

The local church is a group of baptized believers who meet regularly to worship God, to be challenged from the Word of God, to celebrate the Lord's Supper under the guidance of duly appointed leaders and to fulfill the mission Jesus left for us to tell the world about Him.

The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Christian life involves more than just believing – it also involves belonging

For 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, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

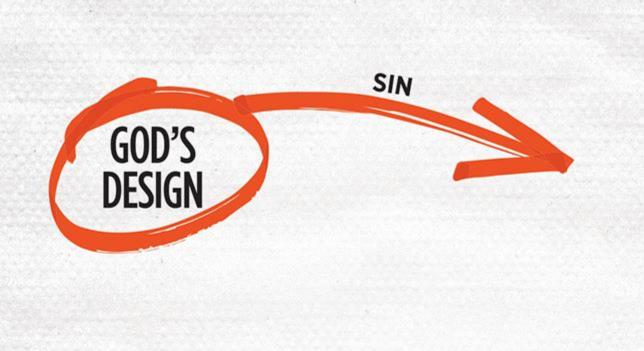


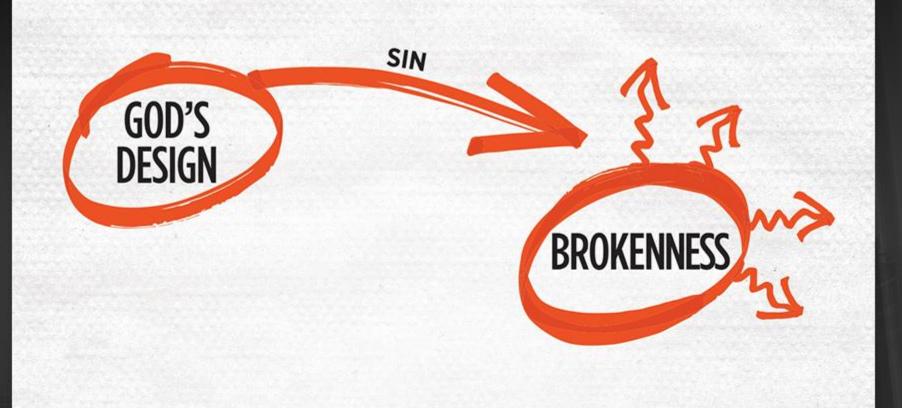
Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

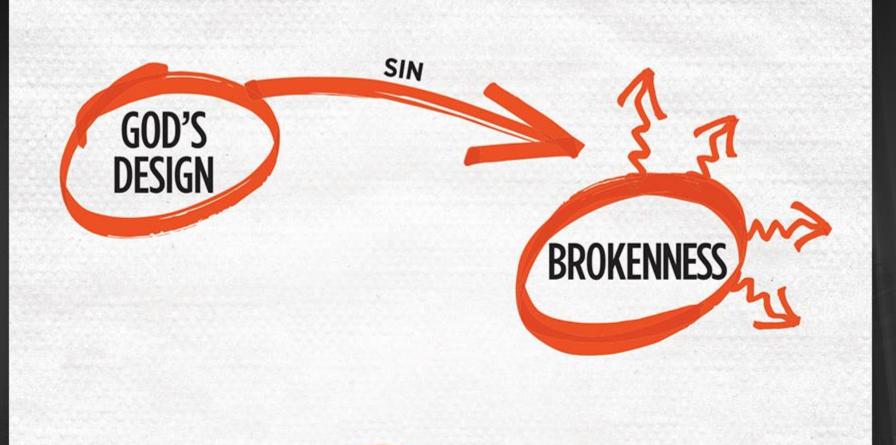
You can have unity without uniformity.



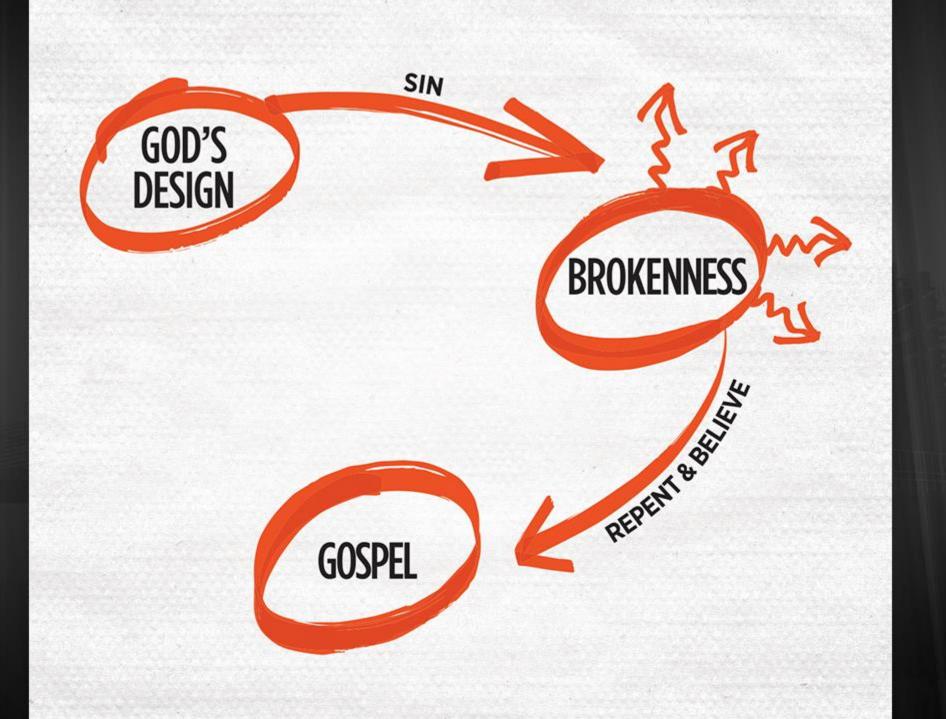


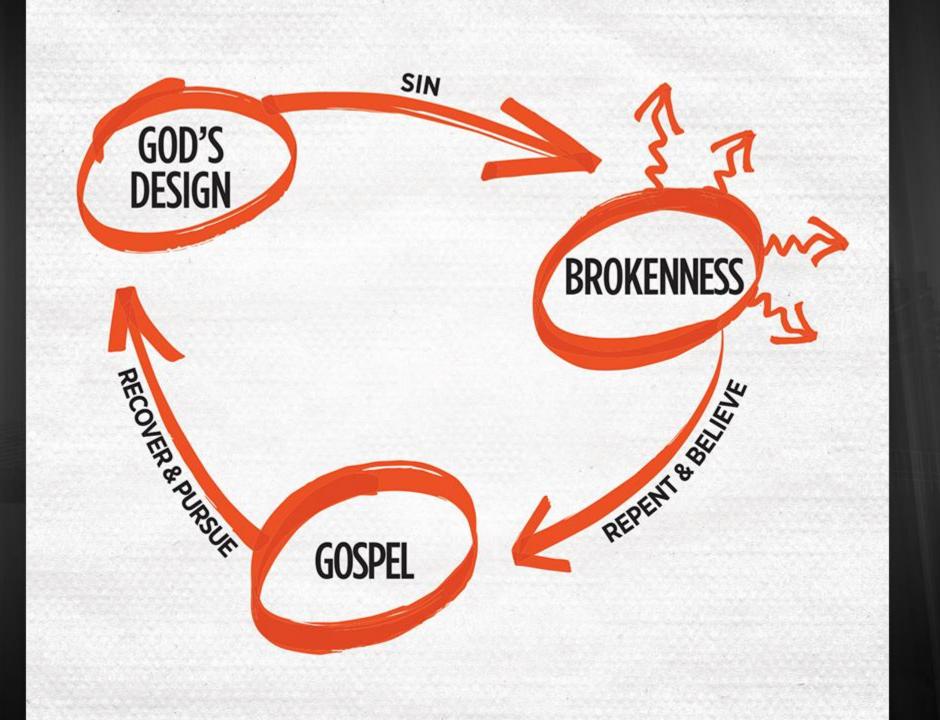






GOSPEL





What Should I Do?

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk to Him using words like these:

My life is broken — I recognize it's because of my sin. I need You.

I believe Christ came to live, die and was raised from the dead — to rescue me from my sin.

Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You.

I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow Him.

The Bible says:

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

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

- What is the church?
- Why church membership?
- How do I become a member of the church?
- You must be saved

You must be baptized

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Baptism provides a way for those who have been saved to publicly identify with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism is an outward <u>symbol</u> of an inward experience.

and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Baptism is a PICTURE of our salvation for the world to see!.

... What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Infant baptism is an expression of the parent's faith, but not the child's faith.

"we must each give account of ourselves before God."

... Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- What is the church?
- Why church membership?
- How do I become a member of the church?
- You must be saved
- We must be baptized