

Objective

To teach our adult membership to grow in grace and knowledge in the supremacy of the triune God as He is revealed in scripture through its interpretation and its application.

Approach

The foundation of the education ministry of Providence Baptist Church is the word of God. All teaching ministry should have the Bible as its primary focus. The Bible constitutes the authority for all doctrine taught within the Providence Baptist Church Statement of Faith, which provides guidance when multiple interpretations are available. While additional resources are welcome to facilitate discussion, the Bible will hold prominence in all PBC Sunday School Classes. The ultimate goal is to have members gain confidence in the word as inspired by the Holy Spirit rather than relying on the opinion of popular theologians.

Methodology

The education ministry will use adult Sunday School classes to grow students in how to interpret scripture and to apply its precepts to all of life. There are four levels of learning for the ministry. Level I (or 100) courses are designed to help students become acquainted with scripture at a basic level and have a theological framework in which to build upon. This level will also offer basics in evangelism, missiology and spiritual gifts in order to begin the process of a disciple undertaking the mission and service of the church. Level II (or 200) courses will increase the exegesis skills of students. It will also teach them the basic elements of church history where students will have an appreciation and understanding of their Christian Background and the development of theological concepts. At this level, students will also engage with family issues. Level III (or 300) will interact with contemporary issues facing the church, now that students have a strong foundation in scripture, theology, and history. Level IV (or 400) are courses designed to train teachers that will teach future courses on behalf of providence and prepare them to lead individual ministries in other fields such as church planting and missions. One additional level (010) not mentioned is the Prospective Member Class where the ministries and vision of Providence Baptist Church is introduced to prospective members. It is recommended that current Providence members take this course every five years as a refresher of our methodology. It will also allow potential new members to become acquainted with current members as they share their personal experiences at PBC.

Structure

Each quarter at least two level I courses will be offered. They will cycle every three years. Other levels will be offered as qualified teachers are able to teach the curriculum. It is not required that a student have all the basic courses before taking a more challenging course. However, students need to be aware that classroom discussion and lectures will be conducted on the assumption that students have these basic skills. For example, a 301 class on Money and Finances, will be looking at the material from a biblical perspective and how the Church interacted with this issue over the course of time. Students not familiar with the previous courses will be at a disadvantage as the lessons will be biblically founded and not based upon the writings of Dave Ramsey or Larry Burkett. Therefore, it would benefit the student greatly to have the 'pre-requisite' courses.