

Belong

MEMBERSHIP

STUDENT SYLLABUS

The Rock Church Temecula Valley

Next Steps

The Rock Church

Structure

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

HOW THE ROCK CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should not be determined by:

- Culture
- Business Practices
- Denominational Traditions

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

The purpose of The Rock Church is to GROW LEADERS and PLANT CHURCHES. So you will find that the structure of The Rock Church is designed to accomplish that purpose. That's why you are participating in this class. It's a part of the structure of The Rock Church and it contributes to fulfilling our purpose of raising leaders and planting churches.

I. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP.

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..."
Acts 2:42 (Ph)

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

"So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Romans 14:19 (Ph)

Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11;
Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33;
John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6, 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalm 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES.

"(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you..." 1 Corinthians 11:17-18

"Voting" tends to CREATE CONFLICT.

At The Rock Church, the Lead Pastor appoints the Legal trustees:

- The Trustees vote on the Purchase of land or buildings
- Outside Board of Elders

II. 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 (LB)

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONSHIPS NOT RULES.

“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 Timothy 5:1-2 (Ph)

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?” 1 Timothy 3:4-5

III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY.

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23, 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!
We are an organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS NOT ELECTED OFFICERS.

“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

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

AT THE ROCK CHURCH WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND 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...” Ephesians 4:11-12

OUR STRUCTURE

- THE PEOPLE ARE THE “MINISTERS”.
- THE PASTORS ARE THE “ADMINISTRATORS”.

IV. THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK.

John 10:1-30; Matthew 26:31, 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”
- “PRESBUTEROS”
- “EPISCOPOS”

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

AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

“Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life...”
Colossians 1:18 (GN)

The Rock Church

Membership

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attendees” and “members” can be summed up in one word:

COMMITMENT.

At The Rock Church we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A BIBLICAL REASON:
CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Ephesians 5:25

II. A CULTURAL REASON:
IT IS AN ANTIDOTE TO OUR SOCIETY

III. A PRACTICAL REASON:
IT DEFINES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON

IV. A PERSONAL REASON:

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

Fundamental Practices

The following are fundamentals held to be essential and The Rock Church expects members and staff not only to believe in them, but also to practice them in daily living:

- Caring, effective love of both God and man
- A Christ-like unity and acceptance between believers
- A lifestyle dedicated to God's will in society
- A growing, victorious state of mind because of the indwelling of Christ
- A daily affirmation of Christ as Lord
- A willingness to serve the Lord, even if it means sacrifice
- A desire to be more sensitive to the personal work of the Holy Spirit
- A working faith in God's promises for all needs and daily life situations
- A witness for Christ without hypocrisy
- A firm, committed desire to be Christ's person

Development

We are people who:

- Seek to develop a creative Christian lifestyle whose purpose flows from a commitment to God through Jesus Christ
- Honor our commitments and take responsibility for our personal behavior, decisions, and continuing growth
- Know from experience that self-discipline, struggle, risk, and confrontation are necessary for growth, and recognize that because of the grace of God we grow even through our failures
- Have experiences in self-assessment in every dimension of our lives, in value-clarification based on Biblical truths, and in planning for continuous individual growth and renewal.
- Understand the capabilities of our physical bodies and are committed to the lifelong nurture of our physical selves

Service

We are servants who:

- Are able to joyfully follow Jesus' example of service in the world and pour out our individual and corporate lives for others because of God's love in Christ
- Share our faith unashamedly, disciple other Christians, participate in missionary endeavors, and minister to the needs of people regardless of their agreement with our beliefs
- Affirm the unique worth of every individual as one created by God, as one who has been given individual gifts and talents to be discovered, developed and directed toward service.
- Are faithful stewards of our time, talents, and resources, and welcome and seek opportunities for service as a means to clarify and practice our faith and knowledge

THE ROCK CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with The Rock Church’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with The Rock church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

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

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.” Romans 15:19 (Ph)

“Live in complete harmony with each other — each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.” Romans 15:5 (LB)

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.” 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” Ephesians 4:29

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By praying for its growth
- ...By inviting the un-churched to attend
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.” Luke 14:23 (LB)

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Romans 15:7 (LB)

III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastor and leaders
- ...By developing a servant’s heart

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...” 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

“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...” Ephesians 4:11-12

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...”
Philippians 2:3-4, 7

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

...By attending faithfully

...By living a godly life

...By giving regularly

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.”
Philippians 1:27 (Ph)

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” 1 Corinthians 16:2

GIVING

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 26:30

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:30