

# Welcome to the Family of God

Okay, you may have messed up in the past or took a few wrong turns in life... **But Wait!** You just did something **RIGHT!** You prayed and asked God to forgive you, right? Well, I got **Good News** He did! The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful & just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (sin)." So whatever you did or said or thought is **GONE** from your life. Psalm 103:12 illustrates this even further by saying..."as far as the east is from the west, so far has He (God) removed our transgressions (sin) from us." So you now stand before God clean, your sin is totally **erased**.

Don't let the Devil put a guilt trip on you concerning your past! The Bible says, "There is now no condemnation (guilt) for those who are in Christ Jesus", Romans 8:1. So try to forget about your past mistakes and choose to move forward. Forget the things behind you, look forward to the future and press onward (see Philippians 3:13)! We can learn from the past and then, with God's help, try really hard to not be a repeat offender. **Don't forget** what the bible says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Philippians 4:13. You can do it!

**Remember this...** we love and care about you. This church is here to help you however we can as you start your new walk with the Lord. Our encouragement you it to be at church whenever the doors are open so that we can help you get grounded in God's Word. We are excited about watching you mature into a strong, Bible believing Christian!

## Getting Started

It is very important as you start your new walk with as a Christian that you get into God's Word, the Bible. We encourage you to read your bible daily and begin to apply the scriptures to your life. If you don't have a Bible we encourage you to get one you can understand. We have given you the New Testament to help you get started. It is so important to be knowledgeable about the Bible so that you can stand strong when temptation comes knocking at your door. On the next few pages we have given you some scriptures and tips to help you. Today you have made the most important decision of your life. We're so proud of you!

### John 3:16

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

This scripture is probably the most famous in the bible but the message behind it is what we need to get. God loved you enough to send his Son to die for your sins thousands of years before you were even born. **Romans 5:8** also speaks to this fact when it says, "**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**"

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

This scripture tells us that once you ask God for forgiveness of your sins and Christ to come into your life, you are a new person. You have been born again and should not act like you did before. Christ set you free from sin and has given you a chance to start all over again. So don't feel guilty because of past sin, it has been forgiven!

### Psalms 103:12

**...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

This scripture is telling us how God removes our sin and how he no longer counts it against us. This happens when we repent (turn away from sin) asking Him for forgiveness for our sins. He forgives us if we are truly sincere.

## **1 John 1:9**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Once again He tells us that all we have to do to be forgiven of sin is ask! So since you have done that you are forgiven and now should live for God. If you make a mistake, just ask God to forgive you. He will do it when you pray and ask Him in sincerity. But you should not try to sin on purpose.

## **2 Peter 2:9**

**...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials...**

There is nothing too big for God to do. If you allow Him to help you, He will. The key is to ask Him through prayer and believe He will answer.

## **Hebrews 4:14-16**

**Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

These verses tell us that Jesus understands what it means to be tempted with sin (see Matthew 4). Jesus was here on the earth for 33 years as a man but He did not sin. So when we are tempted with sin ask Jesus, through prayer, to give you strength to overcome the temptation.

## **Deuteronomy 13:4**

**It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.**

This passage is pretty straightforward. It tells us to follow God only. God wants to keep us safe so he does lay out some things to avoid, protecting us from harm spiritually, emotionally and physically. We need to learn to follow His commandments laid out in scripture with gladness.

## **Mark 12:30-31**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.**

The two greatest commandments: Love God with everything you are and have, following after Him and His ways AND love everybody around you with the same concern and care that you have for yourself.

## **Romans 12:9-21**

**9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.**

**17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Love people no matter what they do to you or how they act. We must not be filled with hate because hate will destroy us. We should only hate what is evil. Learn to serve the Lord with your whole heart, being excited about what God is doing, has done and will do in our lives.

## **Important Practices**

**1. Keep living for Christ** -- You must understand that your salvation is based upon your "continued" relationship with the Lord. He has promised to keep you saved, as long as you keep believing and living for Him. As a new Christian, you need to grow in your relationship with God and deepen your faith, so that discouragements, temptations, or trials will never cause you to drift away from God. Remember, if you depart from the Lord, you also depart from what gives you the promise of salvation. The Bible says that Christ will one day present you before God, holy and unblemished **"...If you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the Gospel..." (Colossians 1:23).**

**2. Go to Church** -- You should attend church regularly so that your faith can be strengthened by the preaching and teaching of God's Word, so you can grow spiritually and be encouraged by being with other Believers. Church is a place where you can go to express your love, faithfulness, and worship to God and at the same time be strengthened and prepared for the challenges of this life. Church is where we can learn how to be a Christian, and where the Pastor and spiritual leaders can help you and encourage you in your faith. The Bible warns us not to absent ourselves from church attendance, because we need the strength and encouragement it brings. **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." (Hebrews 10:25).**

**3. Pray** -- Prayer is vital to your spiritual growth. God is your Heavenly Father, and He wants to hear from you and have daily fellowship with you. Not only does He promise to answer your prayers, but as you pray He will also provide guidance and spiritual strength. The Bible tells us to **"Pray continually,"** that is to pray faithfully every day **(1 Thessalonians 5:17).**

**4. Read the Bible** -- The Bible is God's Word, and as you read from it every day, it will cause you to grow spiritually (2 Timothy 2:15). As you study His written word (consider starting with the Gospel of John) He will strengthen your faith, speak to your heart, and give you guidance and direction for every need and decision in your life. **"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalms 119:105).**

**5. Be Baptized in Water** -- At your first opportunity, you should obey the Lord's command to be baptized in water as a confession of your repentance (turning away from sin) and faith in Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19). Water baptism in itself, (not to be confused with baptism in Holy Spirit) does not save you or wash away your sins, but is an act of your obedience to God's Word. It symbolically shows that you have died to the old sinful life, and have risen in the newness of the Life of Christ. The scriptures say **"...Repent and be baptized, every one of you..." (Acts 2:38).**

**6. Live a Holy life** -- As we have mentioned, Christians are not perfect. However, God wants you to "aim" toward perfection. Your goal must be to grow to becoming more like Jesus, by living a godly and wholesome life (Hebrews 12:14). You repented and asked Him to forgive your sins and now you need to grow closer to Jesus each day. This will take you farther away from sinful thoughts and behaviors which are displeasing to God. Your faith in God will cause in you a desire to obey Him and do those things pleasing in His sight (Colossians 1:10). Remember holiness is separation from sin and devotion to God.

***We are here for you!***

**Manns Choice Church of God:  
6150 Allegheny Rd. Manns Choice, PA 15550  
814-623-5065  
mannschoicecog@gmail.com  
www.mannschoicecog.org**