



FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Check yourself

The Bible encourages us to examine ourselves to see if we are truly "in the faith" ([2 Corinthians 13:5](#)). Thankfully, God has given us ample instruction for how we can know for sure that we have eternal life. The first epistle of John was actually written for that purpose, as it states in [1 John 5:13](#), "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

There is a series of tests in 1 John that we can use to examine ourselves and our faith. As we look at them, remember that no one will perfectly fulfill all of them all the time, but they should reveal a consistent trend that characterizes our lives as we grow in grace.

1. Do you enjoy having fellowship with Christ and His redeemed people? ([1 John 1:3](#))
2. Would people say you walk in the light, or walk in the darkness? ([1 John 1:6-7](#))
3. Do you admit and confess your sin? ([1 John 1:8](#))
4. Are you obedient to God's Word? ([1 John 2:3-5](#))
5. Does your life indicate you love God rather than the world? ([1 John 2:15](#))
6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"? ([1 John 2:29](#))
7. Do you seek to maintain a pure life? ([1 John 3:3](#))
8. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life? ([1 John 3:5-6](#)) [Note: this refers to not continuing in sin as a way of life, not a total absence of sin.]
9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians? ([1 John 3:14](#))
10. Do you "walk the walk," vs just "talking the talk"? ([1 John 3:18-19](#))
11. Do you maintain a clear conscience? ([1 John 3:21](#))
12. Do you experience victory in your Christian walk? ([1 John 5:4](#))

If you are able to truthfully answer "Yes" to these questions (or a majority of them, and are working on the others), then your life is bearing the fruit of true salvation. **Jesus said that it is by our fruits that we are known as His disciples** ([Matt 7:20](#)).

A genuine faith is one that not only believes in God (the devils themselves do that - [James 2:19](#)), but leads to open confession of sin and obedience to Christ's commands. Remember, we are saved by grace through faith, not by our works ([Eph 2:8-9](#)), but our works should display the reality of our salvation ([Ja 2:17-18](#)).

Genuine saving faith will always produce works; a faith that is perpetually without works is no faith at all and saves no one.

Missionary Update PNG

Today I went to town with Dr.Nimi, recently returned missionary from abroad, and Kia, the night security guard. We parked as usual in the lot of the store across from the market. Dr. Nimi gave me a box of truffles, which I hid under the driver's seat. I also hid two rechargeable lights for the prison in the cubby hole (glove compartment). We left our empty shopping bags and a bag with small packets of cake that I brought along for some of my favorite vendors at the market. Unfortunately, while we went in the store, the door behind the driver's seat had been left open. There are guards in the lot and I had brought cake for them too. Well, you guessed it, the market bags and the cake bag were gone, but the chocolate was still there along with the hidden lights. I guess the main lesson is to always hide the chocolate. Kia and I shared the truffles. Dr. Nimi said she needs to lose weight since going abroad, so no chocolate for her. Well here is my take on losing weight. We are on an island where probably most people do not know when they were born, do not know what they weigh, the women traditionally wear large meri blouses which cover everything, so why worry about weight. Missionaries usually gain when they travel off island and lose it once back. Last year when we went twice to Australia, well each time the nationals told me I had gained weight in just 2 weeks. Could it be the ice cream? Hmm. Not to worry, the doctor down there said I was fine and to keep doing what I was doing, not to change anything. So there you go. We did deliver the two rechargeable lights to the two prison cells that had no lights and also a song book to the cell that had requested one.

There is a cat that lives in our compound. Since 2 large dogs have joined the compound the cat has been hiding a lot. Today the two dogs were going after him while he was seeking sanctuary in a tree. Poor baby. His twin brother no longer lives with us. He is living in the country place of our day guard who says his daughter loves cuddling with him when she sleeps; You know I had put in some extra pieces of banana cake into the bag that was stolen today. Well, it is always a shame not to be generous with thieves. In Philly, when the two front wheels were stolen off my car, I am relieved to report that they were new tires. I would hate for the thieves to go to all that trouble for a bunch of junk.

Remember always hide the chocolate in a good place. It will calm you nerves when you need it most. Lois

January 13, 2019

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	1960 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080	
Philadelphia Access Center,	1832 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-1985

The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service & Children’s Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</i>	
Wednesday		1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Free Indeed</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men’s Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*; Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one’s addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Important Dates;

- **Youth Group meets tonight January 13, 2019**
- **Be on the lookout for news regarding Sunday Morning and Tuesday Evening Bible studies**

“It is our privilege to know that we are saved”. – Dwight L. Moody