

# **LIVING IN THE POST MODERN WORLD**

*Midwest City Free Methodist Church*

## **Worship**

- I. Free Methodist Membership Covenant - "As Regards God"
  - A. As God's people, we reverence and worship Him.
  - B. We commit to cultivate the habits of Christian devotion:
    1. submitting to mutual accountability;
    2. practicing private and corporate prayer;
    3. studying the Scriptures;
    4. attending public worship;
    5. and partaking of Holy Communion.
  - C. We commit ourselves to observe the Lord's Day setting it apart for worship, renewal and service.
  - D. We commit ourselves to give our loyalty to Christ and the Church, refraining from any alliances which compromises our Christian commitment.
- II. Christ-Centered Worship
  - A. The Exodus Event
    1. God reveals Himself - *Exodus 3:12*
    2. God comes to redeem His people - *Exodus 14:13-14*
    3. God creates a community of people for worship - *Exodus 20:1-17*
    4. God confirms a covenant with His people - *Exodus 24:1-11*
  - B. The Christ-Event
    1. Worship celebrates Christ: Life/Death/Resurrection - *Philippians 2:5-11*
    2. Worship acts out the Christ-Event - *Gospels*
      - a. Gathering - Jesus Christ calls His people
      - b. Word - Jesus Christ speaks to His people
      - c. Table - Jesus Christ confirms His covenant
      - d. Blessing - Jesus Christ gives His blessing
    3. Worship seeks the presence of God - *Revelation 1:10*
      - a. Individual promises
      - b. Corporate realities
    4. Worship invites everyone to participate: becomes a way of living - *Romans 12:1-2*
- III. Post Modern Worship - *John 4:19-26*
  - A. Why do Christians worship?
    1. We worship to give praise to God
    2. We worship to experience community
    3. We worship to change the world
  - B. New Values for the 21st Century
    1. Innovation
    2. Gratification
    3. Choices
    4. Quality
    5. Intimacy
    6. Experiences
    7. Expressions
    8. Pragmatic
    9. Authenticity
  - C. EPIC Worship - Leonard Sweet
    1. Experimental - feeling the presence of God - full body worship
    2. Participatory - connecting to God and the moment - no spectators
    3. Interactive - responding to God and the church - transforming life
    4. Communal - finding a community faith - a people of God

**MIDWEST CITY FREE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**The Feast of St. Ephraim the Syrian**  
**June 9, 2004**

**INVITATION**

Cause us to hear thy grace, the message of your salvation.  
We have heard many things and our minds are weary with messages of fear.  
**Praises to Thy victory! Glory to the Lord!**

**CONFESSION**

**O Lord and Master of life, take from us the spirit of laziness, fear, lust for power and idle talk.**

**But grant unto us, Thy servants, a spirit of holiness, humility, patience and love. *(Kneeling)***

**Yea, O Lord and King, grant us to see our own faults and not to judge our brothers and sisters. For you are blessed for ever and ever. Amen. *(Kneeling)***

**O God, cleanse us sinners now. *(Bow down 12 times)***

**A PRAYER OF GLORY TO CHRIST**

Glory to Thee, Lord

What shall I give Thee, Lord, in return for all Thy kindness?

**Glory to Thee for Thy love.**

**Glory to Thee for Thy mercy.**

**Glory to Thee for Thy patience.**

**Glory to Thee for forgiving us all our sins.**

**Glory to Thee for coming to save our souls.**

**Glory to Thee for Thine incarnation in the Virgin's womb.**

**Glory to Thee for Thy bonds.**

**Glory to Thee for receiving the cut of the lash.**

**Glory to Thee for accepting mockery.**

**Glory to Thee for Thy crucifixion.**

**Glory to Thee for Thy burial.**

**Glory to Thee for Thy resurrection.**

**Glory to Thee who were preached to men and women.**

**Glory to Thee in whom they believed.**

**Glory to Thee who were taken up into Heaven.**

**Glory to Thee who sit in great glory at the Father's right hand.**

Glory to Thee whose will it is that the sinner should be saved  
through thy great mercy and compassion.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**BLESSING AND GIVING OF BREAD AND CUP**

**BENEDICTON**

# **LIVING IN THE POST MODERN WORLD**

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## **Integrity**

- I. Free Methodist Membership Covenant - “As Regards Ourselves and Others”
  - A. As people, we live wholesome and holy lives and show mercy to all, ministering to both their physical and spiritual needs.
  - B. We commit ourselves to be free from activities and attitudes that defile the mind and harm the body, or promote the same;
  - C. We commit ourselves to respect the worth of all persons as created in the image of God;
  - D. We commit ourselves to strive to be just and honest in all our relationships and dealings.
- II. Relational Integrity
  - A. Worth of Persons
    1. We are committed to the worth of all humans regardless of gender, race, color, or any other distinctions - *Acts 10:34-35*
    2. We will respect them as persons made in the image of God - *Genesis 1:26-27*
    3. Jesus summarized this law as love for God and neighbor - *Matthew 22:36-40*
    4. Jesus ministered to all without distinction - *Romans 5:8*
  - B. Self Discipline
    1. One attribute of the Spirit’s indwelling presence is self-control - *Galatians 5:23*
    2. We honor the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit - *I Corinthians 6:19-20*
  - C. Stewardship of Possessions
    1. We should not make possessions or wealth the goal of our lives - *Matthew 6:19-20*
    2. We give generously to meet the needs of others and to support ministry - *II Corinthians 8:1-5;9:6-13*
  - D. Life in the Workplace
    1. We are called to be servants of all - *Ephesians 6:5-9*
    2. We believe that all persons have the privilege to be gainfully employed - *Romans 10:12*
- III. Post Modern Integrity - *Colossians 3:22-4:6*
  - A. Christian Ethics
    1. Reciprocal obligation - “do unto others”
      - a. husbands/wives
      - b. parents/children
      - c. employer/employee
    2. Unto the Lord - “whatever you do”
      - a. everyone has One Master - Jesus Christ
      - b. everything we do is guided by an awareness of God’s presence
  - B. Christian Service
    1. Prayer - watchful and thankful
    2. Intercession - lifting up others
    3. Wisdom - be wise as serpents, gentle as doves
    4. Opportunity - exercise faith in all things
    5. Speech - full of grace and seasonal with truth

# LIVING IN THE POST MODERN WORLD

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Midwest City Free Methodist Church

## Sex, Money and Power

### I. The Christian Journey

#### A. Entertainment - *Romans 8:12-13*

1. We evaluate all forms of entertainment in the light of biblical standards
2. We govern ourselves to biblical standards of holy living

##### \* Types of Entertainment

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| a. Television   | f. Dances      |
| b. Videos/DVD's | g. Magazines   |
| c. Movies       | h. Book/novels |
| d. Music        | i. Games       |
| e. Internet     | j. Sports      |

#### B. Misuse of Substances - *John 8:35*

1. We believe that life is full, abundant and free in Jesus Christ
2. We abstain from whatever damages, destroys or distorts His life in us

##### \*Types of Substances that Can Be Misused

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Illicit drugs | d. Prescription drugs |
| b. Alcohol       | e. Food               |
| c. Tobacco       | f. Drink              |

#### C. Pornography - *Galatians 5:19-21*

*“For society, pornography is a rampant degenerative force. It damages and destroys. As Christians, we oppose the **abomination** of pornography by every legitimate means.”*

#### D. Homosexual Behavior - *Leviticus 20:10-16*

1. The sanctity of marriage/family is to be protected against immoral conduct-*Exodus 22:16-17*
2. The Scriptures speak explicitly against homosexual practice:
  - a. *Leviticus 18:22;20:13*
  - b. *Romans 1:26-27*
  - c. *I Corinthians 6:9-10*
  - d. *I Timothy 1:8-10*

### II. Post Modern Views on Sex, Money and Power

#### A. When Good Things Go Bad - *II Timothy 3:1-5*

- |          |       |       |                  |                      |
|----------|-------|-------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sex   | love  | lust  | lust of eyes     | lovers of pleasure   |
| 2. Money | work  | greed | craving of sin   | lovers of money      |
| 3. Power | order | pride | boasting of life | lovers of themselves |

#### B. An Old Call to Holy Living - *I John 2:15-17*

1. A vow of chastity: guarding the senses with the grace of God
2. A vow of poverty: saying no to the world in order to say yes to God
3. A vow of obedience: serving God and others before self

#### C. A New Call to Holy Living - *Mark 8:34-35*

1. A vow of fidelity: denying self - being faithful to God
2. A vow of simplicity: taking the cross - letting go of the world
3. A vow of service: following Christ - reaching people for the kingdom

# **LIVING IN THE POST MODERN WORLD**

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## **Sanctity**

### I. Life is Sacred - *Genesis 1:31*

#### A. The Sovereignty of God- *Book of Discipline*

1. The world/universe belongs to God
2. God has an eternal purpose and plan for all creation
3. Humanity is free and responsible to make decisions of life and death
4. The dignity of humanity is to be honored with wisdom and compassion

#### B. The Image of God - *Job 37:23-24*

1. God is Spirit –humanity has a spirit
2. God is a Person - humanity has personality
3. God is Moral - humanity has a conscience
4. God is Love - humanity has relationships

#### C. The Creation of Humanity

1. Humanity was conformed to an ideal form which God possesses
2. Humanity's dominion over the earth and its creatures
3. Humanity's rationality and ability to have communion with his Creator
4. Humanity's original holiness, righteousness and moral nature
5. Humanity's personality of intellect, emotion and will
6. Humanity's triune being of body, soul and spirit

### II. The Christian Journey

#### A. Reproductive Technology

1. Life in all its stages is to be considered - *Psalms 139:15-16*
2. Christian theology of family should inform decision - *Genesis 4:1*

#### B. Abortion

1. Life is not to be terminated to serve self or for convenience sake - *Hebrews 12:2*
2. Life is precious in God's sight - *Exodus 20:13*
3. Life exists in relation to God - *Acts 17: 28*

#### C. Euthanasia

1. Every life has value and purpose - *Jeremiah 29:11-13*
2. Care, comfort and support is offered to all who suffer - *II Corinthians 1:3-5*

#### D. Other Ethical Dilemmas: *organ transplant, genetic engineering, gender identity, stem cell research*

### III. Post Modern Sanctity - *I Corinthians 6:18-20*

#### A. The Image of Self

1. Self-Centered - "*Believe in yourself*"
2. Self-Consuming - "*Have it your way*"
3. Self-Narcissistic - "*You deserve a break today*"
4. Self-Destructive - "*Carpe Diem*"
5. Self-Aggrandizement - "*You are the future*"

#### B The Need for God

1. *God, the Father* - realization - all truth
2. *Jesus, the Son* - revelation - truth revealed
3. *Holy Spirit* - personalization - truth embraced
4. *Fellowship* - corporation - truth practiced

# LIVING IN THE POST MODERN WORLD

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## Church and State

### I. Free Methodist Membership Covenant

- A. As Regards God - *worship*
- B. As Regards Ourselves and Others - *integrity, order, (money, sex and power), sanctity*
- C. As Regards the Institutions of God
  - 1. We honor and support God - ordained institutions - family, state and church
  - 2. We honor the sanctity of marriage
  - 3. We value and nurture children, guiding them to faith in Christ
  - 4. We seek to be responsible citizens and pray for those who lead
- D. As Regards the Church
  - 1. We express the life of Christ in the world
  - 2. We contribute to the unity of the Church - integrity, love and understanding
  - 3. We practice the principles of Christian stewardship—tithes, offerings, giving
  - 4. We go into our world and make disciples

### II. The Christian Journey

- A. The Christian and the Church
  - 1. Membership - based on a covenant for the community of faith - *Acts 2:47*
  - 2. Leadership - based on responsibility and authority - *I Timothy 3:1-13*
- B. The Christian and the State
  - 1. Civic participation—seek to improve social, cultural and educational conditions—*Matt 5:13-16*
  - 2. War - promote peace and goodwill - conscientious objectors - *Romans 14:19*
  - 3. Swearing Oaths - strive to in justice and truth and avoid vain oaths - *Ephesians 4:25*

### III. Post Modern Views on Church and State

- A. Post Modern Pre-Christians and Society
  - 1. Post Moderns do not trust institutions - ie church, government, schools, courts
  - 2. Post Moderns want to reconstruct all systems - economical, political, social and spiritual
  - 3. Post Moderns define truth as relative and personal - “if it works for you that’s great”
  - 4. Post Moderns reject knowledge as objective - ie  $1+1=2$
  - 5. Post Moderns celebrate diversity to the point of syncretism - ie “love Jesus and whales”
  - 6. Post Moderns attack the order of things and rely on a pragmatic agenda
  - 7. Post Moderns play to a global audience - ie movies, music, fashion and sports
- B. Post Modern Christians and Church
  - 1. Post Modern Christians need a community of faith - **Trinity**
  - 2. Post Modern Christians want a holistic experience of truth - **transformation**
  - 3. Post Modern Christians desire an integrated self - **purpose**
  - 4. Post Modern Christians seek participation - **community, spirituality and missions**
- C. Balance - *Romans 13:1-7*
  - 1. All authority has been established by God and everyone must learn to submit
    - a. Rebellion is sin
    - b. Rebellion against what God has instituted brings judgment
    - c. Civil disobedience must be initiated with great discernment - see *Acts 5:29*
  - 2. Give to everyone what you owe them: taxes, reverence, respect and honor
    - a. We must live our lives in holy obedience to those around us
    - b. We must live our lives in true humility towards all people - see *Titus 3:1-2*

# **LIVING IN THE POST MODERN WORLD**

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## **Marriage and Family**

### I. Free Methodist Membership Covenant

- A. As Regards God - *worship*
- B. As Regards Ourselves and Others - *integrity, order (money, sex and power), sanctity*
- C. As regards the Institutions of God - *family, state*
- D. As Regards the Church - *church*

### II. The Christian Journey

#### A. The Christian and Marriage

1. God instituted marriage for the well being of humanity - *Genesis 2:20-24*
2. Marriage is the joining together of one man and one woman - *Mark 10:7-9*
3. Sexual intercourse is to be celebrated and honored in marriage - *Hebrews 13:4*
4. Sexual deviations are to be condemned - *Romans 1:26-27*
5. Christians are expected to marry other Christians - *II Corinthians 6:14*

#### B. The Christian and Divorce

1. Christian spouses should stay with their mates - *I Corinthians 7:16*
2. Reconciliation and restoration should always be the first course of action - *Matthew 5:32*
3. Reasons for divorce
  - a. Infidelity - *Matthew 19:19*
  - b. Desertion - *I Corinthians 7:15*
  - c. Abuse - *Mark 10:5-9*
4. Recovery after a divorce centers on forgiveness - *Colossians 3:1-15*

#### C. The Christian and Remarriage

1. The member should seek counsel, and guidance from the church - *Proverbs 15:27*
2. The member should consider his/her station in life - *I Corinthians 7:25-28*

### III. Post Modern Views on Marriage and Family

#### A. Types of American Families

1. Nuclear Family - mom/dad/children
2. Single Parent Family - one parent
3. Blended Family - divorce/remarriage
4. Extended Family - grandparents/aunts/uncles
5. Couples - no desire to have children
6. Singles - no desire to get married

#### B. Scriptural Help for American Families - *Ephesians 5:22-6:4*

1. Wives submit to your husbands - *vv.22-24*
2. Husbands love your wives - *vv.25-27*
3. Husbands care for your wives - *vv.28-30*
4. The two shall become one - *vv.31-32*
5. Husbands love your wives - *v.33*
6. Wives respect your husbands - *v.33*
7. Children obey your parents - *v.1*
8. Honor your father and mother - *vv.2-3*  
—a command with a promise
9. Fathers do not exasperate your children - train and instruct them - *v.4*