

SEEK

Seek first the kingdom of God - Matthew 6:33

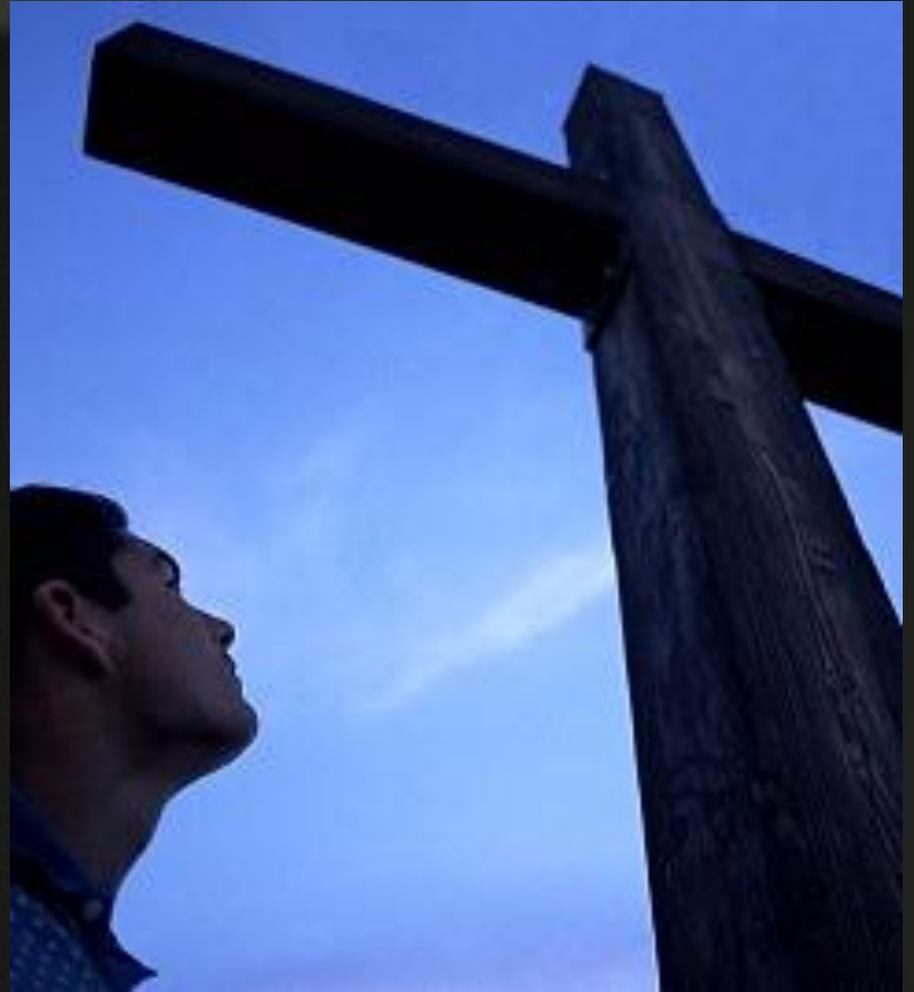
Our lives often become so busy with daily activities that we can run out of room for God. There is the temptation to organize our lives around our individual needs or goals. Somewhere on the list, we'll try to sprinkle a little time for God in here and there. This is exactly opposite of what Jesus instructs us to do. In Matthew 6:33, He tells us to "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." All "these things" are the basic necessities of life mentioned in the preceding verses. Jesus doesn't promise a life of ease, prosperity, or even good health. What He promises is ultimately so much more than anything we could possibly receive in this life.

Until we recognize God's proper place in our lives, we'll never be in the place that God wants us to be. The safest place to be as individuals, couples, and families is within God's will – no matter where that may lead.

You can do this by:

- Coming to Jesus as Lord and Savior for the forgiveness of sins. [View the Why Jesus section of the website]
- Spending time in prayer each day, staying sensitive to God's direction.
- Ensuring God is first, Family/Friends are second, and self is last.
- Eliminating anything in your life that can be a stumbling block that leads to sin.
- Asking God to help remove everything in your life that would keep you from growing closer to Him.

Scroll down for next slide. . .



SUBMIT

Submit your life to His authority - James 4:7

As we seek God's will for our lives, we must submit to His authority; and we do this when we take His yoke upon us at salvation. If you are saved, then Jesus is already your Lord and Savior. The question is not whether you're under His authority, but whether you're being obedient or disobedient. How do we know what He expects? We cannot know how we are to live without studying His Word. The Bible gives us clear instructions on what God expects from us and what His absolute holy standard is. Our goal, as disciples of Christ, should be the never-ending pursuit of conforming to the image of the Son. We do this by studying the Word of God, but most importantly submitting to its authority and applying it to our lives each day.

You can do this by:

- Individual Bible study, daily.
- Attending one of our Sunday morning Bible classes.
- Worshiping and praising God each Sunday as the Body meets together corporately.
- Listening to our Pastor preach God's Word each week.
- Attending our Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible study.
- Participating in one of our more in-depth, special topic seminars
- Joining in our other adult small groups where close fellowship, accountability, encouragement, and support are cultivated.

Scroll down for next slide. . .



SERVE

Serve your King - Psalm 100:2

Jesus said that the “last shall be first, and the first last” (Matthew 20:16). This seems to be a paradoxical statement at first, but it is actually a picture of grace. Receiving God’s grace means that we do absolutely nothing to earn it. We do not meet God “half-way” by any works that we may do. We receive the same grace whether we’ve accumulated a lifetime’s worth of sin or whether we’re a young child. Additionally, we all receive the same eternal reward of salvation as any other brother or sister of Christ. Is it fair? Of course not. If we received what was fair, we’d be heading to eternal punishment. That’s what makes grace so amazing! How else should we respond to this free gift than to serve our King out of a grateful heart? This is what God expects, because God Himself gave us the ultimate example of humble service, during His incarnation here on earth.

Jesus taught that having a servant attitude was crucial if we are to maintain the proper perspective. He said, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). During their last supper together, Jesus washed the disciple’s feet, giving a clear illustration of how they were to humbly serve others (John 13:12-15; Luke 22:26-27). He was obedient to the Father to the point of death, and by serving the Father’s will He served all of creation. This should be our attitude as well: Joyfully serving our King by being obedient to His will and, therefore, serving those all around us.

You can do this by:

- Building relationships with others so that you might share the gospel.
- Being the spiritual leaders of your home.
- Streamlining your schedule so that God can use you to minister to those around you.
- Inviting people to church.
- Greeting visitors and helping them to feel welcome.
- Teaching a Bible class.
- Joining the choir to help lead worship
- Volunteering with one of the many children/youth ministries (ie. Awana, Upward, KIDZ Church, etc.)
- Praying for the Pastor, Staff, Missionaries, and every other member of the church.
- There are many, many other opportunities for you to Serve your King. Just remember that serving should not be limited to the walls of these church buildings.

I encourage you to continue to explore the rest of the Adult Ministry section, as well as the entire church website. I think you'll find numerous places that you can use the talents that God has given you to serve here.

