Resetting our Brand, Rebuilding our Church

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Let’s read 1 Timothy 3

Announcement #1!

Focusing on Verses 14-16

1 Timothy 3:14-16 (KJV) *These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:*

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

A few quick thoughts

- This passage implies that there is a way the church ought to behave, and ways it ought not. (v15)
- In his second letter to Timothy, Paul called this good way a “pattern.”

2 Timothy 1:13 (NLT) Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus.

- The Church of Jesus Christ is the “pillar and ground” of truth. Those hungering for righteousness should be able to look to the Church! (v15)
- The motive for holding to the pattern is the Gospel! (v16)
- **<u>This heart to conform and reform for Christ has motivated us for years…</u>**

Our History

- We began as *Closer Walk Christian Fellowship* in 1997
- Our goal was to “Create Complete Christians” or in essence, make Disciples!
- We changed to *Calvary Revival Church Chesapeake* in 2005. At one point, there were 5 “CRCs” total.
- Ironically, we began expository preaching in earnest around the same time (2005-2007).
- **The process of walking line by line through Scripture produced major adjustments. God’s Word changes us!**
- We’ve been blessed to mature and grow in the Word, but that growth meant some pain! :)

Growth in the Scriptures!

Because we believe in following the pattern of Scripture for the church, we have some unique (but biblical and historic) beliefs and practices:

- Finding contentment and peace in Christ alone. **Jesus is Enough!**
- A belief that the "whole Gospel" must be preached. (Acts 20:27)
- Holding to expository preaching where the Text drives the message (2 Tim 4:2)
- Living out a loving holiness (John 14:15; 1 Pet 1:16)
- Seeing the pattern of worshipping with our children as something beautiful (2 Chr 20:13; Ez 10:1; Lk 18:16)
- A biblical view of men's/women's roles in the home and church (Eph 5; Col 3; 1 Tim 2-3; Titus 2)
- Believing the *primary* discipler of children are parents (Deut 6; Eph 6)
- Living with as little debt as possible (Prov 22:7; Rom 13:8)
- Pursuing biblical Hospitality and Community (Rom 12:13; 1 Pet 4:9)

This growth however, created a bit of an identity crisis. We have an answer for this…

Announcement #2!

Again, these changes, plus a few others I'll share momentarily, have resulted in our **very confident** (like 100%!) decision to:

Change the name of our Church!

WELCOME to….

Calvary Reformation Church!

Barring some real objections from Scripture….

We hope to have all the changes done by August 1!

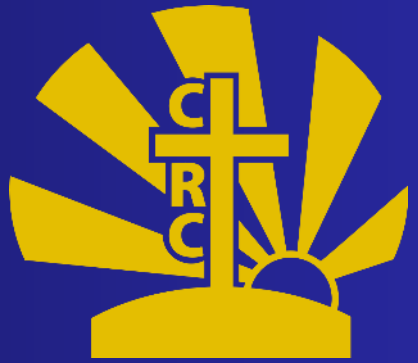
Our “New” logo is a blend of the past:

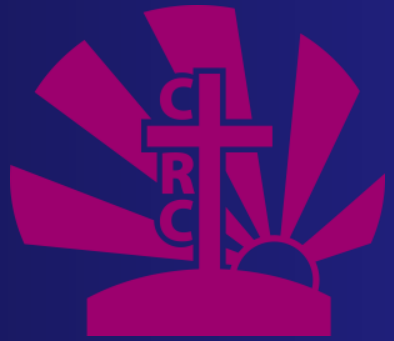
Closer Walk Logo, 1997.

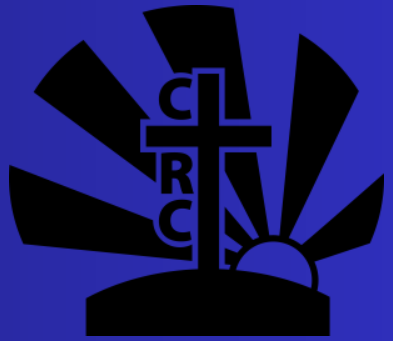
CRCC Logo, 2005.

Calvary Reformation Church!
(2020)

Different Colors for Different Things







Why “REFORMATION?”

- Because of God’s Word, we have been “**Reforming**.”
- We are not referring to a brand of theology; we mean that we have been conforming to the precepts, principles, and patterns of Scripture as a congregation with the Holy Spirit’s help.
- **To reform means “to return to a good state” or to “go back to biblically intended purposes.”**
- *Jeremiah 6:16 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*
- *2 Thessalonians 2:15 (KJV) Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*
- ***Biblical Reformation* is the intentional act of continually returning to God’s Word for His glory and our good!**

More on the “Why”

1. Changes at CRC Norfolk and Calvary Alliance
   - Their logo changed last year
   - Calvary Leadership Network has replaced Calvary Alliance of Churches
2. To make room for BCM to launch a Chesapeake campus
   - Scheduled for 2021
3. Confusion about our differences
   - Dissimilarities in distinctives
   - We want to eliminate confusion while maintaining personal connection!
4. We also want the freedom for us to be us…**to reset and rebuild!**
   - More peace concerning our biblical distinctives
   - Keep working to be a Pattern House!

A Special Video

Rebuilding!

1. We've had some pretty major leadership transitions over the last nine months, and member transition over several years. We love and miss everyone.
2. We've pretty much settled out; sadly smaller, <u>but joyfully more unified.</u>
3. Praying together has really helped us!
4. **We propose <u>recommitting</u> to our overall goal of reaching people, teaching and releasing them…and doing so primarily by Preaching the Scriptures, utilizing the power of small, or Care Group Accountability, building each Household up in the LORD, and Serving our Community.**
5. Therefore, we can continue to track our triangle (adding/subtracting ministries as needed) hopefully with renewed love and vigor.
6. We want to keep building on the Rock, according to the form/pattern. (Matt 7:24; 2 Tim 1:13)
7. We want Christ to be honored in all we do!

Our LORD’s Example

Matthew 9:35-38 (KJV)

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

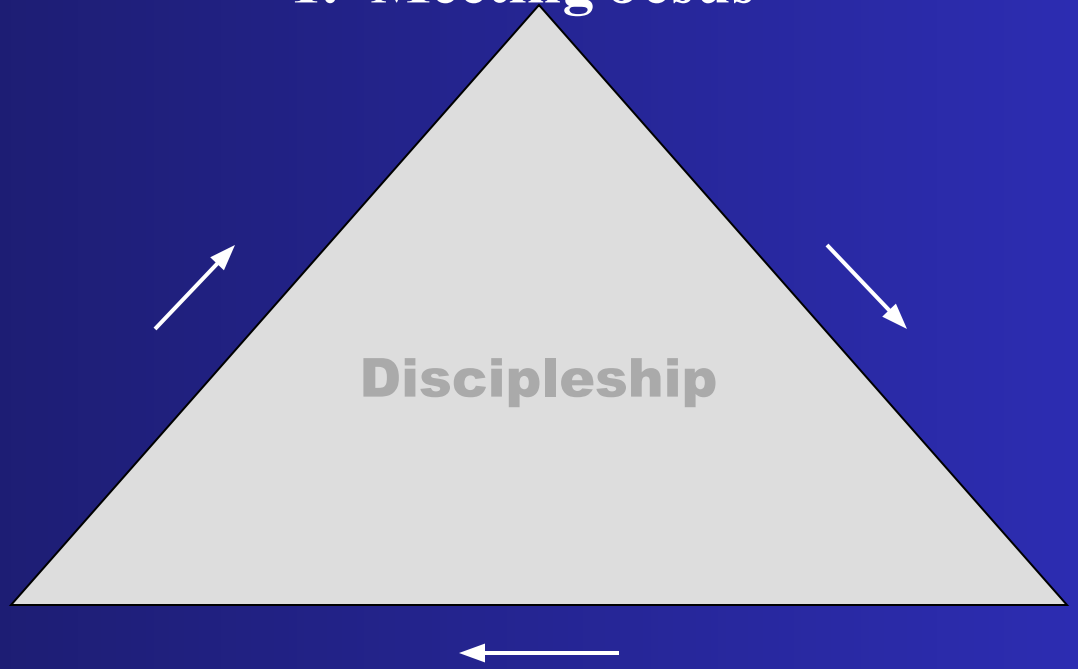
38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Let Us Imitate Our LORD!

1. Jesus went to the people…both in the “church” and on the “street”
2. Jesus **taught** the people
3. Jesus **preached** the Gospel to the people
4. Jesus **healed** the people
5. Jesus “looked at” or saw the condition of the people
6. Jesus was moved with compassion
7. Jesus commanded prayer for “sent forth” laborers to do what He did.

What is Discipleship?

1. Meeting Jesus

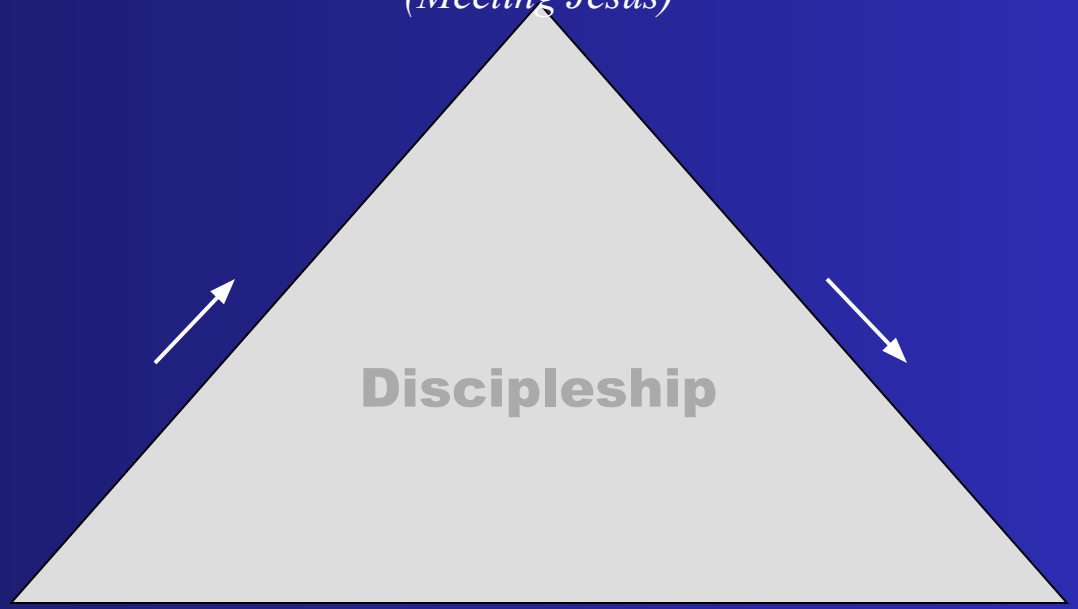


2. Knowing Jesus

3. Serving Jesus

Our Vision is about Discipleship

1. Reaching
(Meeting Jesus)

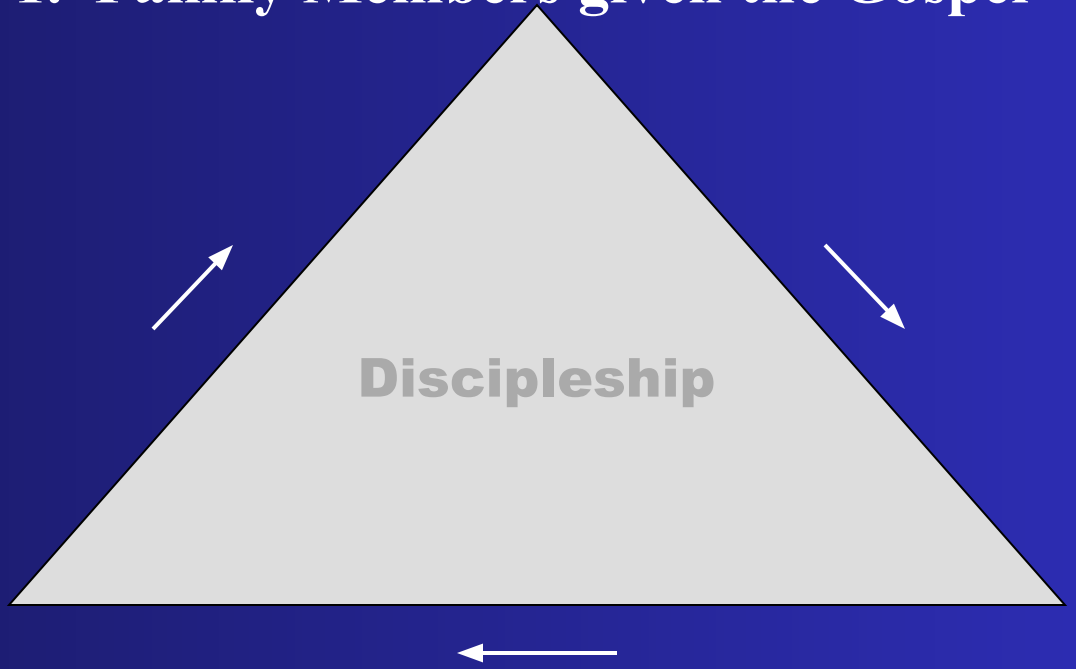


3. Releasing
(Serving Jesus)

2. Teaching
(Knowing Jesus)

Our Homes are Critical

1. Family Members given the Gospel



2. Family Devotions

3. Family Serving and Evangelizing together

The CRC Vision Process

(Matthew 9:35)

1. Worship as a Family and Invite Others *(Reaching)*

2. Be active in Care Group and Family Devotions

3. Serve in Ministry and at Home

Making Disciples at CRC

1. Worship as a Family and Invite Others

- Complete *The School of Biblical Evangelism* course
- Choose a long term church ministry
- Community ministry and connecting with Missions work is well under way

- Complete Covenant Life Classes
- Connect with and begin attending your Care Group
- Catechize your children and daily family worship begins

Discipleship

Matt 28:19

3. Serve in Ministry and at Home

- Choose an initial ministry and serve for at least six months to get acclimated to serving
- Capture the Debt Free/Dominion Mandate Vision; Attend FPU

2. Be active in Care Group and Family Devotions

Our Vision Statement

"Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing Hurting People Through the Power of Jesus Christ" (Matt 9:35-38)

Our Vision of People: **We dream** of *Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing* thousands of hurting and discouraged people. **We dream** of them and their families serving, worshipping, and living for Jesus. **We dream** of a mentoring and disciple-developing church where God's most precious resources, His people, are nurtured and taught what it truly means to be a Christian. **We dream** of restored marriages and families. **We dream** of a church that is multi-cultural, and a church where people of all ages feel loved and accepted. **We dream** of thousands of transformed lives by the power of Jesus Christ.

Let's Reach Out!

- Despite Covid, we are as spiritually healthy as we have been in years!
- As we turn the corner, please know that we are free to radically reach out; you can bring your friends into a safe space. :)
- Worldly uncertainty is providing Kingdom opportunity!
- Covid is not greater than Christ!

Now is the time Reconnect, Refocus, and Rebuild:

- Make it your aim to invite someone to church, in person or online. Follow up with them!
- Make it your aim to present the Gospel often!
- Be VERY familiar with CRC and the "whys" so you can answer questions.
- Be doers of the Word: disciple your family, attend church, serve!
- Be bold in declaring God's Word. Truth is often hard to hear.
- Walk by faith, not by sight!

Continuing our 2020 Plan

- Reaching out to disconnected members and visitors with more intentionality: **Care calls began this month. Letters and calls will shortly resume. Sis. Donna working on a "Mercy/Sympathy" Ministry Team.**
- Preaching Calendar: **Bearing Fruit!**
- Serving our Community: **Underway! Also reaching out more online.**
- An immediate Children's Space to bless young families: **Done!**
- New Deacons and a Revamped Care Group Ministry: **In progress!**
- Revamping how we intake New Members!
- Eating together on the LORD's Day. **Restarting after COVID all clear!**

Now more than ever: REFORMATION!

- Jesus is building His Church!
- The World needs His light!
- Scripture is Sufficient!
- Courage will be needed!
- The War is Spiritual; we must pray!
- Unity is paramount!
- Do not surrender your children!
- Community is essential!
- Love, forgiveness, mercy, contentment, obedience…these traits must live in our hearts and drive our actions!

Going Forward

My heart is to be a better, more focused leader…

…But this must be a team effort!

Again, repentance, forgiveness and renewed love and commitment are keys to going forward

CRC families are worth our best!

Our community is worth the effort!

Christ must be exalted!

Calvary Reformation Church

Changed Name, Same Mission

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