

***Welcome to  
Calvary***



WELCOME TO CALVARY

# WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Calvary Baptist Church. As you discover more about how we function, our mission, values, beliefs, structure, 4G process, and what it means to be a member, I pray you truly see the heart of our church. These are more than words on a page, they are the reason we exist, and you will see these lived out by those who call Calvary home.

While Calvary is not a perfect church it is full of people who are seeking God, striving to love each other, and serving with excellence. It is the people of Calvary that make our church family special. When I think about what God is doing through us, I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi:

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. PHILIPPIANS 1:6*

God is not finished with Calvary. He has a plan and purpose for our church family. We are excited for the future of our church and all that God wants to do through us. We hope you will find a home here as we continue to become the church God created us to be.

Stephen Heleman

Lead Pastor



## SUNDAY MORNINGS

ON Sunday mornings at Calvary you'll find a variety of Gatherings and Groups for all ages.

### **GATHERINGS:**

All services at all campuses feature the same weekly sermon message delivered by the campus pastors.

#### Bastrop Campus:

- 9:00 Classic service with choir-led worship.
- 10:15 and 11:30 Modern service with worship led by our Bastrop praise band.
- Children's Church is offered at 10:15 in the Small Auditorium.
- Spanish language service, *Calvario*, starts at 11:30 in the Small Auditorium.

#### Smithville Campus: (\*Note: At time of printing)

- 10:30 service with worship led by our Smithville praise band.
- Children's Church is offered during services.

### **4G GUIDES:**

Each sermon series has its own 4G Guide booklet. Inside you will find pages for the Gathering sermon notes, daily God Time devotionals, Group Time lessons, and Family Time lessons all based on the weekly sermon topics.

### **GROUPS:**

There are a variety of smaller Group opportunities for all ages Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Ask for a campus *Groups@Calvary* brochure for up-to-date information regarding Groups for you and your family.

## EACH WEEK

### ACTIVITIES

There are a variety of activities each week both on and off campus. Check your bulletin for the latest updates and keep informed by subscribing to the *Weekly Update* email on our web site or request to be subscribed by emailing [office@cbcfamily.net](mailto:office@cbcfamily.net).

### AGE AND GENDER SPECIFIC MINISTRIES

**Kids@Calvary** has a wide range of programs for both preschool and primary school age children from infants up to grade 6. Activities include Sunday Children's Church, small Groups, and campus specific ministries.

**Students@Calvary** for middle and high schoolers offers a variety weekly bible studies, worship activities, fellowship opportunities, and numerous special events.

**Women@Calvary** exists to serve all women and influence them for Christ. Activities include weekly bible studies as well as special events and a yearly Women's Ministry Conference.

### SERVICE AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

There are a range of service and ministry opportunities in which to participate. Continue reading this *Welcome to Calvary* booklet and feel free to ask any of our staff or volunteers any questions you may have.

To go even deeper, register for the next *ON-RAMP* series. On-Ramp has four-steps to help you discover more about Calvary, learn what it means to be a member, and find ways you can serve and reach our world for Christ.

## MISSION / STRATEGY / VALUES

@ Calvary Baptist Church We Point People To Jesus By:

**DEMONSTRATING** God's Love,  
**DECLARING** the Good News of His Gospel, and  
Making **DISCIPLES** Near and Far.

*This is our **MISSION!***

*Matthew 22:37-40; 16:15-18; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8*

Our **STRATEGY** is a 4G Philosophy:

- ↑ Spend Time With **GOD**
- Ⓜ **GATHER** With Our Church Family
- ↻ Connect In **GROUPS**
- ✝ **GIVE** Our Best To God's Kingdom



We understand and demonstrate this mission in the context of five **CORE VALUES** which define, guide, and focus our ministry:

- A Commitment to **The Word of God**.
- A Foundation of **Prayer**.
- **Training** People to Follow Jesus.
- A **Community** Where All People Are Embraced and Belong.
- A Passion for Strong Congregational and Individual **Worship**.

## 4G @CALVARY







### GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we GATHER each Sunday morning as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives and share it with others. This is the heart of our 4G philosophy and our 4G Guides.

These guides are written to encourage you in your personal GOD TIME and with your GROUP. They help you understand and apply what God is saying, allowing you to take what God is teaching and GIVE it to others.

Each sermon series has its own 4G Guide which is weekly divided into four sections.

-  **Gathering Time:** The sermon notes for each week are included in the guides for your convenience.
-  **God Time:** Personal worship and Bible study is vital to the Christian walk. Therefore, there are five short daily devotionals for each weekly topic.
-  **Group Time:** We learn from each other! 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the Gathering Time messages and apply what is learned. Everyone is invited to lead a 4G group with their family or friends. Our staff is ready to assist you.
-  **Family Time:** Family worship glorifies God. To help you get started, the guide has simple, weekly devotionals just for families.

4G Guides are free and available at each Gathering.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

- *In Essential Beliefs – We Have UNITY*  
(Ephesians 4:4-6)
- *In Non-Essential Beliefs – We Have LIBERTY*  
(Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22)
- *In All Our Beliefs – We Show LOVE*  
(1 Corinthians 13:2)

Calvary Baptist Church is a Christian church, so we look to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible for the foundation of what we believe. Here is a look into some of our **ESSENTIAL BELIEFS**:

### **About God**

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### **About God the Father**

God, as Father, reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace.

### **About God the Son**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.



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### **About God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

### **About the Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter.

### **About the Church**

A New Testament church is a local autonomous body of believers who are associated by their common faith and fellowship with Jesus Christ. It is the desire of every member to protect the unity, share the responsibility, serve the ministry, and support the life of the church.

### **About Evangelism**

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those whom God has brought us into contact. We practice personally sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk with any of our pastors or deacons. For a more thorough examination of our beliefs, visit...

*[www.cbcfamily.net/beliefs.html](http://www.cbcfamily.net/beliefs.html)*

## CALVARY'S VISION

### **BUILD A MOVEMENT OF REPRODUCING DISCIPLES**

While this is the essence of our 4G strategy and philosophy, such a movement must be further catalyzed by discipleship training with an emphasis on 3P's:

- Personal Evangelism.
- Presence in our community.
- Priority of disciple-making in missions.

### **RELEASE A WAVE OF SMALL GROUPS**

God created us for community. As our Calvary Family gathers to demonstrate, declare, and disciple we are able to better support, encourage, and grow when we are familiar with those around us. We want everyone to experience the community that can only be found in smaller groups. While groups may be as varied as the people we are reaching, they are essential to our vision.

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* MATTHEW 18:20

### **A NETWORK OF CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITIES**

Rather than gathering as many people as possible in one room, at one time, Calvary will be a network of congregations. Each congregation will be unique based on the community they are reaching while united around the same mission, values, strategy, structure, leadership, and resources. Each congregation will have a Campus teaching Pastor and the same sermon and 4G curriculum will be taught across all campuses.

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### **TARGET MINISTRIES - NEXT GENERATION FOCUS**

We will support, encourage, and walk with families as they disciple their children. At the same time, we will create age appropriate environments that encourage children and teens to Demonstrate God's love, Declare the Good News, and Make Disciples near and far.

### **CREATE SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT THE VISION**

We will create systems, processes, facilities, and equipment that support and enable us to effectively fulfill God's mission and vision for our church.

### **EMPOWER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD CALVARY**

We will hire, invest in, train, and empower the men and women God has called to serve and lead at Calvary. We will help those involved in Calvary to discover God's calling on their life. Our staff will focus on equipping the church – the people – for ministry tasks rather than performing ministry tasks for the church.

## A BIT OF CALVARY'S HISTORY



Calvary Baptist Church was established on September 2, 1971. The first service was held at the present site on September 17, 1978.

Calvary's early ministries included medical outreach and evangelism at the US/Mexico border, along with a dedication to reaching young families and children at home in Bastrop County.

To facilitate added growth on campus, in 2017 the original building was renovated to host adult groups and the ever-expanding children and student ministries. Additionally, a new auditorium was built to host multiple Sunday services and to make room for Calvary's Spanish language service, *Calvario*.

Outreach and missions have remained a central focus as Calvary's vision for kingdom growth is focused towards outreach and multi-campus expansion. This began in earnest with the launch of the *Calvary Smithville* campus in 2020.

The future may bring changes, but God's word remains the same and Calvary Baptist Church will continue to point people to Jesus by *Demonstrating* God's Love, *Declaring* the Good News of His Gospel, and Making *Disciples* near and far.

Denominationally, Calvary Baptist is a **COOPERATIVE** member of the *Southern Baptist Convention*, *Southern Baptists of Texas Convention*, and the *Bluebonnet Baptist Association*.

## HOW IS CALVARY ORGANIZED?

Calvary is an autonomous and democratic church operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and leadership of the Holy Spirit. Every member plays a part, and some are chosen to manage the parts. We are controlled by no other outside entity, but we do partner cooperatively with other like-minded churches through a variety of ministries and missions at work across the street and around the world.

Matters of direction, doctrine and discipline are led by the Church Council, with the Senior Pastor as the Chairman. The Council may recruit and establish teams and delegate authority to qualified individuals to assist in their duties. The Church Council and all Church Officers are responsible to ensure transparency in the management of church business and to regularly inform the Church Body of important issues and decisions.

More information regarding Calvary's organization and processes are discussed in greater detail in Step ONE of the On-Ramp series.



## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE



### INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE

Members and guests are involved in the **MISSION** of Calvary in a variety of ways. Here are some examples:

**Prayer@Calvary** is a vital army of prayer warriors who daily intercede for the prayer requests and needs of our church family. To join these prayer warriors or to request prayer, email [prayer@cbcfamily.net](mailto:prayer@cbcfamily.net) today!

**Care@Calvary** is a ministry that allows us to serve, help, and care for our church family. No need is too small and when the call for help goes out, you choose what you can do to serve. Email [care@cbcfamily.net](mailto:care@cbcfamily.net) to register today!

**Volunteers@Calvary:** Our Calvary campuses could not function without the service of our membership. There are opportunities to serve Sunday mornings and throughout the week, both on and off campus.

**Groups@Calvary:** We have a variety of small Groups including 4G Groups, Topical Bible Study Groups and Online Connect Groups. Check out the *Groups@Calvary* brochure for more info.

*“Groups@Calvary are where we live out our mission to Demonstrate, Declare, and make Disciples”*

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

We encourage all members to be active in ministries on our campuses, in our communities, and around the world. To learn more about how to best use your gifts to serve and specific service opportunities available, attend the four-step On-Ramp series.

## MEMBERSHIP

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A *MEMBER* OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – OR ANY CHURCH?

What church membership does NOT mean:

- Church membership does NOT grant you a ticket to heaven.
- Church membership does NOT even guarantee you are a Christian.

Only repenting of your sins and placing your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord guarantees you are a Christian.

However, church membership should require that at some point in the past you put your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.



## WELCOME TO CALVARY



Becoming a member of Calvary Baptist Church means that you support the Mission, Strategy, Values, Beliefs, Vision, and Leadership of Calvary. It also empowers you to be a part of determining how best to fulfill that vision.

The vision God has given the leadership of Calvary may differ from other churches. This does not necessarily make Calvary “right” and all others “wrong”. It means God uses each of us a little differently. By becoming a member of Calvary, you are proclaiming that you want to be a part of reaching your community and the world in the way God is leading Calvary and you will support Calvary with your hands, feet, voice, time, money, and especially your prayers.

The following pages introduce three qualifications for becoming a member of the Calvary Family.



## WHAT ARE *QUALIFICATIONS* FOR MEMBERSHIP?

**THE FIRST QUALIFICATION** for membership is a Public Profession of Faith and a strong desire to grow as a disciple. This simply means that upon hearing and understanding the Gospel message that you have repented of your sins and placed your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that you have told others about this decision.

Jesus said, *“So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.”* MATTHEW 10:32

“Repenting of your sins” means that you admit that you are a sinner, believe that Jesus shed His blood, died, and rose again to pay for your sins.

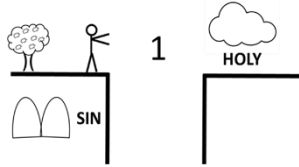
“Placing your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord” means that not only have you accepted what Jesus did on the cross, but that you are turning all aspects of your life over to Him, for the rest of your life. You now live in a relationship with Jesus in which every choice and every decision you make will be done in a way that is guided by and honoring of Him.

This is not a ritual based upon any specific words or prayers, but rather, a willful decision and sincere step of faith that leads to a life that is observably changed.

Paul explains this in his letter to the Roman people, and we can highlight this process with the following scriptures, often referred to as *The Romans Road*...

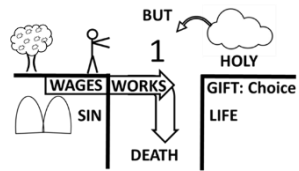
## WELCOME TO CALVARY

- ROMANS 3:23 *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*. Even just one sin separates us from our relationship with God and eternity in Heaven.

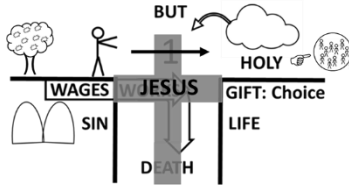


- ROMANS 5:8 *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Because God loves us, He’s offered to rectify the relationship.

- ROMANS 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* No matter



what we try, because of our sin, we cannot restore the relationship and are destined for death, eternal separation from God. But God provided a perfect sacrifice, a bridge – Jesus Christ. By accepting the gift of Jesus through faith in who He is and what He’s done, the relationship can be restored, and we can be with Him for eternity.



- ROMANS 10:9 *“...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* We must not only understand and believe God’s plan, but we must verbalize it to others and act upon it. Our actions validate our faith.

This process is often called being “born again.” It’s a spiritual birth into a restored relationship with God.

## WELCOME TO CALVARY

Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* JOHN 3:3

If you have not yet done this, we invite you to do it now. Repent of your sins, place your faith in Jesus, and tell someone right away. You can pray right now; admit you are a sinner, believe Jesus is God’s gift, that He died and rose again. Place your faith in Him as Lord and Savior over everything in your life.

Now, tell someone!



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**THE SECOND QUALIFICATION** for membership is that you follow or have followed up this faith and confession with baptism. Baptism is another action that validates our faith. It is both exemplified and commanded by Jesus Christ (MATTHEW 3:13-16; 28:18-19).

Baptism is a symbolic profession, much like a wedding ring. The ring doesn't make you married, but it is symbolic that you are. You're telling everyone, "the old life is gone, my new life has come" (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17). Similarly, baptism is a symbolic profession of our newfound faith, an act of obedience following the example and command of our Savior and Lord.

If you have just decided to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, or you've made this decision in the past but haven't yet followed it with baptism, now is the time! Joyfully make this declaration of your salvation to the church so that we can all proclaim glory to God for what he has done in your heart.

A couple more things about baptism:

- Biblically, baptism only follows a person's decision and confession to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. Therefore, baptisms before decisions may be well intentioned, but are not professions.
- Biblically, baptism is done by immersion. In fact, the Greek word literally means "fully sunk". We choose to follow the Biblical example and as a reflection of Jesus' burial and resurrection; fully dying to self and raised to new life as a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ (COLOSSIANS 2:12-14).

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**THE THIRD QUALIFICATION** for membership is that you agree with our Essential Beliefs. Again, these beliefs are listed on pages six and seven of this booklet and posted on our web site...

*[www.cbcfamily.net/beliefs.html](http://www.cbcfamily.net/beliefs.html)*

## I'M INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP, WHERE DO I START?

- First**     Attend *On-Ramp Step ONE – About Calvary*. Find out more about who we are, our mission, beliefs, and vision. Learn what it means to be a member the Calvary family. This is a great place to have all your questions answered. Step ONE typically takes place the first Sunday of every month.
- Second**    At *Step ONE – About Calvary*, complete the prospective new member information on the Step ONE Card.
- Third**     Meet with a member of the Church Council or Deacon Body to follow up on your request for membership.
- Fourth**    Be affirmed by the Church Council, upon which the full Calvary membership will be informed and given two-weeks to voice any objections.

## NEXT STEPS:

- **Register for The Next ON-RAMP Series.**

On-Ramp is a four-step approach to understanding what it means to be a member of the Calvary family and how we serve Jesus by *Demonstrating* God's love, *Declaring* the Good News, and making *Disciples* near and far.



Step ONE – ABOUT CALVARY

Step TWO – DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Step THREE – CONNECT TO CALVARY

Step FOUR – CONNECT TO OUR WORLD

The next series starts: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Join a Group.**

Check out the *Groups@Calvary* brochure or the *Groups* page of our web site for a listing of current Groups. If you already have friends at Calvary, joining with them or beginning a new Group is also a great place to start. Contact the office for assistance with joining or beginning a Group. (Membership is not required to join a Group.)

- **Find a Place to Serve**

You are not required to complete the membership process to begin serving at Calvary. The ON-RAMP series is designed to help you connect to service opportunities on and off campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and have a truly blessed day.



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- **DEMONSTRATING** God's Love,
- **DECLARING** the Good News of His Gospel, and
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*"This is our MISSION!"*



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