

Anchor's Partnership with FECDB

We are committed to partnering with FEC-Diamond Bar to further God's Kingdom beyond just what each church can do on its own. We want to maintain and cultivate a relationship of open communication and understanding between the two churches. To that end, both churches have committed to the following:

- We will maintain communication by having leaders meet regularly to discuss the partnership and update each other on our ministries.
- Each year, we will review our partnership agreement. Currently, the specific ways we are committed to partner are:
 1. Anchor will commit to actively recruit at least four youthworkers to the FECDB youth ministry.
 2. The FECDB Youth will worship with Anchor once a month.
 3. Anchor is open to collaborating with FECDB Youth for other joint activities, as agreed upon by both churches.
 4. Anchor will appoint one person to be the liason between Anchor Children's ministry and FECDB children's ministry.
 5. Anchor will not actively recruit volunteers for FECDB children's ministry, but people from Anchor are welcome to help with FECDB's children's ministry if they would like to.
 6. Anchor is open to collaborating with FECDB Children's ministry on other joint activities, as agreed upon by both churches.

Promise #1: Know and Believe the Gospel

How would you answer this question: What does it mean to be a Christian?

What is the Gospel?

The greek word translated as “gospel” literally means “good news.” **The Gospel is the _____ that God is renewing individuals and the world through the _____ of Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-5: 1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...
3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ _____
 _____ in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was
 _____ in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to
 Cephas, then to the twelve.

Why is this good news? Because of sin. What is sin?

- Most people think of sin as immoral behaviors. Pre-marital sex, drinking, drugs, cussing, greed, etc. While it is true that sin is immoral behavior, this definition does not get to the root of what sin is.
- The word “sin” in the bible means _____. However, sometimes we hear this and fixate on the outward behaviors. The deeper question is *how* and *why* do we break God’s righteous laws?
- One of the most consistent themes in the bible to show how we break God’s Law is _____.
- In the Old Testament, this was the primary sin that that Israel was held accountable for: worshipping other gods. The first commandment was “to have _____ before me.” (Ex. 20:3).
- In the New Testament, Paul describes sin in this way:

Romans 1:22-25: **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served _____ rather than the _____, who is blessed forever! Amen.

- Paul says that sin is worshipping a created thing rather than worshipping the Creator. Created things are not necessarily bad, in fact many times they are meant to be good and useful: things like sex, money, and careers. However, when we *worship* these things in place of God, we are rebelling against our Creator and as a result begin to see breakdown and dysfunction in our lives. Thus, a helpful way of describing sin is: *making a good thing an ultimate thing*.
- Here is a helpful summary of some common idols by Tim Keller:

Thing you worship (Idol)	Your greatest nightmare	People around you often feel	Your problem emotion
	Humiliation	Used	Anger
	Rejection	Smothered	Cowardice
	Stress, demands	Neglected	Boredom
	Uncertainty	Condemned	Worry

- Idols will not satisfy you. Instead, they will enslave you. We become addicted to them and we end up sacrificing important things in order to get them. When we fail them, we become depressed and feel like we are worthless. When we do manage to meet their demands, they do not satisfy us and just drive us to want more and more. This is slavery.

So, how is Jesus the solution to this problem? _____.

Christianity is different from other religions and philosophies in that it says that the solution is not moralism, self-discipline or enlightenment. We cannot help ourselves out of our brokenness. We must be rescued from the outside, by complete Grace. And this is what is accomplished by Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

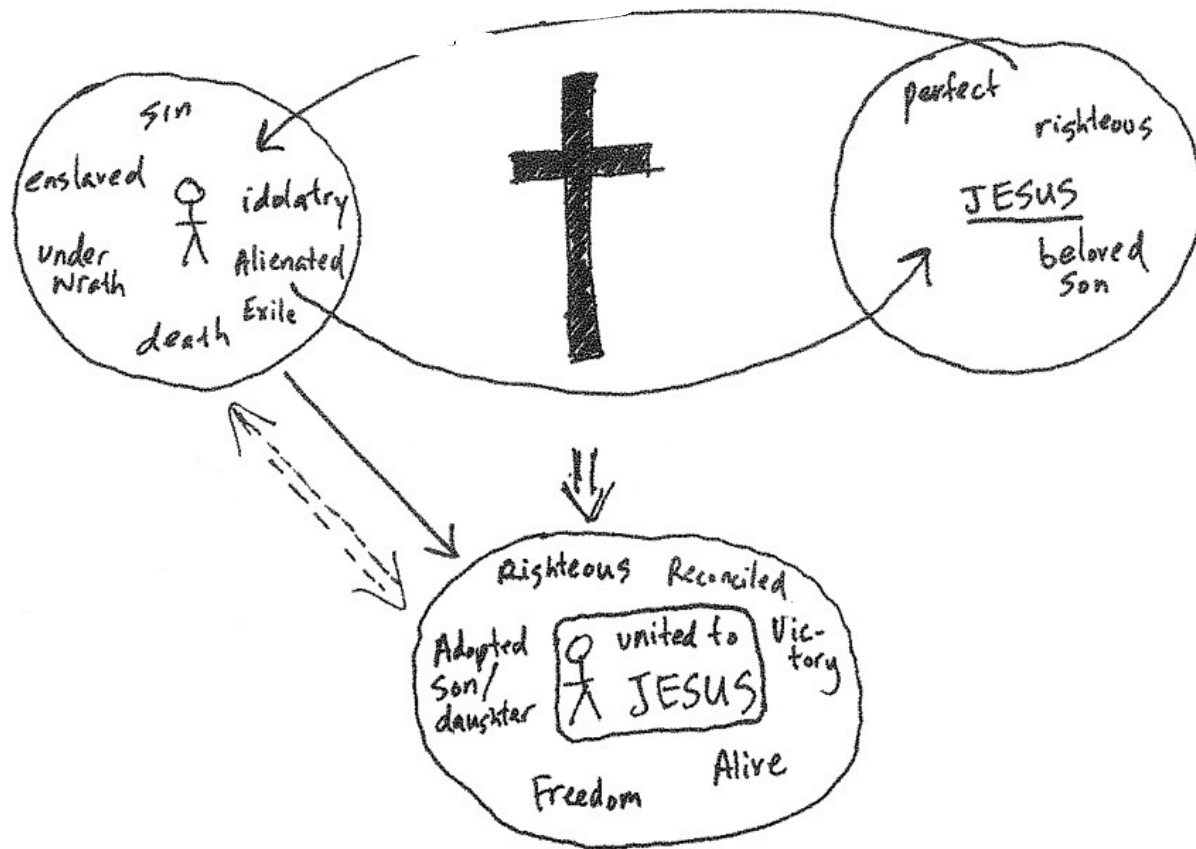
If we repent of worshipping Idols instead of God and instead trust in what Jesus has done for us in his life, death and resurrection, we become *united to Jesus*. We are joined to Jesus – he gets our sin and we get his righteousness. This is called union with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – For our sake he made him who _____ to _____ so that in him we might become _____.

Romans 6:3-4 -- 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were _____ by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Philippians 3:8-9 -- For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be _____, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

Colossians 3:3 – for you have died, and your life is _____.



Being united to Christ means more than just receiving forgiveness. Because we are “in Jesus,” it means we have everything that he has:

1. _____ -- **Perfect righteousness (justification)**. In Jesus, God has “covered me with the robe of his righteousness” (Isa. 61:10) We are “*found in him*,” not having a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ.” (Php 3:9)
2. **New Identity:** _____. “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry ‘Abba, Father!’” (Rom 8:15, see also Gal. 4:1-7, Mark 14:36)
3. _____ (**Redemption**). “For the one who has died has been set free from sin.” (Rom 6:7)
4. _____ **over Satan and death**. “[On the cross] He disarmed the rulers and the authorities by triumphing over them in him.” (Col 2:15)
5. _____ **from Exile**. “In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.” (2 Cor 5:19) “But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Eph 2:13) Coming home from a sense of alienation.

The Christian Life

We become Christians by _____ of our sin and _____ (**trusting, putting your faith in**) (Acts 2:38) in the Gospel. When we respond in this way, the Holy Spirit brings you into union with Jesus. Your status is completely changed because you are in him. You are no longer a slave of sin, you are resurrected with Jesus, and nothing can separate you from him.

However, we still live in a fallen world until Jesus returns and he ushers in a new heavens and a new earth. This means that though we are no longer slaves to sin, we still struggle with our old, sinful

natures, which is prone to worship Idols. The struggle of the Christian Life is to **continuously** _____, _____ **in the Gospel, and** _____ **God's commands by the power of the** _____. The Christian life is the process of continuously trusting and believing that our union with Jesus is sweeter and more satisfying than anything our idols can offer, and then taking steps of obedience in accordance with this truth.

What does continuous repentance and faith look like in the Christian life? Another way to put it is that you must always be **starving** (repentance) your idolatrous desires and **feeding** (faith) your new desires in Christ. We are called to continually “put off” our old selves and “put on” the new self (Eph. 4:17-24, Col. 3:1-17). Simply acknowledging your idols won’t make them go away. You must intentionally starve those desires and develop habits to feed your faith.

(Repentance)	(faith)	Obey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify your idols (see page 2). - Ask yourself: What are the things you are doing that are strengthening your idols? - Starve your idolatrous desires by <u>cutting off practices</u> that feed your idols. - Get help with this from others (confession and accountability). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remind yourself of the promises of the gospel/your new identity through the “means of grace.” These are the channels through which God grows us in his grace: - Scripture - Prayer - Church community - Corporate worship - Suffering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In light of the strength and courage I receive from God’s promises, what is God calling me to do? - What are the next small steps of obedience I must take?

Promise #2: Be and Make Disciples in Biblical Community

Every Christian is commanded to make disciples in biblical community. This is the main verb in the great commission: “Go and make disciples...” (Matt. 28:19). So, what does it mean to make disciples?

(1) Being a disciple means that you are using the _____ consistently to _____.

As Christians, we “walk by the spirit” (Gal. 5:16) and “by the Spirit, put to death the misdeeds of the body” (Rom. 8:13). How does the Spirit operate in our lives? Through the means of grace. The Word of God is the “sword of the spirit” (Eph. 6:17) and we are to “pray in the Spirit” (Eph 6:18). The Holy Spirit’s job is to point us back to Jesus and our union with him and to make the gospel deeper and sweeter in our hearts, through the means of grace.

Therefore, it is essential that you develop a habit of reading Scripture, studying it, applying it, and praying through it. Here are some suggestions as to how to do this:

1. **Commit to** _____. You need to learn to read the Bible itself, not just devotionals and articles. You also need to read all parts of the Bible, not just the parts that are more familiar to you.
2. **Learn to** _____. Many people don’t know how to study the Bible and end up misunderstanding and misapplying it. A helpful tool is the “COMA” method:
 - a. _____: look at how a particular passage fits within the book. Study the background of why the book was written and the literary genre of the book.
 - b. _____: Carefully study the passage to figure out what it is saying. Underline key words, phrases and consult study notes. Ask: what’s the main point of this passage?
 - c. _____: What does this teach me about God and humans? How does this passage fit in with rest of the Bible and lead me to Jesus, the climax of the whole Bible?
 - d. _____: Ask yourself: What is God trying to say to me through this passage?
3. _____ **truth into your heart.** As you meditate on God’s truths, let it lead you to pray. Take the words you just read and form prayers around them to God.
4. _____. Is there a concrete action that these truths are leading you to do? Write it down and *take action*. Remember, faith without works is dead (James 2). Jesus didn’t command us to merely read and study, he commanded us to *obey*. (Matt 28) Genuine faith always leads to real action.

(2) Being a disciple means you commit to worship corporately with the church through _____.

Sunday Worship is where we gather corporately to worship and to hear God’s Word preached. It is a weekly rhythm commanded by God, in which we are reminded of the most important thing in our lives: worshipping God and hearing the Gospel again. It is where we can be refreshed and renewed amidst the busyness of our lives and gather with God’s people. We need to make it a priority in our lives and order the rest of our lives around it.

3. _____