

Christian Basics

For many of us, the only "theology" we get comes in Sunday school. Unfortunately, what we learn in 5th grade is not enough to give us adult answers.

This *Christian Basics* course is built for adults. It looks at three topics that every Christian should know. First is God. (The very word *theology* means "the study of God.") We look at some of the difficult issues in our faith: how can God be "three in one," what is an "incarnation" and how does the Holy Spirit work? We also look at more immediate issues to our lives: What is sin? Why did Jesus have to come and die? If we are Christian, how do we find what God wants us to do?

The second section deals with the church. Many American Christians think that their faith is a personal thing between them and Jesus. This belief is more American than it is Christian! We'll look at how the church grew through history and how it compares to other faiths. We look at what *God* wants the church to be.

Having considered God and His Church, we now get personal: what are our roles in all this. There are four: disciple, pilgrim, ambassador and steward. We'll look at each in detail and spend additional weeks studying key activities such as prayer, spiritual gifts, witnessing and ethics.

This course starts on Sunday, March 6th. We meet 7:30 - 8:45. We'll provide baby-sitting if you want to bring your kids. Each person will receive a notebook with the course materials. This may become a life-long resource for you. People have told me how they've gone back to it long after the class is completed!

PART I: KNOWING GOD

- I. The Bible
- II. God The Father: Knowing His Will
- III. Creation and the End Times
- IV. Sin
- V. God The Son: Salvation
- VI. God The Holy Spirit: Sanctification

PART II: KNOWING HIS CHURCH

- VII. The Sacraments
- VIII. The Church and Other World Religions
- IX. History Of The Christian Church
- X. Theology Of The Congregation
- XI. Governing The Local Church

PART III: KNOWING OUR ROLES IN HIS PLAN

- XII. Christian Roles: Disciple
- XIII. Prayer
- XIV. Christian Roles: Pilgrim
- XV. Spiritual Gifts
- XVI. Christian Roles: Ambassadors & Stewards
- XVII. Witnessing Christian Ethics