



Prince of Peace Church
Version 3, 20 August 2016

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

CLASS M-1

Some years back, a young theological student working on his doctorate undertook an intensive study of church-growth books and strategies. He read scores of books on the subject, and drove all over the country studying churches that were winning the lost to Jesus Christ. He then distilled all of his reading and all of his observations into a book, and later used his findings to develop four basic classes for churches. I'm quite grateful that he did this, because I don't have time to read thirty books on evangelism, nor do I have time to drive all over the United States to visit the fastest growing churches in order to study them! But, at one point in his life, a fellow named Rick Warren did have the time to do all of this, and he published what he learned in his book *The Purpose Driven Church*. I am thankful for this book, for the classes that Pastor Rick Warren developed, and for his enormous generosity in allowing me not only to use his material, but adapt it to our local church, Prince of Peace. I am aware that Pastor Warren has been the subject of some controversy in recent years, and, while I have a great deal of respect for him, I do agree with *some* of the concerns that have been raised. In Acts, the Bereans were commended "for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11). I have followed the Berean example, and am confident that the material I will present to you is in line with the Word of God. With this in mind, I invite you to join with me in examining this material. I believe you will be richly blessed!

WELCOME TO BELIEVING AND BELONGING

We're glad you've chosen to take the next step here at Prince of Peace! Now that you believe in and belong to Jesus through baptism, you are ready to explore what it means to belong to your fellow believers in the church.

Session 1 THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian" (Ephesians 2:19).

Key Truths:

1. The church is a _____
2. God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an _____

THE GOALS FOR THIS CLASS

**"I will commit myself to _____ and
to my _____ at Prince of Peace church."**

WHAT MAKES PRINCE OF PEACE A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- **Our** _____ (What God has done for us.)
- **Our** _____ (Why we exist as a church.)
- **Our** _____ (How we fulfill our purpose.)
- **Our** _____ (When and where we fulfill our purpose.)

Our History

I. Our Foundation

A. Our founding issue: the missionary call found in the missionary documents of the missionary God.

1. The missionary _____ is found throughout Holy Scripture, with the call of Abraham (Genesis 12) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28) serving as two focal points.
2. The missionary documents are the books of the _____.
3. The missionary _____ is the Holy Trinity.
 - a. The Father *sent* the _____.
 - b. Jesus Christ was *sent* to save us and found the _____.
 - c. The Father and Jesus Christ then *sent* the Holy Spirit to sustain and empower the Church in its _____!

B. Why did we choose to affiliate with the Anglican Mission in the Americas (AMiA)?

1. OK...What exactly is Anglican?!?!?
2. Choosing to stay Anglican in the U.S.
3. AMiA presented a compelling vision of the church as a _____ *versus* a social club.

C. Our Exodus story

1. Early Tests:
 - a. Our Father's House shows what the Kingdom of God is really all about.
 - b. The great lesson: a good decision is blessed with a good _____.
2. A Journey in Faith
 - a. To Tithe or not to Tithe
 - b. To Mortgage or not to mortgage
 - c. The lesson: God _____ for what He _____.

Session 2

Our PURPOSE

Why Prince of Peace Exists

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

**“WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT
TO THE

GREAT _____
AND THE

GREAT _____

WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!”**

The Great Commandment: *“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments’” (Matthew 22:36-40).*

The Great Commission: *“Jesus said, ‘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” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

- To “Love God with all your heart” is **“WORSHIP”**
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is **“MINISTRY”**
- To “Go...make disciples” is **“EVANGELISM”**
- To “Baptize...” is to **“INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP”**
- To “Teach them...all things” is **“DISCIPLESHIP”**

PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To _____ God's Presence (Worship)
2. To _____ God's Love (Ministry)
3. To _____ God's Word (Evangelism)
4. To _____ God's Family (Fellowship)
5. To _____ God's People (Discipleship)

I. We exist to celebrate God's Presence

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only" (Matthew 4:10).

"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

Expressions of Worship

- **Singing** (Ephesians 5:19)
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Praying** (Psalm 95:6)
- **Hearing the Word** (John 17:17)
- **Giving** (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4)
- **Meditating** (Habakkuk 2:20)
- **Lord's Supper** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Four themes characterize biblical worship:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

II. We Exist to Demonstrate God's Love

MINISTRY: _____

*"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples — **that you have love for one another**" (John 13:35). See also 1 John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13.*

The heart of a healthy church is the health of its _____
Every member needs to be a part of one!

*"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... **All of you** together form the one Body of Christ and **each of you is a separate and necessary part of it**" (1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27).*

At Prince of Peace:

- Every member is a: _____
- Every member has a: _____
- Every spiritual gift is to be used in a _____ to serve others.

III. We Exist to Communicate God's Word

EVANGELISM: _____

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." (Ephesians 3:10).

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" (Romans 10:13-14).

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST ALWAYS GROW

1. Because God _____

*"The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). See also 2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13.*

2. Because God _____

*"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full**" (Luke 14:23).*

“...you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8).

3. Because God _____

*“Under Christ’s control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow**” (Colossians 2:19).*

“I will build my church” – Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 16:18).

IV. We Exist to Bring People into our Fellowship

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3).

V. We Exist to Make Disciples

DISCIPLESHIP: EDUCATION FOR _____, “IN –FORMATION.”

*“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity**...” (Hebrews 6:1).*

“Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

“[God has given]...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

More details will be covered in Class M-2, “Growing in Grace.”

Our Statement of Faith

What our Church Believes

“In necessariis, unitas; in dubiis, libertas; in omnibus, caritas.”

**“In things essential, unity; in things doubtful, liberty;
in all things, love.”**

- **In things essential, we must have unity.**

Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6).

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

“But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8-9).

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

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God” (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22).

- **In all our beliefs — we show charity.**

*“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have **no love**, I amount to nothing at all”* (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Satan’s “one-two” punch:

Make _____ nonessentials, and make nonessentials _____.

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER PP. 864 - 878

1. About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three Persons are co-equal, and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1: 2, etc.

2. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory, and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of kings, and LORD of lords.

Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

3. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

4. About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth and ultimate standard for Christian belief. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6; Psalm 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5

5. About human beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God and are called to be like Him in character. People are the apex of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us have inherited a nature that is hostile to God. We have expressed this hostile nature through sinful thoughts, words, and deeds. We are unable to save ourselves.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

6. About salvation

Salvation from sin and eternal death / hell was accomplished for us by the hard work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn away from sin, away from our self-ruled life, and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 12, 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. About new life in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is *the* promised Gift to each believer in Jesus Christ. His indwelling presence brings salvation (regeneration) and also begins the process of transforming our minds to become like the mind of Christ, and our lives to be conformed to the image of Jesus. The Holy Spirit produces genuine change in our hearts so that our lives are progressively marked by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Although perfection will not be attained until heaven, the overall trajectory is one of progressive renewal of the spiritual life.

John 16:7-14, 20:22; Romans 8:29, 12:2; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 3:12

8. About eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

Session 3

Our Strategy

*"I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means
I might win some to God.
I do all of this for the sake of the Good News."*

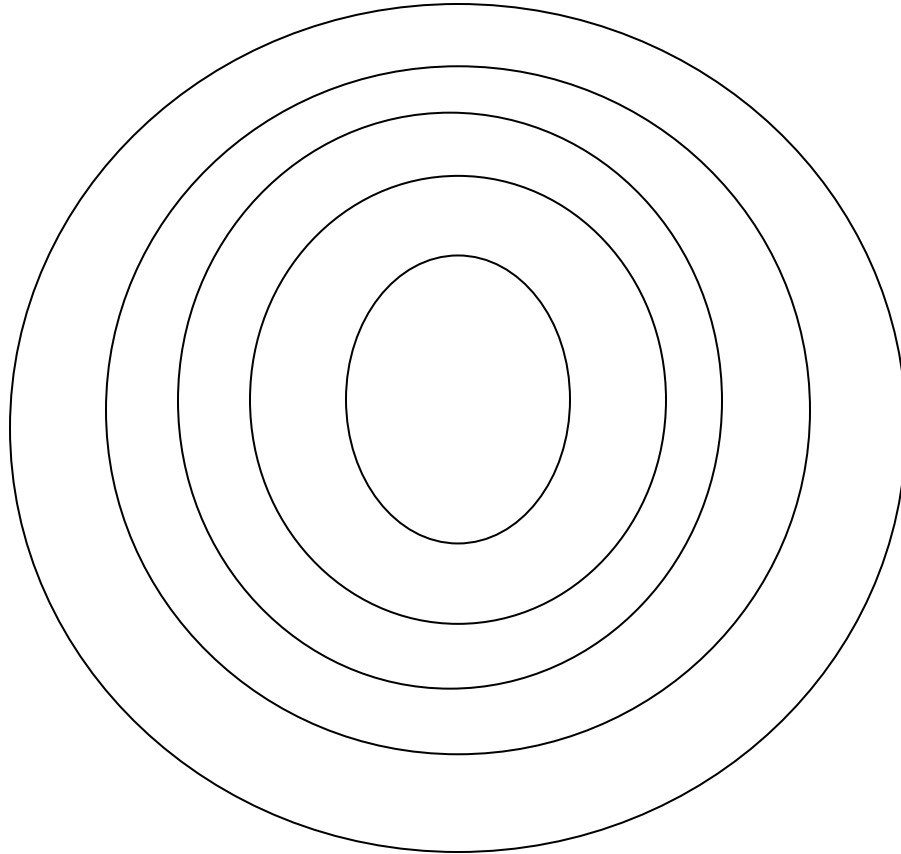
1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Who Are We Trying to Reach?

"...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

- A. No one _____ of worship can appeal to everybody.
- B. The solution: offer different _____ of worship.
 - 1. "Free" 1 Samuel 10:5
 - 2. "Formal" 2 Chronicle 31:2
 - 3. Key Principle: 1 Corinthians 14:40
- C. We change the _____ of worship to accommodate the preferred _____ of the worshiper.
- D. But note: we never change the _____ to accommodate the _____.

Five Circles of Commitment



Prince of Peace's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments.

THE FOUR PRINCE OF PEACE COVENANTS

M-1 The Commitment Covenant

is a commitment to _____ and to the Prince of Peace _____.

"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian" (Ephesians 2:19).

"We are all parts of Christ's Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others" (Romans 12:4-5).

M-2 The Maturity Covenant

is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth.

"Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

"Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit" (1 Timothy 4:7).

M-3 The Ministry Covenant

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others.

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..." (1 Peter 4:10).

"There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:5, 27).

M-4 The Missions Covenant

is a commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

"...you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15).

**WHY DO WE HAVE THESE
COVENANTS?**

**Your character is
determined by
your primary**

**not the ones
you make,
the ones you**

<p align="center">The P.R.I.N.C.E. of P.E.A.C.E. Strategy <i>11 Principles that make us unique</i></p>
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P_____ (Romans 5:1, Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-20, Romans 14:19)

R_____ (John 17:3, 1 Samuel 23:16, John 13:34)

I_____ (Acts 2:42, Proverbs 5:23, Philippians 3:14)

N_____ (Romans 12:2)

C_____ (Luke 9:62, Luke 14:26-35)

E_____ (Ephesians 4:11-12)

of

P_____ (Matthew 5:10, John 15:20, Hebrews 13:3)

E_____ (Ephesians 2:18-20, 3:6)

A_____ (Hebrews 4:13, Hebrews 13:17)

C_____ and _____ (Matthew 28: 18-20, John 13:34)

E_____ welcomed and accepted (Romans 15:7)

Session 4

Our Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

How Our Church is Structured

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE

1. The Church is a _____

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” (Acts 2:42).

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”
(Ephesians 4:3).

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together” (Romans 14:19).

ANY thought, word, or deed that causes disunity is sin. Colossian 3:15, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Timothy 2:14, Proverbs 17:14, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3, Colossians 2:2, Philippians 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Corinthians 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Timothy 2:23, Romans 15:5-6, Romans 12:16-18, Colossians 3:13-14, Psalm 133:1.

IMPLICATION:

A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS _____

*“(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...**”* (1 Corinthians 11:17-18).

Voting tends to create _____

At Prince of Peace, members only vote on:

- Leadership Team Candidates (Bylaws III.3.1, IV.4.1)
- To mortgage, encumber, or convey real estate (Bylaws, VI.6.5: LT 75%, M 70%)
- To change the Bylaws (Bylaws XIII.13.1.c: 66%, XIII.13.1.d: 51%)

2. The Church is a _____

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds” (1 Peter 3:8). See also Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

WE MAJOR ON _____ NOT _____

*“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**...” (1 Timothy 5:1-2).*

*“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God’s church**?” (1 Timothy 3:4-5).*

3. The Church is a _____

1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!

We are an organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____

NOT _____.

*“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 who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us” (Romans 12:4-6).*

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

AT PRINCE OF PEACE, WE STRIVE FOR A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN

MAXIMIZE _____ AND

MINIMIZE _____.

*“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for **works of ministry**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” (Ephesians 4:11-12).*

OUR STRUCTURE

- THE PEOPLE ARE THE “_____.”
- THE PASTOR IS THE “_____.”

4. The Church is a _____

Jesus’ favorite description of the church: John 10:1-30, Matthew 26:31; 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____

*“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then **take care** of my sheep’” (John 21:16-17).*

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- “*POIMEN*” — “Shepherd”
- “*PRESBUTEROS*” — “Elders”
- “*EPISCOPOS*” — “Oversight” “Bishop”

*“To the **elders** I say...**Be shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers**...” (1 Peter 5:1-2).*

*“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. **Be pastors** of the church of God...” (Acts 20:17-18, 28).*