

Growth Track



Membership

**COMPASS**  
**SOUTH**

## **Section One: The Gospel**

# **KNOWING GOD**

## **Membership Check List**

During this Membership Class we ask that each participant take the material and prayerfully read it and consider what God would have for their lives. If there are more questions our pastors will be available to answer questions and provide clarity. Once the participant decides that they would like to move forward with a commitment to membership the next step is affirm agreement with our teaching and principles and sign our commitment to membership.

### **What this class will cover?**

1. A written or verbal testimony of your faith story and confession of Christ as Lord.
2. A conversation about baptism and church history.
3. An agreement doctrinally and commitment to Compass Church.
4. Signing our membership Covenant Commitment.
5. Completion of the Session One of the Growth Track and Enrollment into Session Two.
6. A question and answer time.

## THE INTRODUCTION

We are so glad that you have chosen to join us on this journey to finding your place here at Compass South and pursuing the calling God has specifically placed on your life to make a difference in and through the local church and beyond.

*Our relationship with God brings stability to our lives.*

*“I need not torment myself with the fear that my faith may fail; as grace led me to faith in the first place, so grace will keep me believing to the end. Faith, both in its origin and continuance, is a gift of grace.” (Phil 1:29). - J.I. Packer, Knowing God*

This Testimony reminds us that **Christianity is fundamentally about knowing God.**

Daniel 11:32 says, **Those who know their God** shall stand firm and take action.

Isaiah 26:3 says, You keep him in **perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you**, because he trusts in you.

Philippians 3:10 says, **I want to know Christ**—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

# THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON LUKE 15:11-32

This parable has traditionally been called “The Parable of the Prodigal Son” but it is probably better described as “The Parable of the Prodigal **FATHER** or the parable of the **TWO LOST SONS**.”

The word prodigal means reckless or extravagant. One son is the **HEDONISTIC YOUNGER BROTHER** and the other is the **MORALISTIC OLDER BROTHER**.

**The younger brother:** He basically tells his father, “I wish you were dead” and leaves with his inheritance. He doesn’t love the father, just what he can get out of his father. He spends everything he has in what the Bible calls “riotous living.”

Eventually the son “comes to himself.” He realizes that servants in his father’s household have it better than him. He decides to go home. On the way he writes a speech to his father about how he is no longer worthy to be called a son but wants to be a servant. **What would you say if this was your son?**

**What does the father do?** He runs to him. He doesn't let him finish his speech. He covers his filth with **his best robe**. He **puts a ring on his finger**. He gives him **sandals to wear on his feet**. Instead of shame, he gives him honor. Instead of throwing him in prison, he throws a party.

Salvation in Christ is a robe of **identity**.

Salvation in Christ is a ring of **value**.

Salvation in Christ is sandals of **purpose**.

**The older brother:** There is another son in the text. There is not just one lost son in this passage. One is just more subtle than the other. No one misses the fact that the younger brother is lost but few catch the fact that the **OLDER** brother is lost as well.

And this is where some of us are having lived and/or grown up in the religious south. The older brother has been with the father the whole time but he is just as **LOST** as the younger brother. He doesn't love the father either. He just wants the father for his stuff as well. He used morality to get what he wanted.

The younger brother is **UNRIGHTEOUS** while the older brother is **SELF- RIGHTEOUS** .

It can be more **DANGEROUS** in the end to be the **OLDER** brother.

The **YOUNGER** brother enters the party while the **OLDER** brother never does. He never enters the joy of the father.

### **Have we believed the gospel?**

Do we believe that **Christianity is primarily about Jesus & what he has done** & not about us & what we have to do?

## **What does it mean to have eternal life and know God?**

**I John 5: 12-14 says, Whoever has the Son has life;** whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.** And **this is the confidence that we have before Him:** If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

# WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY?

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now **I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For **I delivered to you as of first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

**Which you received:** The gospel covers our past

**In which you stand:** It is our present confession

**By which you are being saved:** It is our future hope

We want to take a moment right here to stop and extend an invitation for you to come into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that not everyone who walks in these doors has



come into a relationship with Jesus, and that's okay. Today, God wants to change the entire trajectory of your life by the decision that you make over the next few minutes. You can know forgiveness, peace, and purpose by accepting this free gift from God. We want to ask everyone in attendance to please bow your head.

### **A Time of Prayer**

**Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation."

Those of you who placed your faith in Christ today to be your Savior, we will ask you to let us know of your decision so that we can celebrate with you.

**We want you to share your Christian testimony.** That you have received and believe the gospel, that you are currently trusting in Jesus, and that your hope is in Him alone.





# BAPTISM

We are convinced that every Christian is called to introduce others to Jesus. Invite your friends and neighbors to church and pray for them to know God. We are image bears. We are sons and daughter. Our mission is to know God and make Him known.

## WHY SHOULD A BELIEVER BE BAPTIZED?

TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY **JESUS**.

*"At that time **Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized** by John in the river." Mark 1:9*

JESUS **COMMANDS** IT.

*"Jesus said, '**Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.**'" Matt. 28:19-20*

TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU ARE A **BELIEVER** .

*"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8*

# WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

TO ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION.

**"Christ died for our sins...** He was buried...and He rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

**"For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."** Col. 2:12

**"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!"** 2 Corinthians. 5:17

TO ILLUSTRATES MY **NEW LIFE** AS A CHRISTIAN.

**"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!"** Romans 6:4

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.**

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?** BECAUSE **JESUS** WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” **Matthew 3:16**

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE **BIBLE** WAS BY IMMERSION

“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” **Acts 8:38-39**

THE MEANING OF THE **GREEK** WORD “*BAPTIZO*”  
THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO **DIP UNDER**  
WATER.

The word baptism is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo*, meaning, “to immerse or dip under water.” A transliteration is a word that is not translated but rather just brought over from one language to another. An example of a transliteration in English is the word “taco”. We just bring the Spanish word over into English.

**IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!**

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED? EVERY PERSON WHO HAS **BELIEVED** IN CHRIST

**“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41**

**“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13**

“But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

*If baptism was tied to one’s salvation experience & not as a symbolic expression of the gospel & one’s personal life change, then Compass asks that individual to celebrate baptism again with the Compass church family.*

**It is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.**

## Section Two: Life Together

# SCRIPTURES THAT SHAPE CHURCH CULTURE

The Growth Track is centered on what we want **for you** more than just what we want you to know about the church. We want to know you and for you to know us. We want to see you find friendships that enrich your life and encourage your faith.



## KEY VERSE # 1 - 1 Thessalonians 2:8

We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you **not only the gospel of God but also our own lives**, because you had become dear to us.

### What does this verse reveal:

They **CARED** for each other deeply.

They **ENJOYED** sharing with each other.

They **SHARED** the gospel.

They **SHARED** life together.

They **BECAME** dear to one another.

## KEY VERSE # 2 - Hebrews 10:24-25

*And **let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

The idea in this passage is that **believers should meet together regularly to encourage each other and help other believers as they try to be more like Jesus**. We believe that true community happens by connecting with other followers of Christ.

## **KEY VERSE # 3 - 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25**

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

This is our prayer for our church: Every member witnessing and speaking truth. Prophets are people sent from God on behalf of people. What if **every member** of our church thought this way?

Our church would be attractive.

Our church would be convincing.

Our church would call people to an account.

Our church would affect the inner man.

Our church would be an environment for repentance.

Our church would be a venue for people to worship.

Our church would be evident to outsiders that God is here.

**We must not underestimate the defunding impact of disunity.** We must not be satisfied with the culture of a church where only the preachers are proclaiming Christ. Our goal is **every member a minister** and **every disciple a disciple-making**

**disciple**. When we gather, the whole house is saying **yes and amen**.

Newcomers can tell when a church is not together. Newcomers will not come back to a church full of nominally involved. When the membership drags in out of duty, when the enthusiasm is low and the criticism is high mark it down seekers move on.

Newcomers in disengaged churches will do the opposite of these verses.

1. They will be turned away.
2. They will not be convinced.
3. They will not be called to any account.
4. The inner heart will be not be exposed.
5. They will leave the church without repenting, worshipping, or experiencing the presence of God.

May guests say, **“God was really among us”**.

**Relationships are worth the work.**

Don't give up making time.

Don't give up trying to understand.

Don't give up working through conflict.

Don't give up pursuing each other.

Don't give up assuming the best.

Don't give up doing your part.

Don't give up believing we are better together.

## **KEY VERSE # 4 - Ephesians 4:16**

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

### **Let's Pray this verse:**

1. Jesus we trust that you will build your church
2. We are confident of your promise to build your church
3. We know you are able to put people together
4. We ask that you provide and prompt and assemble just the right people.
5. Lord raise up each person to do their part.
6. Help us be a church that includes people and enlists them
7. As we plan and prepare help us to create a church mindset of involvement
8. We want to see the people serving in the church -growing and thriving spiritual
9. We want to be a team that encourages each other
10. Give us a church culture that is a culture of growing, a culture of healthiness, and a culture full of love.

# How We Disagree

*"But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine." Titus 2:1*

At Compass South we hold some things in a **CLOSED HAND** (core beliefs) meaning we cannot compromise these core beliefs or we will be violating what God has revealed to us clearly in His Word.

Other things we hold in an **OPEN HAND** (secondary beliefs) that are areas where we two members can disagree and yet still worship together and have fellowship in the same body of believers.

## **Examples:**

Closed hand- Inerrancy of scripture, the divinity of Jesus, sinfulness of man, salvation by grace, etc.

Open hand- spiritual gifts, end times prophesy, Issues of liberty, etc.

To compromise our core beliefs would be **VIOLATING** Scripture.

To overemphasize secondary beliefs would be **MISREPRESENTING** Scripture.

We believe that we have to be as **SPECIFIC** as scripture and at the same time be as **GENERAL** as Scripture. We are **COMPELLED** in areas of truth but Free in areas of conscience.

We have the responsibility to discern where the Word is being **PRESCRIPTIVE** and where it is being **DESCRIPTIVE**.

Romans 16:16 Greet each other with a holy kiss.

1 Timothy 2:9 braided hair and gold or pearls...

1 Corinthians 11:22 Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?

# MEMBERS COVENANT

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others.

## **My Personal Commitment:**

\_\_\_ **to the authority of the Scriptures.**

(Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

\_\_\_ **to the Christian practices** of Bible reading, prayer, fellowship & worship.

(Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

\_\_\_ **to participate in the life of the church**

- by being baptized after my conversion.
  - by taking communion to remember and
  - by attending weekly services
  - by engaging in a small group
  - by serving and using my gifts in the church
  - by giving financially to support the church
- (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).

## **My Personal Witness:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **to seek to walk in holiness by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit** in all areas of life. (1 Peter 1:13-16. 1 Peter 4:1-3).

\_\_\_\_\_ **to pursue purity** and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, premarital sex and pornography.  
(Romans 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 6:15-20, 1 Cor. 10:8).

\_\_\_\_\_ **to refrain** from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior.  
(Romans 1:28-32; Romans 13:13; Gal. 5:19-21).

\_\_\_\_\_ **to practice faithful chastity** unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_ **to seek to preserve the gift of marriage** and agree to walk through the appropriate steps of marriage reconciliation before pursuing divorce from my spouse.  
(Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12, 1 Cor. 7:10-11).

\_\_\_\_\_ **to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom**, especially actions that could present a stumbling block to another.  
(1 Corinthians 8:1-13).



**My Personal Affirmation:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I affirm the gospel and the essential teachings of the church** and will diligently strive for unity and peace within the church.  
(Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).

\_\_\_\_\_ **I affirm the pastors and leadership of the church** and will graciously receive and support their guidance and leadership.  
(Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).

\_\_\_\_\_ **I affirm the role of accountability the church through His Holy Spirit and scripture has in my life** and commit to follow the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is public with the desire for repentance and restoration.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I affirm the Biblical call to mutual submission and care** in relationship fellow believers.  
(Ps. 141:5; Mat. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Heb. 12)

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

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**We want you to join the church today if you are ready. You may be wondering if this is when we give you an opportunity to join the church?**

The Answer is Yes!

Once you complete Knowing God and Life Together you are able to join the church.

# THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

**We want you to know what our church teaches and be in agreement with our doctrinal statement** in order to join as a covenant member.

The *Baptist Faith & Message* serves as a statement of convictions and beliefs that are basic biblical teachings. Please read it and feel free to visit with our pastors about any questions that you may have.

Compass believes the Bible is the inspired Word of God, without any error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.

## **1. THE SCRIPTURES**

It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of

error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy.

## **2. GOD**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and

personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe.

### **A. GOD THE FATHER**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace.

## **B. GOD THE SON**

Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin.

## **C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

## **3. MAN**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation.

## **4. SALVATION**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus

Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.

## **5. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end.

## **6. THE CHURCH**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;

## **7. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through

partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

## **8. LAST THINGS**

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.

## **10. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations.

## **11. STEWARDSHIP**

Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

## **12. COOPERATION**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God.

### **13. THE FAMILY**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.

# HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

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

## 1. THE CHURCH IS A **FELLOWSHIP**.

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

A top priority in a fellowship is **HARMONY** and **UNITY**.

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

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays **DIVISIONS**.

## 2. THE CHURCH IS A **FAMILY**



*“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*

*“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 Tim. 5:1-2*

### 3. THE CHURCH IS A **BODY**

Therefore, we intend to function on the basis of **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** not **Organizational Charts**.

*“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*

At Compass we have a simple structure so we can maximize **MINISTRY** & minimize **MAINTENANCE**.

*“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...” Eph. 4:11-12*

Our pastors are the **EQUIPPERS** and our members are **MINISTERS**. We are all on **MISSION**.

#### 4. THE CHURCH IS A **FLOCK**

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33 Therefore, it is cared for and led by **SHEPHERDS** .

“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 (**elder**)

EPISCOPOS (overseer or **bishop**)

**Pastors and Elders are synonymous.**

“To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers...” 1 Pet. 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*

**Compass is a Pastor/Elder-Led Congregational Church.**

