

Membership Course Outline

A. What we believe

1. What God is like [Video & slides](#) [Full notes](#)

1. How God is different to us
2. Qualities we share with God
3. Our experience of God
 - First the Old Testament, then the New

2. God and other beings

- Trinity
- Angels & demons
- Sovereignty & Responsibility
- Our place in the power hierarchy

3. What went wrong

- Creation
- Rebellion (sin)
- The new world order

4. The Cross and Resurrection

- Victory over evil
- Reconciliation
- A new creation

5. What is a Christian

- Jesus: Trust, Lordship and new life
- Father: Family trust & security
- Holy Spirit: Born from above into the new creation

6. The Christian life

- Experience of Relationship with God the Father, Son & Spirit
- Church community
- Grace & obedience
- Authority & role of Scripture
- Spiritual forces
- Being a Witness to Jesus

7. The Future

- Death & judgement
- Eternal state

B. Our distinctive beliefs at Newlife

- **The purpose of the church is to make disciples and develop them to maturity**
 - The church has a responsibility to recognize, train, mentor and give opportunity for the exercise of gifts
 - The church is also responsible to support and encourage character growth into the image of Christ
- **There are three aspects to the work of the Spirit**
 - A. Love
 - B. Truth
 - C. Power

A. Love towards God, one another and the unsaved

- Experiencing God's love and loving him in return is at the heart of all we do
- It is by our love for one another that the world knows we follow Jesus, and almost all the gifts are to be used in this context
- We develop this by an extended time together on Sundays and meeting in homegroups and other events during the week
- We are designed to be the primary manifestation of God's love to a lost world

B. The truth keeps us on track and sets us free

- In an age of confusion and deception among Christians, we have a high value on persuing a clear understanding of God's truth, and being obedient to it
- Our preaching, teaching and discussions take the Bible as God's authoratitive word

C. Power

- Every person has equal access to God and empowerment to pray, not two or more levels
- The supernatural did not end in Acts, but is important for today
- We look to see God move in power, both as an encouragement to us and as a witness to those outside
- Every person's gifts are needed, and are used primarily in the church community

- **Church Life**

- Baptism and Breaking Bread
- Men and Women in God's plan
- Team leadership of the church

C. Membership of the Newlife Church family

- **What is a Church?**

- Not a building, or even a random collection of believers, but a family of Christians who put into practice the model that God has given us
- God puts a very high value on church families, from the beginning of Acts through to Jesus's letters to the churches in Revelation
- It is his primary tool for the extension of the kingdom and the demonstration of his love until he returns.

- **Why join the family?**

- Without some level of commitment, it is hard to truly function as a family.
- This commitment forms the basis for accountability and development of giftings

- **Serving**

- There will be expectation and opportunity to serve for everyone, with flexibility for circumstances (e.g. new mothers)

- **Accountability**

- Commitment works both ways
- If you are committed to us, you will...
- Our commitment to you is to give you our attention in caring for your soul and developing you as a person
- Mentorship: Meet at least once a month to talk about spiritual life

- **Homegroup**

- This is an important part of being a member
- If there are practical issues, we want to do whatever we can to make this possible (noting that there might be some seasons where a full attendance is problematic)

- **Financial support**

- Whatever one's income
- Our position on tithing (not a legalistic 10%, but it's a good starting point)

- **Process**

- One hour interview if you want to be a member where you will share testimony, the gospel, and what it means to be a member
- If not baptized, then we would like to facilitate this
- Welcomed in front of the church

(Andrew Fountain 2019-05-17)