

III. COMMIT YOURSELF TO CAPITAL BAPTIST CHURCH AS A MEMBER (2:41c)

A. The difference between an attender and a member is **commitment**.

“so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” Romans 12:5

B. Four **reasons** for church membership:

- A **Biblical** Reason- Christ is committed to the local church.

“...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,” Ephesians 5:25b

- A **Cultural** Reason: It is an antidote to our uncommitted society.

- A **Practical** Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

- A **Personal** Reason: It benefits your life.

Are You Willing To Commit To Grow By Belonging?

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18

**GROWTH TRACK
Take Your Next Step**

Grow By Belonging
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Spiritual maturity means being like Christ. It begins with a decision to be saved and continues with a spiritual growth process called progressive sanctification. This process requires taking ongoing NEXT STEPS of obedience to the Bible. The key to rapid spiritual growth is to immediately say yes to God when He reveals a next step to you.

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18

B. The example of the first church, the church at Jerusalem, provides a foundational GROWTH TRACK of next steps for all Christians to follow and obey (Acts 2:41-47). In this series, you will discover five next steps of a growing Christian and how Capital Baptist Church can help you take them.

Aug 13	Ready, Set, Grow!
TODAY	Grow By Belonging
Aug 27	Grow By Connecting
Sep 10	Grow By Serving
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The purpose of Capital Baptist Church is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

C. TEXT: Acts 2:14-41 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1175/New Test.)

“After thirty five years of pastoring, I am convinced that spiritual immaturity is the number one problem in the local church today.” --Pastor Steve Reynolds

GROW BY BELONGING

I. ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD (2:41a)

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

John 1:12

A. Man’s Way Of Salvation – Religion

Trying to get to heaven based on your own works.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”
Proverbs 16:25

“19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”
Romans 3:19-20

“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

B. God’s Way of Salvation – Relationship

Getting to heaven based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,”
I Corinthians 5:3-4

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6:23

“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.”
Romans 10:9

II. BE BAPTIZED (2:41b)

A. Baptism identifies you with Christ and the local church.

“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.”
Romans 6:4

B. Bible baptism includes four things:

- Proper Authority – The Local Church

“I Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. 2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.”
I Corinthians 11:1-2

- Proper Candidate – A Believer in Jesus Christ

See Acts 8:26-39

- Proper Method – Immersion

“16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
Matthew 3:16-17

- Proper Purpose – Obedience

“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God),...”
I Peter 3:21a