

CHRIST UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Cell Church Introduction

We are blessed to have you as a worshiper and potential member of our redeemed community of believers and/or as a potential laborer with us in the work of God. In the following pages you will be exposed to the vision, programs and services of our ministry. Christ Universal Church is the congregational ministry of Amazing Grace Ministries which is designed to meet in small groups called Cell Churches, for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread (sharing a meal) and prayer.

We pray that as you review the enclosed information, that you will seek direction and guidance from the Holy Spirit as to how you can or should connect with us. Our Cell Church meet from house to house, public places, restaurants, schools, workplaces, worship centers or wherever two or three gather in His name. We call places that meet in homes "Covenant Houses" which serves as a model for establishing at least 49 others in the southeastern states of: SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA and TN., as well as, other regions as the Holy Spirit directs. We will also work to establish Worship & Training Centers for corporate worship, training and prayer.

Covenant Houses are used not only for Cell Church Fellowship, but they also serve as Worship and Training Centers for Amazing Grace Ministries, Network Training Centers for Grace Bible College and Seminary, as well as, providing temporary and emergency housing for individuals and families in distress. If after reviewing the information and you feel led to connect with us, either as a member or as a Cell Church Planter, by becoming a part of our Five Fold Ministry Team. We would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact us and explore the possibilities.

AMBASSADORS - CREED

(2 Corinthians Chapter 5)

"It's A Worthy Cause"

In devotion to the ministry of the Word, we are called to preach the gospel all over the world, to establish new churches and to nurture them through worship and training. There is no limit to how much we can do, so we ask that you share this message with others. There is a great need in this world- there are millions and billions of people alienated from God and each other, who are in danger of being

lost for eternity. We hope that you will respond to a spiritual need as well as a physical need. I believe that when we get a true vision of our lost and dying world, we then will be able to come together for the worthiest of all causes. We challenge you to put aside

any hurt feelings and petty arguments in order that we might concentrate upon the higher calling that God has put before us. I challenge you to join us as partners in the ministry of reconciliation.

Meditate on this.

A Mission to Accomplish

In response to the worthy cause, we have taken on an evangelistic ministry of trying to persuade others to accept Christ. We do this not for our own sake, but for the sake of those that are perishing. We all must "appear before the judgment seat of Christ". For those that are outside of Christ, it will be a terror, but a reward for those in Christ. We do not want anyone to experience the terror of judgment, so therefore we must diligently work to persuade everyone to come to Christ.

We have no ulterior motives or unsatisfied egos behind our ministry. We must visibly declare our whole life before God and man, to see and to examine. We are providing you with details regarding this ministry, our background and our authority. We hope this information will give you an occasion to rejoice on our behalf, and that it would move you to share this vision with others. The true measure of our ministry is not found in our outward appearances, but in the character of our hearts.

Meditate on this.

Compelled By Love

Christ died on the cross for all sinners. If this is true (and we know it is), then it implies that all were dead. How so? Picture Christ's death as a substitutionary atonement, as sinners we had a penalty we owed God because of our sin. Christ was willing to pay that penalty for us as our substitute. We expect the penalty that He paid to be the same as the penalty we owed. Therefore, if what Christ did for us was to die, then this reveals the penalty that Christ came to be our substitute for. This is not clever reasoning, here. We are simply explaining our motive for our ministry. Since all of us were once "dead in sin" until Jesus paid our penalty. We feel a great burden in our heart to find some way of remembering Jesus, for loving us enough to give His own life. The love of Christ binds us together.

Meditate on This.

A Motive To Inspire

Not limited by what we see. we have come to realize that the physical matters, those of the flesh, are temporary, since Jesus has returned to heaven we no longer relate to Him in that way. He is real, and our spiritual fellowship with Him is even more significant than the physical relationship. With this being the case with Christ, there is a spiritual dimension in all people that we should strive to see and not relate to them after the flesh only. We need to learn to appreciate that everyone is created in God's image and seek to relate to one another on that basis.

Meditate on this.

Seeing What We Can Become

When a person is in Christ, he or she still looks the same "after the flesh" as before. But in the Spirit, the person is a new creature. Those that we can persuade to yield to Christ in faith will have their inner character completely reworked. When you have been changed, then consider what a difference you can make with your family and friends, how can we not, make every effort to persuade others to let Christ make them a new creature as well? People should be able to readily testify to the dramatic change that Christ has produce in them. Many people have been involved in some of the dirtiest things imaginable. But they can be "washed" in the blood of the Lamb, which means to be "sanctified" (cleansed) and "justified" (made right) in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God.

Meditate on this.

A Message To Proclaim

To understand the ministry of reconciliation, the basic idea is to take two people who are in a disagreement and help them to resolve their differences so that they can resume their normal relationship. At Calvary, Jesus Christ acted as the mediator between God and sinful man. We had no legitimate charges against a Holy God. But because of our sin. He did have just cause for punishing us with death. This judgment against us would have been devastating, but the Father graciously gave His Son Jesus to pay the penalty for us in order to bring about a resolution to this dispute.

This offer was above and beyond the duty of a mediator, but Christ is no ordinary mediator. All, that agree to these terms and allow Christ to pay their death penalty for them can be reconciled to God, and restored to a peaceful relationship, with the One whom our sins have separated us from. We who have been reconciled to God by Christ are not to rest comfortably. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We have a

duty to announce to others what they need to do if they' want to be reconciled to God as we have been.

No one should ever imagine that the Father was a by stander at Calvary, observing what went on or deciding how to respond. The cross was a part of God's "set purpose and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23 NIV). It was God who was reconciling the world unto Himself. Reconciliation was neither our idea nor our doing: it was entirely of God.

Because of the work of Christ on behalf of His people, God is no longer imputing our trespasses unto us. We need to understand that the biggest obstacle to a relationship with God is the guilt of our sin. This idea of being guilt means to deserve punishment because we have done wrong.

Sin makes us guilty in the eyes of God and deserving of His punishment (it should be noted that, we do not always feel guilty, but we are in fact guilty just the same). For those of us who through faith claim the death of Christ for our sins, God will not "impute" the guilt of sins to our record: instead He will mark our debt "paid in full".

Meditate on this.

The Message

Here is one way to summarize our gospel message to the world: be ye reconciled to God. After the mediator works the plan for reconciliation, each party in the negotiation must then decide whether or not to agree to the terms and then they' shake hands to "seal the deal". This means they have decided to accept the offer and to be reconciled to God. Then they must ask God to do the same thing, which is "to be reconciled" to them. In a spiritual sense, the Father stands even now with His hand reaching across the table. He has agreed to the terms of Christ the mediator. He has accepted His substitutionary death at Calvary. He is ready to shake hands and "seal the deal".

Through our preaching and teaching, He is pleading with sinful people... be ye reconciled to God! There is nothing more that God can do for our salvation. It now remains in the reach of the individual, to decide whether or not to accept the terms. This wonderful news will not be communicated unless those of us who have already been reconciled do so. Therefore, as Christ's ambassadors, we speak on His behalf the message He has given. We are not permitted to modify or compromise it, for it is not our message. We speak what Christ has told us to say. It is the same message that was once delivered to us: "be ye reconciled to God."

Meditate on this.

Will You Tell Someone

At Calvary, Jesus was made to be sin for us. This is another reference to the substitutionary atonement, by which Jesus assumed the guilt of our sins and paid the penalty. This should not be understood as Jesus actually becoming a sinner, but that, He took the place of sinners, and was punished as a sinner, but even though he was punished as a sinner, in reality He knew no sin. The one who made all this happen was God himself. God is the one, who has made Jesus to be sin for us. Once again we are reminded that Calvary was ultimately God's 'plan, a program of redemption "foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Pet. 1:20).

And never forget the other side of the substitution. Christ took on the guilt of our sins, so that we might be made right with God by Him. We could never pass the judgment bar of God on the basis of our own record of good deeds. For no matter how much good we could show, it would never be enough to make up for our sins against God. That is why God's "grace" allows us to take it as our own. Christ's perfect record, even as He took on himself our guilt. We stand before God fully reconciled to Him, not on the basis of our good deeds, but because He allows us to wear the righteousness of Christ.

Meditate on this.

Our Foundational Scriptures

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." - (1 Peter 2:9)

Cell Church Operations

Local congregations should be supported by tithes and offerings.

Tithe

(a tithe is 10% of your gross income)

Below is an example of how the work is supported by the tithe:

Example:

- 12 members tithing \$150 a month = \$1,800 a month.
- 70% or \$1,260 monthly for support, care and assistance programs.
- 10% or \$180.00 is distributed equally to support the elders
- 10% or \$180 monthly will go to savings for emergencies and special projects.
- 10% or \$180.00 monthly will go to the Jurisdictional Bishop

Offerings

(A \$10.00 offering is to be collected from each member on the 1st assembly of the month to help support local, regional, national and international missions.)

Reports

A monthly missions report should be sent in on the 1st Saturday/Sunday of each month to the Jurisdictional Bishop.

Church Constitution and Bylaws

- Each congregation will function under five-fold leadership as outlined in Ephesians 4:1 1-12, the members make up the Presbytery.
- All members of presbytery should tithe into the local congregation they serve, as well as, support the Regional Missions Offering.
- Elder salary distributions are made on the 1st Thursday of the month for consecrated elders.
- Candidates for elder will serve a 90-day probationary period before consecration. (1 Timothy 3:10).
- Jurisdictional Bishop and members of the presbytery will handle discipline for elders.
- Offices of local congregation are: (1) Apostle/Bishop, (2) Prophet/Worship Leader, (3) Evangelist/Worship Leader, (4) Pastor/Fellowship Leader, and (5) Teacher/Education Leader.
- Presbytery should meet at least monthly for prayer.

- Jurisdictional Bishop should meet at least quarterly with presbytery.
- Business meetings should be held quarterly on the 1st Thursday of the month .
- Financial Operations are as follows: (1) 70% - sanctuary, programs and outreach. (2) 10% - Elder Salaries, (3) 10% - Savings and (4) 10% - Jurisdictional Bishop. (5) 1st Sunday or assembly of the month each members gives a \$10.00 Mission Offering.
- Stewardship Program is available for full members.
- Support, Care and Assistance Program is available for Associate Members and members of the the local community.
- “Your New Life” - New Members Orientation within 30 days of membership.

Cell Church Structure

The structure of the local congregation shall be in accordance with five- fold ministry as outlined in the New Testament. It shall consist of a presbytery of five elders, who are responsible for the oversight and business of the congregation to include discipline:

- **(Apostle/Bishop)** - serves as an Elder, Bishop or Overseer of the local congregation, secretary, and treasury and is responsible for directing all areas of ministry in cooperation with the other members of the presbytery.
- **(Prophet/Worship Leader)** - serves as an elder and is responsible for the worship environment, to include prayers, music, songs, sanctuary setting under the general supervision of the Bishop.
- **(Evangelist/Outreach/Leader)** - serves as an elder and is responsible for evangelism, outreach programs to prisons, shelters, nursing homes etc and oversight of our helps ministries to the sick, poor and elderly under the general supervision of the Bishop.
- **(Pastor/Fellowship Leader)** - serves as an elder and is responsible for support, care, and assistance programs to aid members of the local congregation. Oversees counseling, small groups and fellowship activities, under the general supervision of the Bishop.
- **(Teacher/Education Leader)** - serves as an elder and is responsible for teaching and instruction for all age groups. Oversees development of publications for distribution, under the general supervision of the Bishop.

Daily Prayers

- **(Romans 15: 30-39)** ... "we urge you brothers by, Our Lord - and Savior, Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join us in our struggle by praying to God for us. Pray that we may be rescued from the unbelievers and that our service may be acceptable to the saints."
- **(Ephesians 6: 18-19)**... "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for us, that whenever we open our mouths, words may be given to us so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel."
- **(Colossians 4: 5-14)**... "And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which we are in bonds." Pray that we may proclaim it clearly, as we should."
- **(2 Thessalonians 3:1)**... " Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it has with you." and pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith."

contact

Amazing Grace Ministries
c/o: Christ Universal Church
P.O. Box 714689
Riverdale, GA 30274

email

bishop@christuniversal.org

phone

678.278.9622

web

www.christuniversal.org

A Royal Priesthood
“Impacting Our World with the Love of Christ”