

SHALOM | church

CITY OF PEACE

Preaching, Teaching, & Praying



Confirmation Handbook

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NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Shalom!

This handbook has been specifically designed with you in mind; a person who has united with Shalom Church (City of Peace). Its purpose is to assist you in becoming familiar with the preaching, teaching and praying ministries here at Shalom Church. This can only be done through a ministry in which we all share responsibility and that is the Ministry of Presence. God has great works for us to do here and He certainly has a purpose for **YOU** in this fellowship.

The Lord gave me this name for our church fellowship while I was preaching a collection from John's Gospel concerning when Jesus delivered His farewell address from the table. Indeed, you may find the name "Shalom" to be unique as it is not in the Bible; but, the entire Bible is a shalom text. Shalom means *peace* - but not just peace as we may think in the sense of freedom from disturbance. Shalom indicates totality of peace: in health, wholesomeness, harmony, success, and the completeness and richness of living in a wholesome fellowship. Therefore:

The purpose of Shalom Church (City Of Peace) shall be the maintenance of Christian work and worship for the complete spiritual, mental, and physical growth, nurture, and improvement of the local manifestation of the Universal Church through which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by His Holy Spirit. The fellowship of Shalom Church (City Of Peace) shall promote health, wholesomeness, and harmony in its manifestation of the faith and fellowship to which God has called God's people. We shall seek to fulfill this calling through the conversion of the lost; corporate worship services; a program of Christian nurture by which our fellowship may be built up in faith and love; opportunity for service by application of the gifts with which God has blessed our fellowship; proclamation and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by word and deed; and, through ministering to human need with prayer and provision in the name of Jesus Christ - creating a wholesome environment in which we fellowship and serve.

Shalom,

Pastor Clark

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Purpose

The purpose of confirmation class is to give to youth (ages 12-14) an understanding of the purpose of Shalom Church, the vision given to Pastor Clark, the ordinances of the church (Baptism, the Lord's Supper), and other important things about Christianity.

What does 'Shalom' mean?

'Shalom' means peace, but not just peace how we usually think about it. It is the totality of peace, health, wholesomeness, harmony, success, the completeness, and richness of living in a wholesome fellowship.

Purpose of Shalom Church:

The purpose of Shalom Church (City of Peace) shall be the maintenance of Christian work and worship for the complete spiritual, mental, and physical growth, nurture, and improvement of the local manifestation of the Universal Church through which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by His Holy Spirit. The fellowship of Shalom Church (City of Peace) shall promote health, wholesomeness, and harmony in its manifestation of the faith and fellowship to which God called God's people. We shall seek to fulfill this calling through the conversion of the lost; corporate worship services; a program of Christian nurture by which our fellowship may be built up in faith and love; opportunity for service by the application of the gifts with which God has blessed our fellowship; proclamation and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ by Word and deed; and, through ministering to human need with prayer and provision, in the name of Jesus Christ, a wholesome environment in which we fellowship and serve.

Vision of Shalom Church (City of Peace)

The vision of Shalom Church (City of Peace) is the history of the world in the Bible

All creation is one

Everything Starts with God

We have been included in God's plan

Embrace God's Word in Paul's letter to the Ephesians (2:14)

Create an atmosphere of:

- joy
- well-being
- harmony
- prosperity in the fellowship

Church Covenant

- It being made manifest by God's Word, that God is pleased to walk in a way of covenant with God's people, God promising to be our God, and we promising to be God's people:
- We, therefore, desiring to worship and serve God, and believing it is our duty to walk together as one body in Christ,
- do freely and solemnly covenant with God and with one another,
- and do bind ourselves in the presence of God,
- to acknowledge God to be our God and we to be God's people;
- to cleave unto the Lord Jesus, the Great Head of the Church, as our only King and Savior;
- and to walk together in Christian harmony,
- the Spirit of God assisting us,
- In all God's ways and ordinances as they have been made known or shall be made known unto us from the Holy Scripture;
- praying that the God of peace, Who brought from the dead our LORD Jesus,
- may prepare and strengthen us for every good work,
- working in us that which is well pleasing in God's sight,
- through Jesus Christ our Lord
- To whom be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Expectations of Confirmation Class

What do you expect to get out of confirmation class?

1. To be taught about God
2. To be taught that we need Jesus as the head of our life
3. To gain spiritual strength and direction from hearing the Word of God
4. To learn God's plan for our life
5. To praise and thank God for what He has done
6. To gather in worshipping God with other baptized believers

(These are a few examples. Continue with answers of your own)

Expectations:

How Do You Know You Need Jesus in Your Life?

1. There are no perfect people and there is no one who has not sinned (Rom 3:10; 3:23).

Sin is:

In Greek, sin refers to “missing the mark”

“Missing the mark” is an archer’s phrase and when applied to the issue of sin means failing to attain to the level of God’s standard

2. The human family is under the curse of sin through the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3).
3. We must confess to the Lord that we have sinned. If we do not, God’s truth is not in us and we can not experience his faithful and just cleansing and forgiveness (I John 1:8-9).
4. Jesus came to earth to save the world from sin. He came to take away the sin of the world. Sin separates us from God. Those who are willing to accept the gift of God (salvation from sin) can have eternal life (John 1:29; Rom 6:23).
5. Jesus is the only way we can truly deal with the sin in our lives (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).

Personal summary notes:

What is God's Plan of Salvation?

1. God loved humanity so much, that He sent Jesus (God's One and only Son) to die for the sins of the whole world. If we believe (trust and have faith) that Jesus came for this reason, we can have eternal life (John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-12). We must understand how much God really loves us.
2. To be saved, we must simply confess Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 10:9-10)
3. We repent of our sins
 - To repent is to turn away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God (Matt 9:13; Luke 5:32)
 - Repentance is a process (Luke 15:11 – 32 – "The Story of the Lost Sons")
 - True repentance is a "godly sorrow" for sin; it is an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction
 - This type of repentance leads to a fundamental change in a person's relationship to god (II Corinthians 7:10)
 - We not only acknowledge that we have a sin problem, God will forgive us our sin and cleanse us of unrighteousness (I John 1:9-10)

Personal summary notes:

Baptism

1. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water as a sign of being a part of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4).
2. It is a believer's public identification with Jesus Christ and His Church.
3. Baptism does not save. We are not baptized to be saved; rather, we are baptized because we are saved.
4. Baptism is an ordinance of the church.
5. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are baptized (Matthew 28:19-20).
6. It is an outward expression (sign) that points to an inward conviction. (Acts 2:38-39). It is also an outward sign that points to our belonging to Christ (1 Cor. 1:10-18).

Personal summary notes on Baptism:

What is Christian Stewardship?

1. Christian stewardship is a biblical principal and lifestyle.
2. Stewardship begins with God. He gives us the gift of life (Gen. 1:26-30)
 - God is Creator, Owner, and Giver
 - He created it
 - He owns it (Ps 24:1-2)
 - He gives and sustains it
 - In the beginning God created heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1)
 - Humans have a responsibility to God
3. Stewardship touches all of life.
 - Christian Stewardship is one's total response to God
 - Christ calls us to be dedicated and committed to His work (Mk 1:16-20; 8:34-36; Mat 4:19-22; 9:9)
 - It deals with the use of what we have, what God has blessed us to do, and our time
 - God reveals in His word how the citizens in his kingdom should live
 - Realizing that all things were created by God and to his glory, the believer does not practice thinking of themselves but others
 - Maintains and supports God's church by giving their tithe, time, and talent to the glory of God (Acts 2:37, 1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8:1-9; 1 Chr. 29:14)

Personal summary notes on Christian Stewardship:

The Four Seasons of the Christian Calendar

1. **Advent:** Anticipating/Expecting the coming of Christ.
Four (4) weeks before Christmas
Isaiah 40:3 – 5
Isaiah 7:14
Isaiah 9:6 – 7
Isaiah 61:1-3
Matthew 1:18 – 23
2. **Epiphany:** The celebration of the appearance or manifestation of Christ to the world. Celebrated approximately two (2) weeks after Christmas
Matthew 2:1 – 12
Luke 2:16 – 19
3. **Lent:** Forty (40) days before Easter. A period of spiritual reflection and reminders of our current temporal state
Matt. 6:1 – 6
Matt. 6:5 – 6
Matt. 6:16 – 19
4. **Pentecost:** Fifty (50) days after Easter. The coming of the Holy Spirit to mankind
Acts 2: 1 – 21
Rom. 8: 26 – 27
John 3: 3 - 7

Personal summary notes on the Christian Calendar:

Responsibilities of Shalom Youth

Children and youth have a place in God's Kingdom. Youth must understand that God has order. Young believers should obey God, Parents, Teachers, and other responsible adults (elders) (Ex 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Lev 19:3; Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20)

- At church, we are to obey:
 - The Pastor
 - The mothers
 - Deacons
 - Teachers

- Serve the church with our:
 - Talent (1 Cor. 12)
 - Money (2 Cor. 9:6-7, Mal 3:8-10)
 - Time (Mark 8:34-36)

- Study and learn more about being a Christian (2 Tim 2:15)

- Express Christian values such as sharing, caring, and love

Personal summary notes on the responsibilities of Shalom youth:

QUESTIONS FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS

1. How do you know that you need Jesus in your life? (Ro 3:23; I John 1:9; 5:10-12)

2. What is God's plan of salvation? (Ro 10:9-10; John 3:16; I John 1:9; 5:10-12)

3. What are the 2 ordinances of the church and give a description of each? (Matt 28:10-20; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Co 11:23-26; Matt 26:26-29; Luke 17:17-20; Mark 14:2-26)

4. What is Christian stewardship? (Refer to page 10)

5. What are the 4 seasons of the Christian calendar? Give a brief definition of each. (Refer to page 11)

6. What are the responsibilities of Shalom Church youth? (Refer to page 12)

7. How is Shalom a way of life? (Refer to page 13)

8. Recite the church covenant from memory or your own words. (Refer to page 4)

THE 66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The Five Books of Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

The Historical Books

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

The Poetical Books

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Songs of Solomon

The Prophetical Books

The Four Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentation
Ezekiel
Daniel

The Twelve Minor Prophets

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Hosea | Nahum |
| Joel | Habakkuk |
| Amos | Zephaniah |
| Obadiah | Haggai |
| Jonah | Zechariah |
| Micah | Malachi |

The Four Gospels

The Three Synoptic Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
Gospel
John

The Acts of the Apostles

Acts

Epistles of Paul

Romans
I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians

The Pastoral Epistles

I Timothy
II Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

The General Epistles

James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John
III John
Jude

The Book of Prophecy

(The Apocalypse)
Revelation

BIBLICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

ADVENT

[Latin, “coming”] A season of four Sundays which closes on December 24 and focuses on the coming of Jesus Christ, historically, experientially, and eschatologically.

The New Handbook Of The Christian Year

ATONEMENT

The means by which the guilt-punishment chain produced by violation of God’s will is broken, as well as the resulting state of reconciliation (“at-one-ment”) with God. In the NT, atonement is linked conclusively to the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 5:11).

Harper’s Bible Dictionary

CHRISTOLOGY

The study of Jesus’ self-understanding and of the titles, concepts, and conceptual patterns in which the New Testament church expressed its faith in Him.

Harper’s Bible Dictionary

COMMUNION

[Greek – *koinonia* “having in common”] partnership, fellowship (I Corinthians 10:16).

Harper’s Bible Dictionary

CRUCIFIXION

A mode of execution, where the condemned was affixed (nailed) to an upright pale or stake. During the Roman times a crossbar was sometimes added across the top of the stake forming the letter ‘t.’ *Harper’s Bible Dictionary*

DEITY

The divine quality that distinguishes God from other entities (Romans 1:20; Col 2:9).

Harper’s Bible Dictionary

DISCIPLE

[Greek – *mathetes*, lit, “a learner”] (from *manthano*, “to learn,” from a root math-, indicating thought accompanied by endeavor), hence it denotes “one who follows one’s teaching.”

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

BIBLICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

DOCTRINE

Principle of belief; instruction; that which is taught.

New Webster's Dictionary

DOGMA

Theological doctrine authoritatively asserted.

New Webster's Dictionary

EDIFICATION

[Greek – *oikodomē* (noun)] the act of building [up]; this is used only figuratively in the New Testament, in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth. (Romans 14:19).

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

ENLIGHTEN

[Greek – *photizo*] the act of building [up]; this is used only figuratively in the New Testament, in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth. (Romans 14:19).

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

ESCHATOLOGY

A non-biblical term meaning ideas about the “end” or “last” [Gk. *Eschatos*] period of history or existence. Two noted theologians Albert Schweitzer and C. H. Dodd developed what they termed “futurist” (Schweitzer) and “realized” (Dodd) eschatology. *Futurist* eschatology points to the kingdom coming (*parousia*) Mark 9:1, while *realized* eschatology suggests that the kingdom has already come (John 3:18-19) however, because of the difficulty involved in both the futuristic and realized views of Jesus’ eschatology, there is considerable support today for a view that tries to take the best from both of them. This view recognizes that in a sense God’s new society did actually come in the person of Jesus, but its complete fulfillment was still seen in the future. Thus Jesus’ teaching is what we might call an “inaugurated eschatology” Matthew 13 meaning “already but not yet.”

Introducing The New Testament & Harper's Bible Dictionary

BIBLICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

FORERUNNER

One who goes before. John the Baptist served as forerunner to Jesus by announcing and preparing for God's Kingdom (Matthew 3; 1-12).

Harper's Bible Dictionary

GENEALOGY

A record or table of the descent of a person, family or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree.

The American Heritage College Dictionary

INCARNATION

[Latin, *incarnatio*, a term meaning "to enter into or become flesh."] It refers to the Christian doctrine that the pre-existent Son of God became man in Jesus (John 1:1-14 Philippians 2:5-11).

Harper's Bible Dictionary

INTERCESSION

Entreaty in favor of another, especially, a prayer or petition to God on behalf of another.

The American Heritage College Dictionary

JUSTIFICATION

[Greek – *dikaiosis*] denotes "the act of pronouncing righteous, acquittal" That God "justifies" the believing sinner on the ground of Christ's death, involves His free gift of life (Romans 4:25).

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

MESSIAH/MESSIANIC

[From the Hebrew *mashiah*, Greek translates Christ "anointed one"] Christian Usage: After the death and resurrection of Jesus, "messiah" takes on a specific Christian meaning as a "title" that refers only to Jesus. The "messiah" Jesus is the crucified agent of God, who has died "for our sins"

(I Corinthians 15:3).

Harper's Bible Dictionary

BIBLICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

MIRACLE

Special interventions by God on behalf of His people. Miracles are closely associated with the creative and salvific deeds of God throughout the Old Testament tradition. In the New Testament, the miracles of Jesus, mighty deeds of god's salvific and creative power, are understood to be one of the ways in which the final, decisive reign of God has come into history.

Harper's Bible Dictionary

PARABLE

[Greek – *parbole* lit. denotes “a placing beside”] (akin to *paroballo*, “to throw” or “lay beside, to compare”). It signifies “a placing of one thing beside another” with a view to comparison. Christ's “parables” most frequently convey truths connected to the subject of the kingdom of God.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

PASSION

[Greek – *pascho* (verb), “to suffer”], is used as a noun, in the *aorist* infinitive with the article, and translated “passion” in Acts 1:3, of the suffering of Christ at Calvary.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

PENTECOST

[Greek – *pentekostos* (adjective), “fiftieth”] a religious observance that has roots in the Old Testament and continues to be observed in both Judaism and Christianity.

Harper's Bible Dictionary

PERSONALITY

When we speak of the personality of the Holy Spirit, the term has double significance. God was not made in the image of man, but in the image of God. The word *personality* is not a perfect term, but for both the Spirit and God it is descriptive of their nature.” (Little, p. 80) Given this, the traits for the personality of a person are:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Patterns of collective character | Emotions | Behavior |
| Temperament | Mental behavior | |

The American Heritage College Dictionary

BIBLICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

REDEMPTION

[Greek – *exagorazo*, “to buy” or *lutroo*], “to release on the receipt of ransom,” is used in the middle voice, signifying “to release by paying a ransom price, to redeem” (Titus 2:14).

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

RIGHTEOUSNESS

[Greek – *dikaiosune*] “The character or quality of being right or just.” This meaning of righteousness is unattainable by obedience to any law, or by any merit of man’s own, or any other condition than that of faith in Christ... The man who trusts in Christ becomes “the righteousness of God in Him”

(II Corinthians 5:21).

Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

SACRIFICE

Greek – noun, *thusia* primarily denotes “the act of offering”; B. Verb, *thuo* is used of “sacrificing by slaying a victim,” of the sacrifice of Christ, (I Corinthians 5:7).

Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

SANCTIFICATION

[Greek – noun, *hagiasmos*] separation to God; the Holy Spirit is the agent in sanctification.

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

TEMPTATION

[Greek – *peirasmos*] “trials” generally an enticement to do evil; the term is used in the Bible to convey two different ideas. The first is that “testing” or “proving by testing,” to determine the depth and integrity of ones commitment to God (Genesis 22:1-19). The second nuance of temptation is more inline with modern popular understandings of the term, namely, an enticement toward sin leading to a deliberate act of evil against God or one’s neighbor.

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

TRINITY

A term specific to the Christian doctrine that God is a unity of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (II Cor 13:14; Mt 28:19; I Cor 12:4-6)

Harper’s Bible Dictionary

