



Forestburg Baptist Church

Living by Faith, Known by Love

**iConnect: New Members' Class**  
**Session Three: Vision, Mission, Ministry**

## Vision and Mission

### 1. To live by faith

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and *the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*”

Hebrews 11:6 “*Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*”

### 2. To be known by love

Matthew 22:37-39 “‘You shall *love the Lord your God* with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘*you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’”

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

### 3. To be a voice of hope

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us *hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*”

1 Peter 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who *according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

### 4. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. A top priority in a \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 2:42 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Romans 14:19 “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Ephesians 4:3 “Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

5. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Galatians 6:10 “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

1 Peter 2:4-5 “And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

6. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 12:4-5 “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”

## What It Means to Be a Member

1. The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word;

\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to His church (Ephesians 5:25).

- b. 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, etc. 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.

- c. 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.

- d. 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’re not committed to any specific church family.