

## **Welcome to Berean Fellowship's Membership Class!**

Discovering what church God would have us in is a very important matter. There is certain, necessary information that a person should know prior to making the decision to join a particular church. We hope to serve you by providing such information which will span the following areas:

### A. Our Doctrine

“What do we believe?” “What biblical values inform our practices as a church?” Nothing is more important in the Christian life than what one believes, and so this course will inform you as to our core beliefs and commitments as a church.

### B. Our Church Life

“What does participation in Berean Fellowship look like?” “What avenues exist for worship, growth, and service?” Simply professing certain beliefs is not enough. Our beliefs must find expression in biblical practice. This course seeks to acquaint you with what life in this church looks like, and what your participation here would involve.

### C. Our Organization

“How is Berean Fellowship structured?” “Who are the elders?” “How does membership function in this church?” Scripture is clear that God Himself joins together in the body of Christ, and that God establishes leadership for the care and equipping of His people. Important issues concerning organization, pastoral ministry, and membership will also be covered in this course.

For those who desire to be part of this church, we hope that you will not only be informed, but also inspired as to the role that God would have you play. Participation in a local church is not merely an obligation of Christians, but is a joyful privilege in which we glorify God through fruitful service in the context of meaningful relationships with other believers.

In short, we want to provide you with all the information necessary for you to make an intelligent decision about membership here at Berean Fellowship. It is our desire and privilege to help you determine if God is leading you to become a part of this local church. Ultimately, we desire to do all we can to encourage you in your relationship with Jesus Christ, and critical to that relationship is finding your place of participation and service within His body, the church. We are excited to see what God will teach you and how He will lead you through this class.

### **How will the course work?**

#### **Reading:**

This class does have some homework. We will not be able to cover all of the information in class so there will be some reading and things to consider that will be discussed in class each week. We strongly encourage you to read everything distributed and be prepared for discussion.

#### **What about missed classes?**

You must complete all eight classes, but if you have an issue that will not permit you to attend a class you can still complete the course by setting up a make up session through the church secretary (as appointments are available). All sessions must be completed prior to your elder interview. If you miss more than two classes, you must make them up during the next series of classes prior to becoming a member.

## **How do I become a member of Berean Fellowship?**

While it does require a process, becoming a member of Berean Fellowship involves just a few straight forward requirements:

1. A clear testimony of personal faith in Jesus Christ
2. Successful completion of the membership class
3. Support of the church's Statement of Faith
4. Regular attendance of the Sunday morning service
5. Consistent participation in a Growth Group. We realize that employment, family commitments, or health issues can hinder your ability to consistently attend a Growth Group. These things can be discussed in the membership class, as well as at the elder interview.
6. A meeting with an elder to discuss church membership

Upon completion of these requirements, you will be welcomed into membership with other new members during one of our Sunday Morning Meetings.

## **Our Primary Desire**

Again, thank you for your interest in exploring Berean Fellowship. We are truly honored that you would take the time to learn more about us as a church. Although we do hope that you will find in Berean Fellowship a church home where you can thrive, our primary concern is not that you become a part of this church, but that you become a part of some church. It is our desire that you develop a biblical, enthusiastic conviction about the importance of active involvement in the local church, and with this conviction find a church home where you can worship God, grow in your relationship with Him, and serve in ways that glorify Him. If that church home proves to be Berean Fellowship, then it will be our joy to serve with you.