

Lakewood Village Community Church

Adult Christian Education

Fall 2022 - Spiritual Development for Life and Ministry

Introduction Development is a part of life.

All Christians would like to be formed into the image of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- The only way we can achieve our full humanity -
- We are better, happier people -
- There are many good things needing to be done -

Theological Foundation

Knowing God - His existence, reality and meaning of God, knowing about God, and knowing God.

1. Revelation - God desires relationship with us, to know and be known, so He has revealed Himself.

a. General Revelation - Creation

b. Special Revelation - The Bible

c. Personal Revelation - different times and ways for each person

2. The Trinity/Godhead

- a. The Supreme Being - Yahweh means "I Am"
- b. One God, Three Persons - Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- c. God is Spirit, yet His image is human, male and female

3. God's Attributes - creative, good, loving, all wise, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal.

Uncreated Creator, the Ground of Being, the Unmoved Mover

4. Views of Divine Involvement and Interaction with humanity

- a. Deism - The Watchmaker God - created, then stood back to watch it run, uninvolved
- b. Theism - personal, caring, involved, speaking, directing, intervening, destiny, pre-destination/free will
- c. Panentheism - emphasizes God as distinct and personal, but also present in all of Creation
- d. Pantheism - God is the Creation, and the Creation is God, not distinct, not personal

5. The Mighty Acts of God (in love, to ensure love toward us, toward Him, toward one another)

- a. Creation - Genesis 1:1
- b. Incarnation - John 1:14

c. Atonement - John 3:16

d. Resurrection - John 11:25

e. Ascension - Hebrews 1:3, 7:25

f. Pentecost - Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:21-22, 1 Corinthians 12-13

g. Consummation - Colossians 1:19-20, Revelation 21:1-5

6. Most Christians believe God is living, interactive

a. We can know God, have personal relationship by invitation.

Revelation 3:20

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

John 1:12

¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

b. We Enter a Covenant with God by Grace through Faith

John 3:16-17

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

7. God's loving desires for each of us and all humanity

The Great Commandments - Love God and Love One Another -

Matthew 22:37-40

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 13:8

⁸Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law