

# 3 Pillars of the Christian Faith

*Every healthy Christian life engages each of these pillars in some way*

- **Devotion & Discipleship** – (INWARD) the practices and activities Christians do to foster spiritual growth and develop spiritual maturity.
  - Scripture reading & meditation
    - regularly spending time in God's word (not just reading religious books about God's word or listening to religious music)
    - learning the scriptures and applying them to daily life
  - Prayer for others, self & God's will
    - seeking God's will and the courage to follow it
    - praying for the sick and needy
    - asking for God's care, providence and guidance
  - Spiritual disciplines
    - fasting, meditation, sacrifice, etc.
    - occasional (but regularly engaged) activities that seek a right understanding of God's holiness and human frailty
  - Participating in Sunday school/Bible studies/youth Groups/etc.
    - attending activities that teach God's word and help engage God's will
  - Fellowship with the body of Christ
    - seeking health and unity within the body of Christ
    - embracing discipline from other members of Christ's body
- **Ministry & Justice** – (OUTWARD) the activities Christians do to increase God's kingdom in the world and promote justice.
  - Teaching/leading Sunday school, youth groups, Bible studies, worship, etc.
    - leading others toward spiritual maturity
  - helping others develop in faith and knowledge of God's word
  - Caring for the needs of the sick, poor, downtrodden, etc.
    - providing food for the hungry, clothes for the naked, and shelter for the homeless
    - visiting shut-ins and those who are lonely
    - mourning with those who mourn and rejoicing with those who rejoice
  - Seeking the demolition of unjust systems and promoting justice
    - being politically and socially active in ways that specifically promote God's kingdom and seek to establish his will
  - Ministry *within* the body of Christ and to others *as* the body of Christ
    - engaging the body of Christ in the work Christ began
- **Worship & Blessing** – (UPWARD [to God] & DOWNWARD [from God]) the means by which Christians honor God and express our love, praise and thanksgiving to him both publicly and privately
  - Promoting & learning God's honor and human humility
    - re-establishing a right relationship between humanity and divinity
  - Giving self, resources, honor and thanksgiving to God
    - thankfully laying all things at God's feet
    - placing one's own ambitions, resources, and desires secondary to God's
  - Remembering God's faithfulness and seeking appropriate human response
    - confession, prayer, remembrance, hope, etc.
  - Fellowship
    - Embracing the body of Christ (unity *with* Christ and unity with Christians *in* Christ)
  - Sacraments
    - Partaking of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis