Loving People as Jesus Loves Us"*

## DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### I. How to Become a Member at Baptist Church Poinciana

#### 1. Be a born again believer in Jesus Christ

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again",  
John 3:3

- (A) To be born again you must repent of your sins and put your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds." Acts 26:20

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Ephesians 1:7

#### 2. Be baptized as a believer by immersion

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age". Matthew 28:18-20.

- (A) The word baptism means "to immerse in".

- (B) Baptism does not save you but it is:

1. A way of identifying with Jesus' death and resurrection. As Jesus died on the cross, we die to our old way of life. As Jesus rose from the dead we are raised to a new way of life through faith in him.
2. A testimony to others that we have repented to our sins and put our faith in Jesus.
3. An act of obedience to the Lord's command.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19.



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### II. Why is membership important?

1. **A Cultural Reason** – We live in a time where very few people want to be committed to anything, especially, if it requires personal responsibility (example: school, marriage, our county). This attitude has produced an age where even those who attend church doesn't want to be members for fear something will be expected of them.

Church membership is an unselfish decision indicating a person understands privilege comes with responsibility. It makes you unique in an otherwise non-committed society.

2. **A Practical Reason** – Church membership defines who can be counted on. Every team must have a roster. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies those born again believers who can be counted on to help the church fulfill its God-given mission and vision.
3. **A Personal Reason** – Church membership encourages spiritual growth. The church is one of the most useful tools God has given believers to help them grow in their relationship with him. The church provides a place of encouragement, a place to serve God, and a place of accountability. It is hard to find these if you are not committed to any one church.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day approaching". Hebrews 10:24-25.

### III. The Responsibilities of Church Members

God gives every church a mission and a vision to fulfill. This can only be done when each member does his/her part.

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself in love as each part does its work". Ephesians 4:16

(Please see the attached Statement of Faith and Vision pages.)

#### 1. **Consistent Attendance**

It is vitally important for each member to be in church on a consistent basis to worship, encourage, to be encouraged, serve, and grow in his/her knowledge and relationship with the Lord. First Baptist offers eight worship services a month (Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings). Consistent attendance would be defined as a minimum of 3 times a month. Remember: Church Membership is a commitment.



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### 2. Involvement

Church membership is not about having your name on a role. It is about each person being involved by using his/her spiritual gifts and natural talents to help the church fulfill its God-given mission and vision. Involvement would be defined as volunteering in the church with enthusiasm and reliability on a consistent basis. (Please fill out a Connect Card at this time.)

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different fits, according to the grace given to each of us. If you gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:4-8.

### 3. Financial Support

The work of the church cannot be done without the sacrificial giving of its members and attenders. Imagine how much it costs to run your household, then multiply that times 100 or more. First Baptist Poinciana is part of the Southern Baptist Convention; however we receive no financial support from them. Our only means of support is from the church itself. We send 3 ½% of our offerings to the Greater Orlando Baptist Association (GOBA) and the Florida Baptist Convention for the support of local and foreign missions, Baptist Children’s Homes, Church planting and Baptist Universities.

The Old and New Testament teach that each person is to give a tithe (10% of their income, retirement, Social Security, Disability, etc. to the local church. As each person gives, in obedience of the Scriptures, the church is able to fulfill its mission and vision unhindered by financial difficulty. Tithing is a matter of obedience and trust in the Lord.

“Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. But, you ask, How are we to return? Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, How are we robbing you? In tithes and offering. You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the flood gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:7-10



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“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” Matthew 23:23

### 4. **Prayer**

The church is empowered, undergirded and protected through the prayers of its members. Each member should pray consistently for the leadership of the church, other members and that the mission and vision of the church is fulfilled.

“Any pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18.

### 5. **Unity**

Unity is essential for the health and well-being of a church and for it to fulfill its mission and vision. Many churches have closed their doors due to division. Members often lose sight of the fact that no one can have everything they want all the time. Churches are made up of people with different opinions, likes and dislikes. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the members to support the leadership God has placed over the church. If at any time a member is unable to support the mission, vision and direction of the church they should take their concerns to the Pastor and refrain from negative talk, criticisms and gossip about the church or its members and leaders. If the member is still unable to support the direction of the church, they should then leave the church in a spirit of love and unite with another church that better fits their needs.

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you might glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, on order to bring praise to God.” Romans 15:5-7

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that is may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefits to you.” Hebrews 13:17

“Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.” Titus 3:10-11