

# New Member's Class

TEMPLE HILLS CHURCH OF GOD

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Class 1 – New Members Class is a great step for learning about the history of Temple Hills Church of God; what we believe, and how to become a member of the THCOG family. Participants will have the opportunity to get baptized after class.

What is required of members?

- Have a personal relationship with Jesus as Savior
- Complete New Members Class
- Complete Foundation Class
- Catch the Vision, join the Work

Ephesians 2:19 Living Bible (TLB) 19 Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you **belong** in God's household with every other Christian.

God doesn't just want you to believe, He wants you to become and to belong. You become a saint and you belong with the saints. Most just want to believe. God wants you to belong.

## 1. Everything starts with God

Proverbs 16:4 (MSG) 4 God made everything with a place and purpose; even the wicked are included—but for judgment.

Col 1:15-18 (MSG) "...For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, ....everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

Colossians 1:16 Living Bible (TLB) 16 Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made **by Christ for his own use and glory**.

Romans 11:36 (TLB) 36 For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory. To him be glory evermore.

This is where you find your purpose. Your purpose is in God for His glory.

## 2. God is Love

1 John 4:7-8 (NIV) 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

3. God wanted a family to demonstrate his love

Ephesians 3:14-15 (TLB) 14-15 “When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth”

4. God's family is the church

1 Tim 3:15 (GWT) – “...I want you to know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

Titus 1:2 (VB) 2 We rest in this hope we've been given—the hope that we will live forever with our God—the hope that He proclaimed ages and ages ago (even before time began). And our God is no liar; He is not even capable of uttering lies.

5. God's Family (Church) will last forever.

God's family will last forever. It will last past your physical family.

6. God thought of us first

Isaiah 44:2 (CEV) 2 I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.

James 1:18 (NLT) In his goodness he chose to make us his own children by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his choice possession.

7. God didn't reveal His plan until He sent Jesus

Eph 3:9-11 (NCV) 9 And God gave me the work of telling all people about the plan for his secret, which has been hidden in him since the beginning of time. He is the One who created everything. 10 His purpose was that through the church all the rulers and powers in the heavenly world will now know God's wisdom, which has so many forms. 11 This agrees with the purpose God had since the beginning of time, and he carried out his plan through Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. Jesus makes the whole plan possible

Eph 1:11 (MSG) 11 It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living,

Eph 1:10 (NLT) And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ--everything in heaven and on earth.

9. The time is getting closer

Romans 8:19-21 (NLT) 19For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

10. In the meantime, we practice for eternity

Titus 2:11-12 (TLB) 11 For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone; 12 and along with this gift comes the realization that God wants us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures and to live good, God-fearing lives day after day,

## Class 2 – Foundation Class

- ❖ Five Purpose of the Church is outline in Rich Warren book (The Purpose Driven Church). We believe all activities in the local church should be ties to at least one of the five purposes.

The five purposes are found in the Great Commandment and The Great Commission as found in the book of Matthew.

### ➤ **The Great Commandment**

“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.’” (Matthew 22:37–40)

### ➤ **The Great Commission**

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18–20)

## **The Five Purposes Of THCOG:**

- (1) Worship — “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...”
- (2) Evangelism — “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”
- (3) Fellowship — “...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”
- (4) Discipleship — “...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”
- (5) Ministry — “You shall love your neighbor as yourself...”

**Principle 1:** A healthy local Church has a balance of all five Purposes offered in its activities.

**Principle 2:** Any activity of the local Church should directly serve at least one of the five Purposes. If an activity doesn't directly serve at least one of the five Purposes, a local Church should not do it.

**Principle 3:** If there is not a person who can be responsible for an activity, the activity should not be done.