



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

DISCOVERING CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP 101

SESSION I

Welcome to Discovering Church Membership



Key Truths:

1. The Church is a **family**.
2. God expects you to be a **member** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is **an orphan**.

The Goal of this Class.

That I will commit myself to **Christ** and to the **Church family**.

Four Things unite us:

- Our Strategy
- Our Structure
- Our Statement
- Our Salvation



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORIENTATION CLASS

SESSION ONE



Session I

The First Baptist Strategy

(Paul) “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.

• I Corinthians 9:22-23(Ph)

SESSION I

THE FIRST BAPTIST STRATEGY

The FBC objective is to encourage personal spiritual commitments (covenants).

The Four First Baptist Church Covenants:

1. The Membership Covenant is a commitment to **Christ** and a **Church Family**.
2. The Maturity Covenant is a commitment to the **habits** necessary for *spiritual growth*.
3. The Ministry Covenant is a commitment to discovering and using my **God-given gifts and ability** to serve God and others.
4. The Mission Covenant is a commitment to **share** the Good News with others.

SESSION I

THE FIRST BAPTIST STRATEGY

Why do we have these Covenants?

We become what we are **committed to doing.**

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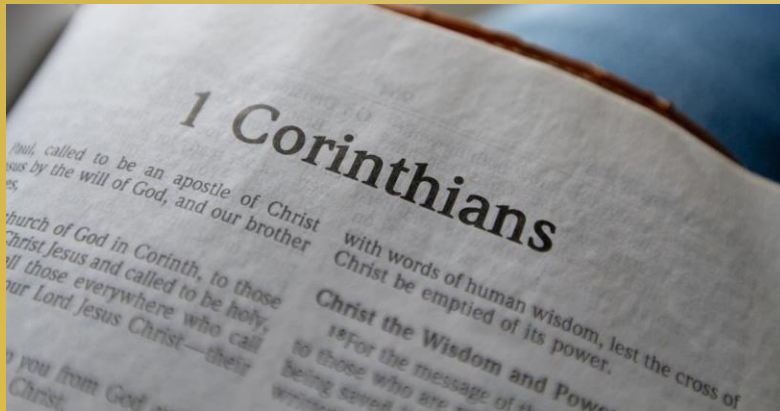
SESSION TWO

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE



SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED



The First Baptist Church Structure

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...

Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way”

1 Cor. 14:33,40

SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

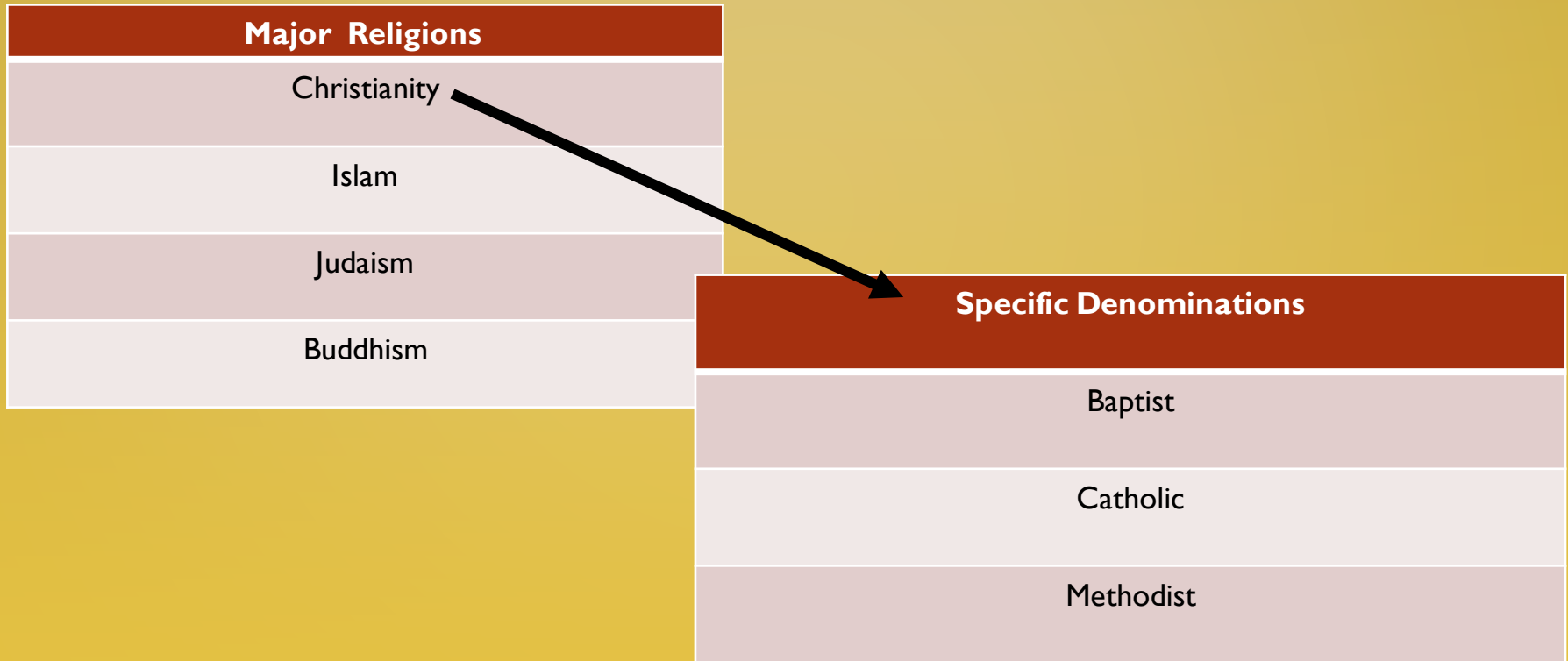
The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.



SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

DENOMINATION VS RELIGION



SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED



I. The Church is a **Fellowship.**

A top priority in a fellowship is **Harmony and Unity.**

Any attitude that causes disunity is sin.

sin = separation from God

Read 1Cor. 1:10

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

SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

"(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear when you come together as a church there are divisions among you. I Cor. 11:17-18

“Voting” tends to create conflict

At First Baptist, we only vote on:

- *Purchase of land or buildings*
- *Calling the senior pastor (selection)*
- *Changes in the Church Constitution*

SESSION 2
HOW OUR CHURCH IS
STRUCTURED



II. The Church is a **family**,
so we operate on the basis
of **relationships not rules.**

Read 1 Peter 3:8

SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED



III. The church is a **Body** (of Christ) Read I Cor. 12:27

We are a body, Not a business

We are an organism, Not an organization

(living, growing, changing)

Therefore, we function based on **Spiritual Gifts not Elected Officers.**

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an “organism” (church), “Ministry” (serving) is the focus.

SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

Our Structure:

The people are the “**ministers**”.

The pastors are the “**administers**”.

SESSION 2

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

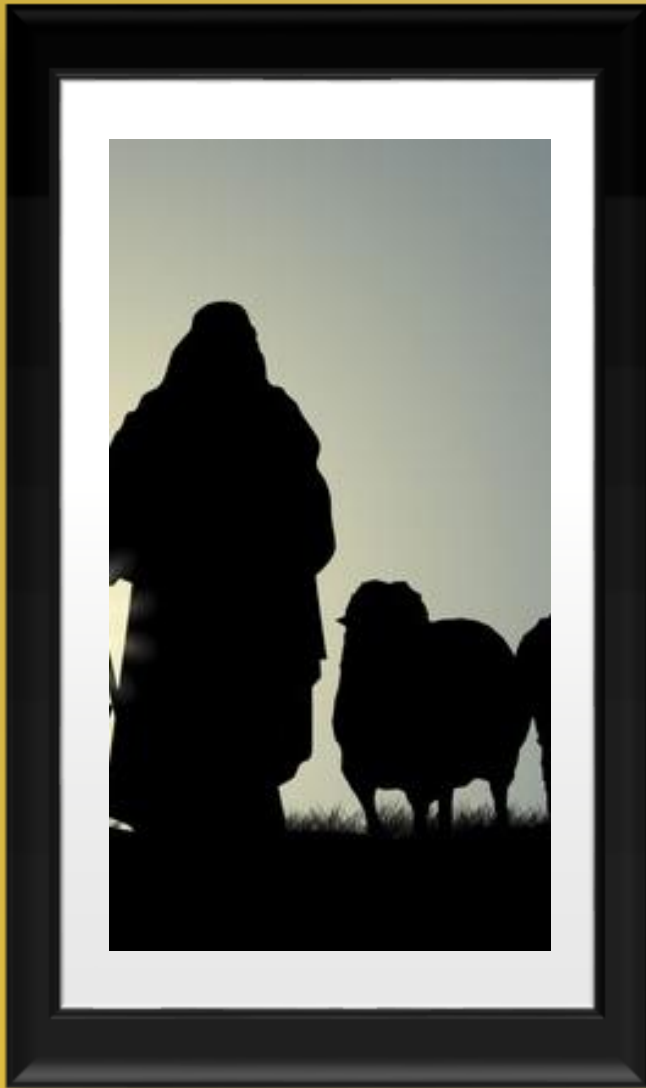
At First Baptist, we have a simple structure so we can maximize **ministry** and minimize **maintenance**.

SESSION 2
HOW OUR CHURCH IS
STRUCTURED

**IV. The Church is a Flock
of Sheep**

Therefore, it is cared for
and led by a **Shepherd.**

Read John 10: 1-30



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ORIENTATION CLASS

SESSION THREE

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS



SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

“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”

I Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

What is the purpose of this church?

We believe that a great commitment to the great **COMMISSION** and the great **COMMANDMENT** will grow a great Church.

The Great Commandment - *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.*

The Great Commission - *Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

- To love God with all your heart is “**Worship**”
- To love your neighbor as yourself is “**Ministry**”
- To go and make disciples is “**Evangelism**”
- To Baptize is to “**Incorporate into Fellowship**”
- To teach them all things is “**Discipleship**”

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

First Baptist Church exists:

- To **Reverence** the name of Jesus (Worship)
- To **Serve** others through ministry (Ministry)
- To **Inspire** non-believers to follow Christ (Evangelism)
- To **Fellowship** with other believers (Fellowship)
- To **Train/Teach** believers to become more like Christ
(Discipleship)

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

I. We exist to Reverence the Name of Jesus through

Worship - **Expressing my Love to God**

Read Matt 4:10

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

Expressions of Worship

Singing - Eph. 5:19

Commitment - Romans 12: 1-2

Praying - Ps. 95:6

Hearing the Word - John 17:17

Giving - 1 Cor. 16: 1-2

Baptism Romans - 6: 3-4

Meditating Hab. 2:20

Lord's Supper - Cor: 11: 23-26

FBC Worship Style

Celebration

Inspiration

Preparation

Psalm 122: 1

Isaiah 40:31

Eph 4: 11-12

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

II. We exist to inspire Non-believers to follow Christ through Evangelism.

Sharing the Good News with Others.

Eph.3:10



Session 3

The First Baptist Statements

Why our Church must never stop growing...

1. Because God **Loves People.** 2 Peter. 3:9
2. Because God **Commands us to reach out.** Luke 14:23
3. Because Growth is **God's will.** Col.2: 19

We believe our Church must grow **Larger** and **Smaller** at the same time.

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

III. We exist to train believers to become more Christ-like through

Discipleship - **Becoming spiritually mature**

“Let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity”. Heb. 6:1

IV. We exist to serve others through Ministry by **Meeting needs with Love.** John 13:35

SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

At First Baptist Church

Every member is a **Minister**.

Every task is **important**.

Every member is a “**10**” in some area.

You are a 10 in some area(s).



SESSION 3

THE FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENTS

Our Statement of Faith

- In essential beliefs....we have unity. Eph.4:4-6
- In non-essential belief....we have liberty. Romans 14:1,4,12,22
- In all our beliefs.....we show charity. 1Cor.13:2

For further insight, read the “Essentials We Believe” 1-8, on pg. 15 and “Our Lifestyle Statements – What we practice” on pg. 17. in the New Members manual.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORIENTATION CLASS

SESSION FOUR

OUR SALVATION



SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

“For now, we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same – we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Everyone wants to be happy. People try in many ways:

- Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.
- Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power.

But real happiness comes from understanding

my Purpose in Life.



SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

I. Why Am I Here?

1. God made Me to **Love Me**. Jer. 31:3

2. We were created to **Enjoy** a personal relationship with God and to **Manage** all of the rest of God's creation! This makes us special. Gen. 1:27-28

3. When we know and love God and live in Harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives.

For further insight read the 9 benefits of loving and serving God on page 21 of the New Members Manual

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

II. What is the problem?

Man has a natural desire to **be the Boss** and to ignore God's principles for living.

The bible calls this attitude: **Sin**

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and to try to live our lives outside of His will.

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

When our relationship with God is not right, it causes **PROBLEMS** in every area of our lives - marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

When People Have Problems, They Often Try Many Different Ways Of Coping Before Turning To God.

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

What's the Solution?

Jesus has already taken care of your Sin problem.

God did this for us because he loves us and wants us to know him.

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION



IV. What does God want me to do?

- **Admit that God has not been first place in your life and ask for forgiveness.**
- **Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again and is alive today.**
- **Accept God's Free Gift of Salvation.**
- **Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord of your life).**

We can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD

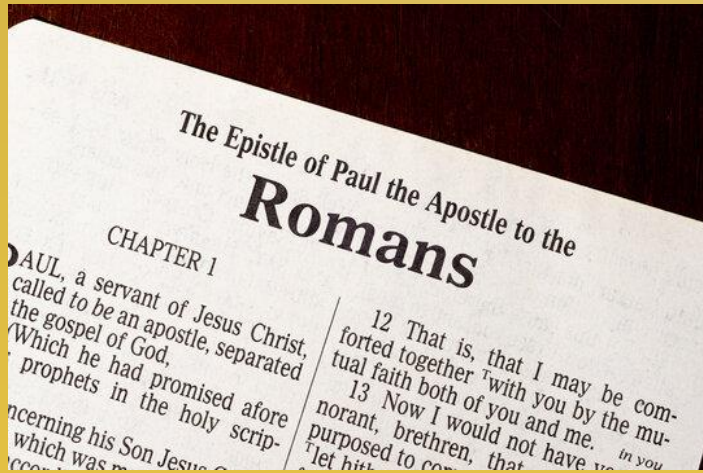
“Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I have ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I’m sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow as a Christian.”

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved”

Romans 10:13



SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

The importance of being Baptized.

I. Why should I be baptized?



1. To follow the example set by **Jesus**. Mark 1:9

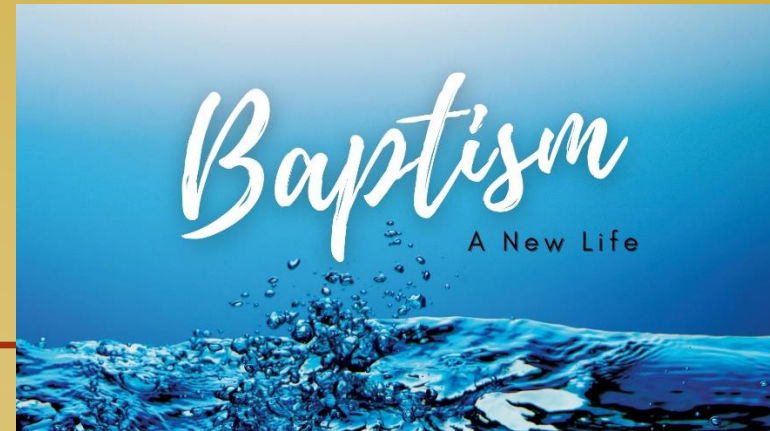
2. Because Christ **Commands it**. Matt.28: 19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a **Believer**.

Acts 18:8

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION



II. What is the meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's **Death**. 1 Cor. 5: 3-4
2. It illustrates my **New Life** as a Christian. 2 Cor. 5:17

III. Why be baptized by immersion?

1. Because **Jesus** was Baptized that way. Matthew 3: 16
2. Every Baptism in the **Bible** was by immersion. Acts 8: 38-39

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

At First Baptist, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed!

For additional insight read page 26: Can my family be baptized together? What should I wear when I am baptized? Will I have to say anything? What if I have special needs?

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

1 Cor. 11:23-26

I. What is the Lord's Supper?

1. It is a **Simple Act.**
2. It is a **Reminder.**
3. It is a **Symbol.**
4. It is a **Statement of Faith.**



SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

II. Who should take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already believers Mark 14: 22-26

III. How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1. Self-Examination 1 Cor. 11:27
2. Confessing My Sins 1 John 1:19
3. Recommitment Rom. 12:19
4. Restoring Relationships Matt 5: 23-24

IV. When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

There is no clear command in Scripture to tell us how often we should observe the Lord's Supper. The important thing is that when we partake of the Holy Communion, we do it in remembrance of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior.

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

*The difference between attenders and members can be summed up in one word.....**Commitment!***

What it means to be a Member:

At First Baptist, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

WHY COMMIT TO FORMAL MEMBERSHIP

- **A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the Church.**
- **A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society. It Builds character.**
- **A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on. It identifies our family.**
- **A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.**

**For additional insight read page 28 in the
New Members Manual.**

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER

I. I will protect the **Unity** of my church

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

Rom. 15:19 Rom. 15:5 I Peter 1:22 Eph.4:29

Heb. 13:17

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

II. I will share the responsibility of my church by:

- praying for its growth
- inviting the unchurched to attend
- warmly welcoming those who visit

I Thess. 1:2 Luke 14:23 Rom. 15:7

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

III. I will serve the ministry of my church by:

- discovering my gift(s) and talents
- being equipped to serve by my pastors
- developing a servant's heart

Peter 4: 10, Eph. 4: 11-12, Phil 2: 3-4, 7

SESSION 4

OUR SALVATION

IV. I will support the testimony of my church by:

- attending faithfully
- living a Godly life
- giving regularly

Heb. 10:25

Phil. 1:27

1 Cor. 16:2

Lev. 27:30

SESSION I QUIZ

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STRATEGY

For lesson credit, please send an email to firstbaptistinc@aol.com to the attention of Minister LaBlonde Harmon and Deacon Ronald Quashie to answer these questions.

1. What are the four First Baptist Church Covenants?
2. What does each covenant represent?

SESSION 2 QUIZ

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE

For lesson credit, please send an email to firstbaptistinc@aol.com to the attention of Minister LaBlonde Harmon and Deacon Ronald Quashie to answer this question.

- I. What are the four characteristics of the church?

(Clue: Four F's)

SESSION 3 QUIZ

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE

For lesson credit, please send an email to firstbaptistinc@aol.com to the attention of Minister LaBlonde Harmon and Deacon Ronald Quashie to answer these questions.

1. Name the five purposes for which First Baptist Church exists.
2. Define what it means to worship God.
3. Define the term evangelism.
4. Define the term ministry.

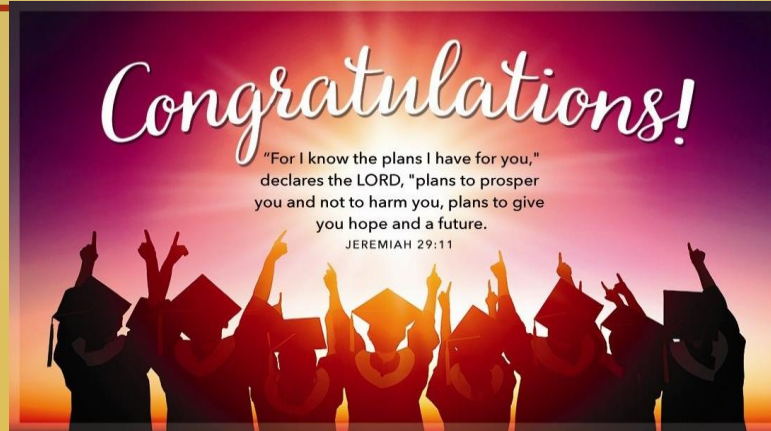
SESSION 4 QUIZ

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE

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1. Why should I be baptized?
2. How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?
3. What is expected of me as a member of First Baptist Church?

SESSION 4 OUR SALVATION



Welcome!

Thank you for Choosing First Baptist Church!

Please address all comments or questions to firstbaptistinc@aol.com Attention Minister LaBlonde Harmon and Deacon Ronald Quashie. God Bless You.