

CENTER CHURCH PHARR

OUR VISION

Bring personal, regional, and global expansion of God's Kingdom through His obvious presence in and through His church.

OUR MISSION

Serving our community and the Rio Grande Valley, not just a church, we are to demonstrate God's grace by impacting our very culture with His unconditional love and transforming power.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THESE

1. Proclaim the Word of God, the entire Word of God.
2. To function as the first century Church, as an Apostolic, Five-Fold, operating in unity, vision and purpose.
3. To establish the family as the number one priority in church life, supporting single parents in achieving this purpose and raising our Children from cradle to career in the Gospel.
4. Have care and concern over the lost, by doing exactly what Jesus said, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. (Matt. 28:19-20)
5. Center Church is committed to giving 10% of every offering taken to mission work, both local and globally.
6. Building up the Kingdom of God by being generous on every occasion.
7. Be One in Unity and Purpose

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible: Authoritative, Inerrant (Without Errors) and Infallible. The Bible teaches inerrancy, Jesus affirmed inerrancy, the church has believed in inerrancy, and God's character demands inerrancy. We accept the Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament, as the authoritative written Word of God.

The Bible Teaches Inerrancy.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17) The Word translated “inspiration” means “breathed out by God”. God Himself gave the Scriptures. Rephrased, this verse says that all Scripture was breathed out by God.

Jesus said, “Your Word is truth” (John 17:17). This inerrancy isn’t just in passages that speak about salvation, but also applies to all historical and scientific statements as well. It is not only accurate in matters related to faith and practice, but it is accurate and without error regarding any statement, period (John 3:12).

Infallibility

Peter said “the word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Pet. 1:23-25) and therefore its authority cannot be broken. When addressing a difficult passage, Jesus said, the Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:34-35). In fact, He said, “not one jot or one tittle will by no means pass away from the law till all is fulfilled” (Mat. 5:18). These speak to the Bible’s inerrancy and infallibility. “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practices like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

The God Is Manifest as One in Triune Relationship

There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty, and perfect in holiness, truth, and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, coexistent, co-equal, co-eternal. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity. One God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is the foundation of Christian faith and life.

God the Father

God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth. By His Word and for His glory, He freely and supernaturally created the world from nothing. Through the same Word He daily sustains all his creatures. He rules over all and is the only Sovereign. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things

together for good to those who love Him, and in His unfathomable grace gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for mankind's redemption. He made man for fellowship with Himself, and intended that all creation should live to the praise of His glory.

God the Son - Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He was perfect in nature, teaching, and obedience. He is fully God and fully man. He was always with God and is God. Through him all things came into being and were created. He was before all things and in him all things hold together by the word of his power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation, and in him dwells the fullness of the godhead bodily. (John 1:1) says; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." He is the only Savior for the sins of the world, having shed His blood and died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. By His death in our place, He revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, on the third day God rose Jesus in bodily form from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness, and for a period of 40 days appeared to more than 500 witnesses, performing many convincing proofs of his resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, he intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all. He is the Head of His body, the Church, and should be adored, worshipped, loved, served, and obeyed by all.

God - The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Through the proclamation of the Gospel He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord. By the same Spirit a person is led to trust in divine grace and mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth, and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son, who in turn came to glorify the Father. He will lead the Church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's Word. He is the empowerment through which we live victoriously in this world over sin and for living a Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an a baptism into the Holy Spirit and an ongoing

baptism, which is the empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts His supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced. He is to be respected, honored, and worshiped as God the Third Person of the Trinity.

Humanity

God made man—male and female—in His own image, as the crown of creation, that man might have fellowship with Him and worship Him and enjoy Him forever. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. Being separated from His Maker, yet still responsible to Him, he became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and, apart from a special work of God's grace, completely incapable of returning to God in his own strength. It extends to his mind, will, emotions and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in and through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Gospel

Jesus Christ is the Gospel. The good news is revealed in His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. John 1; Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel, His resurrection is the power of the gospel, and His ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and settles His holy wrath. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men must be saved.

At the heart of all sound doctrine is the Cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have of glorifying God because of what He has accomplished. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches, and ministries to proceed from and be related to the cross. Man must respond in one way or another to the Gospel. Man's response to the gospel is

rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. It is also true that the message of the Gospel is only effectual to those who genuinely repent of their sins and, by God's grace, putting saving faith in Christ. This Gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by Kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Christ, he cannot become a true disciple. Salvation, redemption is the true gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinful man. ...All true believers endure to the end. Those whom have truly accepted Christ as not only Savior, but Lord, sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace, this is not to say that they become perfect in this world, but ultimately they shall persevere to the end. "Those whom the Father has placed in Christ nothing can take them from Him." (John 10:29) However, a person must make his election sure, for there are many who have said, Lord, Lord, but their hearts are from Him, doing all types of works, but denying the truth and emptying the Gospel of it's power. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in your name drive out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:21-23)

True Salvation

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10: 9-10).

Lordship of Jesus Christ

The Lordship of Jesus Christ means that Jesus rules supreme over every area of our life. Remember, someone or something will control your life. Perhaps selfish desires control you: the pursuit of money, pleasure, popularity, etc. but Jesus demands total surrender of your life. If the issue of Lordship is not settled, you will not move further in the Christian life until you get this absolute principal settled. God is a God of Covenants: The definition of a Covenant is; "a bond; a covenant refers to two or more parties bound together." A Blood Covenant is; "a bond; a covenant of two or more parties bound together. That requires blood to seal the covenant made by the parties." That is why the

blood of Jesus was required to fulfill God's New Covenant with man. When we are truly born again we enter into a blood covenant with God. He promises to be faithful to us, we promise to be faithful to Him. We give Him our lives, He gives us His. This is the greatest exchange in the universe! We give Him our sin and we receive His righteousness. We give Him our weakness and we receive His strength. We give Him our sorrow and receive His joy. We become complete in Him. This wonderful New Covenant is described as a "Better" covenant (see Hebrews 7:22) because now Jesus Christ actually lives inside of us, giving us both the desire and the power to do God's will and walk in covenant relationship with Him. "For it is God which work in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Remember: God is ready to take full responsibility for the life that is fully yielded to Him.

A Response to Truth

As a part of becoming a member of Center Church, two questions must be asked and answered:

1. Have you confessed, asked for forgiveness and repented of your sins.
2. Have you bowed before Jesus Christ and asked Him to be your personal Savior and Lord, surrendering your life completely to Him?

Yes _____ No _____

If the answer is No; Confess your sins, come to Jesus Christ and ask for forgiveness right now. Surrender all of your life to Him. Trust Him to cleanse and forgive you of your sins and give you eternal life. Remember the promise of God's word: "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame." (Romans 10:9-11)

Sanctification

The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce His fruit in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though the temptations of sin remains a reality, as we are led by the Spirit we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping His commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in Heaven. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith,

knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word, and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Discipleship Training, Personal Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Fellowshiping with other Believer's, Accountability and Confession, are all vital means of experiencing the power of grace in their lives. Nevertheless, the Believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve His people until the end, which is most certain. (Ephesians 4)

Why bible study is necessary

The study of God's Word is absolutely necessary if we are to grow in our relationship with God. The Word of God is the principal way through which He communicates to us. John 16:12-14 (NIV) "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you." After having read this Scripture, use these three questions to further Understand it.

1. What does it say?
2. What does it mean?
3. How do I apply it to my life today?

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Water Baptism

Acts 2:41 (ESV) "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. " (Romans 6:4).

Water Baptism as obedience to Christ

Faith has been defined as an attitude of believing what God says, and then obeying Him by acting upon it. For the New Testament Christian, faith always has a natural, corresponding response. Being baptized in water is such an act of obedience for every believer who has repented of his sin and confessed faith in Christ. The Bible teaches water baptism both by example and by direct commandment.

Burial of the "Old Man"

According to Ephesians 2:5, man, because of his sinful nature, is "Dead" in sin. If he repents of his sin and accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, he is then "made alive", or given a new life just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. In order to live that new, abundant life, we must bury the old "flesh self" (sinful nature). The waters of baptism are that image of doing so.

Response To Truth

1. Do you believe that water baptism is an essential part of a successful Christian life?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Since you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior have you been baptized in water?

Yes _____ No _____

3. When baptized, did you understand that the act of baptism was not only obedience, but actually the burial ground for the old you?

Yes _____ No _____

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience that many New Testament believers have. It was preached by the apostles as a baptism separate from the baptism into the body of Christ and water baptism. It's primary purpose is to provide power for the Christian walk, for a more effective witness and greater understanding of God's Word.

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). "do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but you be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Eph. 5:18). Nothing happens between God and men that doesn't happen through the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is more than a one time experience. It is an ongoing lifestyle of being controlled by the Holy Spirit. The terms "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost" refer to the same person.

In many, manifestations of the Holy Spirit occur with speaking in tongues (other languages, heavenly language), prophesying, words of knowledge, healing and others. However, it is up to God how and who He imparts these to. Our part is to seek God and desire the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Lord's Supper

As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the giving of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of humility, faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body. Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23

Resurrection Of The Dead

Jesus is the our Resurrection.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). Resurrection is the central theme of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is important to realize that the resurrection of Christ provided more than a historical and spiritual basis for the Christian faith. Actually, Christ's resurrection opened the way for countless resurrections to follow: for the Bible teaches that all believers, upon accepting Christ as Savior and Lord, experience the resurrection life.

1 Corinthians 15:12-21; "But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. We too, need to experience the resurrection life daily. The same power which raised Christ from the dead dwells within us, bearing witness that we are the children of God and giving our lives a supernatural quality.

Romans 8:11 “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you. ”

Final Judgement

“But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.” (1 Peter 4:5-6)

This the basic truth concerning the Great White Throne of Judgment and the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Bible clearly teaches that all men will one day stand before God to be judged. God the Father has committed all final judgment to His Son, the resurrected Jesus Christ. This is the assurance that all will one day stand before Him, the living Lord of Lords (John 5:22).

This is the future judgment awaiting every person who does not trust Christ as his personal Savior. It is that terrible occasion where Jesus will issue the judgment, “I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:23). The scene of this judgment is described by John in Revelation 20:11-15.

Great White Thrown Judgement

For those who have refused to believe and put their trust in Jesus, EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION awaits them. (Matthew 8:21; Mark 9:46)
STEWARDSHIP - GIVING

The Tithe

The tithe is one tenth of a person’s gross income. Since everything belongs to God and should not be considered one’s own, but we are merely stewards of His resources. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” (Malachi 3:10).

Offerings

The offering is above the tithe and only beneficial to the giver once they have settled the biblical obligation to remember God through our tithes. This

Gifts - Alms

An alms gift is a gift given to minister to the poor. "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God" (Acts 10:4).

Seed

This is an act of generosity with the express faith expectation to receive that which you sow in greater form as a harvest in the area that you gave. Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Sacrifice

This is the area that is giving from which it may be burdensome. Ephesians 5:2 "and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God".

Religious Liberty

Church and State should be separate. The state owes to every Church, protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

Family - Marriage

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Center Church as a local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the Center Church members and the community, it is imperative that all members in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His grace, mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Center Church.

The Vision Of The House

A family Church dedicated to loving our community through all of life's challenges while working hand-in-hand with our community to build our Children, from cradle to career, in the love and mission of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose is Clear

We must "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

- **Moral and Ethical Development:** Training a child in the way they should go includes imparting moral and ethical values. It helps children develop a strong Spiritual compass and a sense of right and wrong according to the Word of God, which can guide their decisions and actions throughout their lives.
- **Character Formation:** Early training can shape a child's character positively. Teaching them about qualities such as Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Kindness, Meekness, Temperance and Self-Control as according to

Galatians 5:22-23 . This will lead to the development of a well-rounded and virtuous individual.

- **Prevention of Harmful Behaviors:** Providing scriptural guidance early in a child's life can help prevent them from engaging in harmful or destructive behaviors, such as substance abuse, violence, or criminal activity. It can also reduce the likelihood of them making poor life choices.
- **Building a Strong Foundation:** Training a child in a Biblical environment will help them build a strong foundation for their spiritual, physical, social, mental and financial well-being. This foundation will develop their overall success and happiness in life.
- **Cultivating Lifelong Learning:** Encouraging a child's curiosity and love for learning the bible will lead to a lifelong pursuit of spiritual knowledge and personal growth for generations.
- **Fostering Healthy Relationships:** Teaching children about empathy, communication, and conflict resolution according the Scripture will help them develop healthy, positive and lasting relationships with others. This can be crucial for their future ambitions and the development of their goals.
- **Spiritual Guidance:** For those who follow the scriptures, training a child in the way they should go will include imparting biblical and spiritual values and teachings. This helps children develop a sense of purpose and a connection to our creator.

The Church must be motivated through leadership

God is raising up a Church which encompasses the five-fold ministry gifts described in: Ephesians 4:11-12; "He gave some, Apostles; and some, Prophets; and some, Evangelists; and some, Pastors and Teachers; for the perfecting of the saints That they may do the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ." The government of this local church is not a democracy. It is a theocracy. We are to be ruled by God with Christ as the Head of the Church. God has delegated authorities to give directions to His people.

- **Center Church is governed** by a corporate body of believers through it's membership and their faithful participation in business meetings and notifications. It is funded by the faithful giving of the local church body and thereby it's members, in good standing, will have a voice in the mission and directives of the church.

- **Center Church is guided** by the Principle Overseer of the Body who is the Senior Pastor of the Church. The Senior Pastor is placed as the President of the Corporation in the State of Texas by the direction of the Church Elders and sealed by the Members in good standing with the Church.
- **Center Church Senior Pastor** is the visionary of the ministry who is assigned to set the direction of the ministry while managing the Corporation and Leadership of the congregation as defined in the Church Bylaws filed with the State of Texas.

Your response to Center Church Truths

After completing Center Truth’s Membership Teaching, has the Holy Spirit confirmed that this is the church where you are to plant your life, with your faithful attendance to worship services and to further spiritual discipleship growth, through teaching and training meetings?

Yes _____ No _____

Where do you believe God is placing you in Leadership and why?

Do you plan to support Center Church with your tithes, offerings and gifting?

Yes _____ NO _____

Are you now ready to be confirmed into the membership of Center Church?

Yes _____ No _____

Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Signature: _____