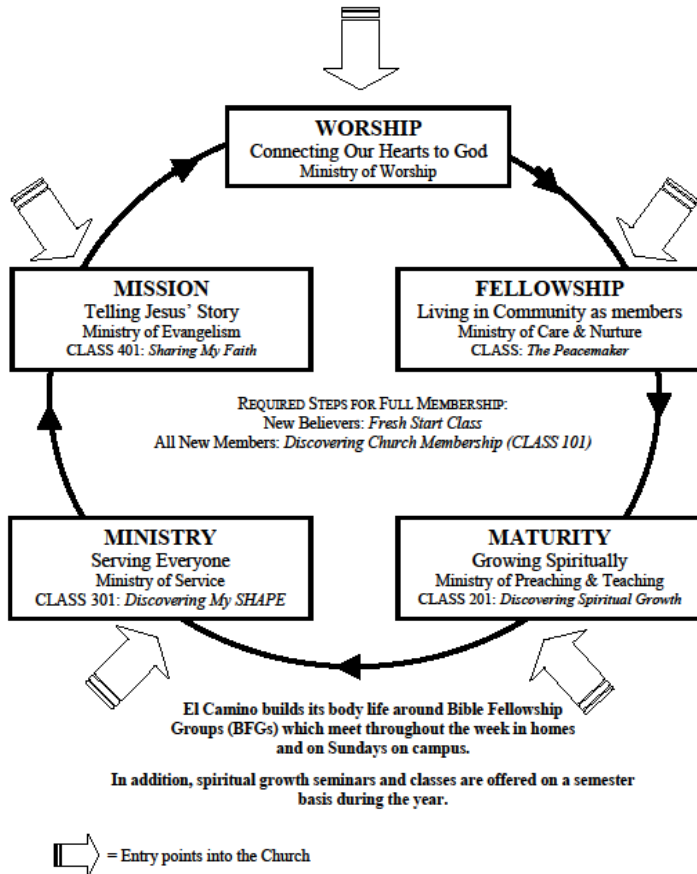


EL CAMINO DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS



Our Core Values and the Process of Discipleship at El Camino

Jesus gave two commandments that are to define our lives as individual followers and as a church...

The Great Commandment:

"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." Mark 12:30-31

The Great Commission:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:19-20

These define the purpose-driven life:

- To "love God with all your heart" is **worship**.
- To "love your neighbor as yourself" is **ministry**.
- To "go...and make disciples" is **evangelism**.
- To "baptize" is bringing into **membership**.
- To *teach them to obey everything I have commanded* is **discipleship**.

God not only created you to have an intimate relationship with Him, He created you to live a purposeful life because of that relationship. This means...

1. You were planned for God's pleasure.

"You created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created." Revelation 4:11 (NLT)

We honor God and please Him by worship and prayer.

2. You were formed for God's family.

"Christ makes us one body...connected to each other." Romans 12:5 (GW)

We honor God and please Him by loving other believers as part of His forever family.

3. You were created to become like Christ.

“God knew what He was doing from the beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son...We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in Him.” Romans 8:29 (Msg)

We honor God and please Him by maturing in our Christ-likeness.

4. You were shaped for serving God.

“It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.” Ephesians 2:10 (LB)

We honor God and please Him by serving others with our gifts.

5. You were made for a mission.

Jesus” *“Go and make disciples of all nations...”* Matthew 28:19a

We honor God and please Him by telling others about Jesus.

So, how does this play out in the framework of our church? How do people come into the church? How do we make disciples? How do they mature in faith? Simply this: while we have the responsibility to be the catalyst – to love and go tell, it happens organically (naturally) as the Spirit of God uses the testimony of our love for God and them, our words, and our lives to reach their hearts.

Our goal is to not allow programs, ministries and events become an end in and of themselves, but to be the means (or tools) to an end – maturing followers of Jesus. That means these things are not the entry points into the church; the purposes for which we are created are – and that can vary with person. There is no one entry point into that fits everyone. For some in might be worship, for another it might be spiritual growth, or being ministered to, etc. Programs, ministries and events are simply the opportunity providers.

While we also have the responsibility to help people mature as believers, it too is an organic process as the five purposes for which they were created begin to come into balance in their lives. God provides the means for this to happen through leaders who equip the body (Ephesians 4:11-16) and the gift-based ministry of believers (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

Now, while the process is totally organic as the Spirit works in lives, Jesus clearly said His followers were responsible for being catalysts; to help get going and stay going. How? Here’s what God’s word says...

“Encourage one another daily...” Hebrews 3:1

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...” Hebrews 10:25

“And we urge you...warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak...” 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Our core values (Connecting Our Hearts to God, Living in Community, Growing Spiritually, Serving Everyone, and Telling Jesus’ Story) emerge from the five purposes for which we were created and are what motivate us. They serve as our compass and are the litmus test of our ministries and programs.

The diagram illustrates the relationship of the purpose-driven life and our core values within the body life of El Camino.

Blessings,
Pastor Bill