

I'm In New Member Class
1 Night 3 Hours 7 Themes
Friday, June 11, 2010, 7:00 sharp

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ,
and individually members one of another.” Romans 12:5

“You are fellow citizens with the saints and
members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:19

“You cannot have God as your Father
if you do not have the church as your mother.” Cyprian

MILE 1: HISTORY

So how did we get here? We'll briefly run through the history of our church, as well as our individual stories of grace and how we came to be a part of Seven Mile Road.

MILE 2: GOSPEL

What is the Gospel? We'll press into the reality that drives everything we do at Seven Mile Road: what the Father has done for us in the person and work of Jesus.

MILE 3: COMMUNITY

What is the context for living a Gospel-centered life? We'll talk here about community as the context for Gospel-living.

MILE 4: MISSION

What does it mean to be a missional church? We'll talk about the theology and praxis of Seven Mile's missional living.

MILE 5: THEOLOGY

How does Seven Mile 'do theology'? We'll talk about our approach to theology and where we land on a myriad of doctrinal issues.

MILE 6: ECCLESIOLOGY

How is Seven Mile governed? We'll work through all things ecclesiological including out organizational structure, roles of elders, deacons and members, and our process for calling leaders.

MILE 7: COVENANT

What does it mean for me to be a member of Jesus' church gathered at Seven Mile Road? We'll outline the seven covenantal commitments we make to each other as members of the body of Christ gathered at Seven Mile.

MILE 1: **STORY**

We'll begin telling and hearing stories at 3 levels:

- individual's Gospel story
- individual's Seven Mile Road story
- Seven Mile Road history

MILE 2: **GOSPEL**

The central act of history, the heart of our faith, and the driver of everything we do at Seven Mile Road is what the Father has done for us in the person and work of Jesus.

Teaching points:

- Defining "Gospel"
- Displaying Gospel-centrality

MILE 3: **COMMUNITY**

If the Gospel is the central content of our life at Seven Mile Road, community is the context in which we grow in the Gospel.

Teaching points:

- Defining Biblical community
- Explicating soulcare communities

MILE 4: **MISSION**

The Gospel can never be contained in the four walls of a church, but necessarily transforms the lives of the saints and sends them on mission in their world.

Teaching points:

- Display the Biblical/theological mandates for mission
- Explicate the "Gospel Triangle"
- Articulate Seven Mile missional DNA

MILE 5: **THEOLOGY**

We so long for every single thing that we believe and are and do to be shaped by who God is and what He has revealed to be truth.

Teaching points:

- Display the importance of good theology (sound doctrine)
- Define the 3 essentials of how we ‘do theology’
- Explicate Seven Mile Road’s right-handed, left-handed and open-handed doctrinal convictions

MILE 6: **ECCLESIOLOGY**

Jesus loves His church and wants to see her led well for His glory and her joy.

Teaching points:

- Display a missional ecclesiology
- Define Seven Mile Road’s leadership structure, including roles
- Define the process for leaders being called at Seven Mile

MILE 7: **COVENANT**

To become a member of this local expression of the body of Christ is to make these 7 covenantal commitments...

BELIEVE

“I am a Christian, having been born again spiritually by believing the gospel... that I am saved by God’s grace through faith in the work of Jesus on my behalf. I have been publicly baptized as a sign of my new life in Christ.”

CONFESS

“I confess that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the ultimate authority for faith and life. I affirm Seven Mile Road’s theological convictions, which emerge from the pages of Scripture and are in harmony with the testimony of historic Christianity.”

UNITE

“I commit myself to the Seven Mile Road church family and will unite with my words and actions, refusing gossip and doing all I can to foster peace.”

COMMUNE

“I will strive to live all of my life in response to the Gospel, seeking faithful obedience as my answer to God’s grace. Toward this end, I will participate regularly in both our big Lord’s Day gatherings and a smaller (soulcare or alternative) community of Seven Milers.”

GIVE

“I will give to the work of God here at Seven Mile Road joyfully, regularly, and sacrificially. I understand that our pastors will be aware of my giving patterns as a means of encouraging my discipleship.”

SUBMIT

“I recognize that certain members will serve our body as shepherds/elders/pastors, and I pledge to love them and follow them as they lead us toward becoming a stronger church. I understand that should I embrace habitual, unrepentant sin, I will come under the loving discipline of the church.”

MISSION

“I pledge to put the mission of God ahead of my own interests, to support our taking risks that will result in the redemption of others, and to view my personal life as a missional expression of God to the world.”