

What Is the Will of the Lord For Me?

INTRODUCTION

What is God's will for new Christians, and for all of us as members of the church that meets in Middleburg?

Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV) ¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

Matthew 7:21 (NKJV) ²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will** of My Father in heaven.

I. Dedication to loving the Lord and His family.

- A. **Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)** ³⁷Jesus said to him, "*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."
- B. **Luke 9:57-62 (NKJV)** ⁵⁷Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head." ⁵⁹Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." ⁶¹And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house." ⁶²But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- C. **1 John 5:2-3 (NKJV)** ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

D. What does dedication to loving the Lord and His family look like?

II. We join ourselves to and become accountable to a local family of believers (*membership*).

- A. **Saul joined with the disciples in the work**
- Acts 9:26-28 (NKJV)** ²⁶And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he **tried to join the disciples**; but they were all afraid of him, and **did not believe that he was a disciple.** ²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. ²⁸So he was **with them** at Jerusalem, **coming in and going out.**
 - Acts 11:26 (NKJV)** ²⁶And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

B. Christians must place themselves under the spiritual oversight of their local family

1. **Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
2. **Hebrews 12:15 (ESV)** ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

C. We submit to instruction and warning, and maintain peace in our family.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NKJV)** ¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
2. **Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)** ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

III. We assemble and worship with our spiritual family

1. **Acts 2:41-42 (NKJV)** ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
2. **Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)** ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
3. **Hebrews 13:14-15 (NKJV)** ¹⁴For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
4. **Hebrews 3:12-14 (NKJV)** ¹²Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.

IV. We work to do our “part” in building up the body

1. **Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)** ¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2. **1 Corinthians 12:24-27 (NKJV)** ²⁴...But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, ²⁵that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
3. **Hebrews 6:9-12 (NKJV)** ⁹But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and [£]labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
4. **Galatians 6:1-2 (NKJV)** ¹Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
5. **Galatians 6:8-9 (NKJV)** ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
6. **1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV)** ¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
7. *It's NOT "What can the church do for me?" BUT "What can I do for the LORD?"*

V. We read and learn God's Word

A. We grow in our salvation, inside and outside of the church building

1. **1 Peter 2:2-3 (NASB)** ²like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

B. We work to equip ourselves to teach others

1. **2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** ²And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
2. **Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV)** ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

C. We are diligent to "rightly divide" or "handle accurately" the word of truth

1. **2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)** ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

VI. We set the best possible example for others.

1. **1 Timothy 4:12** – "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
2. **Matthew 18:6 (NKJV)** "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

VII. We give of our means to provide for our work together as a group.

1. The local church provides funds for evangelism and edification and needy Christians.
2. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NKJV)** ¹Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ²On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.
3. **2 Corinthians 8:12 (NKJV)** ¹²For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.

CONCLUSION: We want to be the best possible Christian and therefore the best possible:

1. Member of the Family
2. Worshiper and Encourager
3. Servant Worker
4. Bible Reader
5. Example
6. Giver