

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of STEPHENVILLE

Building Use Policy for Events

Effective March 21st, 2018

It is our desire to join you in making your event as wonderful as it can be – a worship experience that will be meaningful and will live always in your memory. To this end we are happy to offer our services and the facilities of this church to all church members and to others, in accordance with the enclosed policies.

1. Scheduling and Availability

- 1.1. First Baptist Church of Stephenville (FBC) staff must review and approve any requests for use of the building.
- 1.2. Member weddings, worship, and other FBC ministry events in the life of the church have first opportunity for reservations on facilities.
- 1.3. There will be no more than one event scheduled per weekend.
- 1.4. The timeframe will span 4 hours for a ceremony, or 8 hours for a ceremony and reception hosted at FBC. This timeframe includes any necessary clean-up.
- 1.5. If a previously approved event must be rescheduled, the FBC staff will do its best to accommodate by recommending an alternate date.
- 1.6. Childcare is not provided for a wedding rehearsal, ceremony, and/or reception. No facilities in the church are available for any type of childcare.
- 1.7. FBC is not responsible for personal items brought into the church for use in an event. The church is not liable if such items are lost, stolen, and/or damaged.

2. Building Use Fees

- 2.1. Fees will be charged according to the fee table included in Appendix A of this policy.
- 2.2. Members must have been an active member of First Baptist Church for six months before being eligible for the member pricing.
- 2.3. A refundable security deposit of \$250 is required for all events.
- 2.4. If the event causes damage to church property, policies have not been followed, or the space is not left clean, the \$250 security deposit will not be refunded.
- 2.5. The security deposit will be refunded within 30 days after the event if all conditions have been met satisfactorily.
- 2.6. The security deposit secures your reservation. Your reservation is not complete until the Building Use Request Form (Appendix B) and deposit have both been received and approved by the FBC staff. A staff member will notify you of approval.
- 2.7. A card access key will be issued the week of the event to allow entrance into the building, and will be programmed for specific times corresponding with the event. A \$50 fee will be charged and deducted from your security deposit if the key is not returned 7 days after the event.
- 2.8. FBC will schedule custodial personnel for your event. The custodial fee will be \$150 and will be paid directly to the custodian.

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- 2.9. Fees are subject to change and may be waived at FBC staff discretion with documented justification for the waiver. Fees will be charged based on the date the deposit is received.
- 2.10. Fees must be paid in full at least one month in advance of the event.
- 2.11. Fees may be paid by cash or check made out to First Baptist Church of Stephenville.
- 2.12. Fees may be mailed to 334 W. Green Street, Stephenville, TX 76401, or delivered to the church offices during normal business hours.

3. Set-up and Take-down

- 3.1. Set-up is not available for events. Take-down by FBC staff may be requested, but is considered separately from the reservation itself, and is dependent upon staff availability. Take-down of the main stage chairs will require a separate fee of \$50.
- 3.2. Furniture may not be dragged across floors.
- 3.3. Please notify the on-site staff person if the thermostat needs to be adjusted.
- 3.4. Any damaged discovered during cleaning will be documented and may result in the forfeiture of the security deposit.
- 3.5. Damages in excess of the \$250 security deposit will be paid by the reserving party.
- 3.6. FBC requests the church properties be placed in the same condition in which they were found.

4. Building Requirements

- 4.1. It is expected that all members of the event party will conduct themselves with reverence and respect for the Church and its furnishings.
- 4.2. Smoking, consumption of alcohol or use of illegal drugs are not permitted on the FBC campus.
- 4.3. Confetti, birdseed, rice, sparklers, silly string, or other similarly “messy” supplies may only be used in outside areas of the FBC campus with prior staff approval.
- 4.4. Bubbles may be used outside the church building.
- 4.5. The event party is responsible for cleanup of the outside grounds if outside decorations are left.

5. Wedding Rehearsal

- 5.1. A rehearsal is recommended the day before the wedding, and is included in the fees.
- 5.2. The wedding party will have access to the building will be from 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm.
- 5.3. The facility must be vacated no later than 10:00 pm.

6. Wedding Ceremony

- 6.1. Wedding ceremonies at FBC will be conducted by a recognized Christian Minister.
- 6.2. It is preferred that a minister from FBC conduct the service.

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- 6.3. In the event of a visiting minister, it must be affirmed the minister adheres to the basic tenets of faith represented by FBC through an interview by the Senior Pastor of FBC (see Appendix C).
- 6.4. In the event of a visiting minister, the request must be approved or denied by the Senior Pastor of FBC.

7. Flowers and Decorations

- 7.1. Decorations may not be placed on musical instruments, such as the piano or the organ.
- 7.2. Flowers must be placed where there will be no water damage or stains.
- 7.3. Church refrigerators are unable to store flowers. Please make arrangements to have flowers delivered as close to the ceremony time as possible.
- 7.4. Real flower petals may not be used on the church flooring as they may stain the carpet areas. Silk flower petals are recommended for flower girls.
- 7.5. Use only blue painter's tape to affix items temporarily. Thumbtacks, pushpins, staples, or other types of tape are not allowed.
- 7.6. Pew clips are recommended for attaching decorations to the pews or the use of wrapped ribbon to fasten bows to the pews.
- 7.7. All precaution must be taken to see that wax does not drip on church furnishings or the floors. Drip-less candles on stands are required.
- 7.8. The wedding party will be responsible to remove all floral arrangements and decorations following the wedding and/or reception. Items left in the church will be discarded.

8. Music

- 8.1. As our facilities are a place of worship, great care should be taken that the music selected be of a worshipful nature.
- 8.2. A grand piano and/or organ is available for use in the Sanctuary and must be played by the church musicians. Any damage to the piano and/or organ will result in automatic forfeiture of the total security deposit.
- 8.3. FBC musicians are available for a fee of \$150 per event per instrument to be paid directly to the musicians.
- 8.4. There is no piano or organ available in the Paradigm building.
- 8.5. If seeking to use outside instrumentalists, the wedding party must seek approval from church.

9. Sound and Media Systems

- 9.1. Included in the Sanctuary wedding fees is use of the pulpit microphone and one other handheld microphone with a stand available.
- 9.2. Included in the Paradigm fees is use of a microphone.
- 9.3. The full sound and media systems in the Sanctuary and Paradigm may only be operated by a trained FBC sound operator.

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- 9.4. The fee for a sound operator is \$150 per event to be paid directly to the operator. The ceremony and reception are considered two separate events.
- 9.5. If the main stage needs to be cleared of equipment, a separate fee of \$200 will apply.

10. Reception

- 10.1. The Paradigm Building, Fellowship Hall and kitchen are available for receptions.
- 10.2. Arrangements for the use of these facilities for the reception will be made when scheduling the wedding and are considered to be separate events.
- 10.3. Dancing is not allowed at the reception held in the Fellowship Hall.
- 10.4. Dancing is allowed under the following conditions with approval from FBC:
 - 10.4.1.1. It is conducted in an acceptable fashion
 - 10.4.1.2. Father/ Bride dance, etc.

11. Food and Drink

- 11.1. No food or drinks other than water are allowed in the Sanctuary.
- 11.2. No alcoholic beverages of any kind may be brought on to the premises.
- 11.3. Those preparing food or refreshments for the event are responsible for cleaning the kitchen and serving area. This will include the following:
 - 11.4. Remove all of your personal items from the kitchen
 - 11.5. Remove all prepared food items from the refrigerator and freezer.
 - 11.6. Wipe clean all spills on the counters, stove, and floor.
 - 11.7. Wash all pots, pans, dishes, and utensils, then return them to their designated areas.
 - 11.8. Wash out sinks.
 - 11.9. Sweep the floor.
 - 11.10. Dirty dishcloths, etc. will be placed in a container on the counter and cleaned by FBC.
 - 11.11. Take all garbage to the dumpster.

12. Parking Lot and Church Grounds

- 12.1. Parking is free for all our building users. FBC will make best efforts to inform event participants of any potential parking conflicts on the requested date.
- 12.2. Parking is available for about 135 cars.
- 12.3. Please respect all landscaping.

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Appendix A. Fee Table

Please note that fees are subject to change and may be waived at staff discretion with documented justification for the waiver. All prices are per event unless noted.

AREA	COMMENTS	NON-MEMBER	ACTIVE MEMBER
Worship Center	<i>Seats approximately 800 Fee includes rehearsal, wedding, use of Bridal Room and Choir Room for Groomsmen.</i>	\$1,200	\$700
Chapel	<i>Seats approximately 100 Fee includes rehearsal, wedding, use of Bridal Room and Choir Room for Groomsmen.</i>	\$500	\$250
Paradigm	<i>Seats approximately 300 Fee includes rehearsal and wedding.</i>	\$800	\$300
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen	<i>Seats approximately 200</i>	\$400	\$150

SERVICE	POLICY REFERENCE	NON-MEMBER	ACTIVE MEMBER
Security deposit	<i>See section 2</i>	\$250	\$250
Custodian	<i>See section 2</i>	\$150	\$150
Stage chair removal	<i>See section 3</i>	\$50	\$50
Musician	<i>See section 8</i>	\$150/instrument	\$150/instrument
Sound technician	<i>See section 9</i>	\$150	\$150
Stage equipment removal	<i>See section 9</i>	\$200	\$200

**By signing and accepting this Building Use Request & Agreement, the user is representing that the organization, person/family, or other entity is in full agreement with the faith and spiritual purposes of FBC according to church policies and as stated in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.*

Date Submitted _____

Staff Approved _____ Date _____
 Deposit Received _____ Date _____
 Calendared _____ Date _____

CALENDAR & FACILITIES REQUEST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

334 W. Green St., Stephenville, Texas 76401 (254) 965-3187
 www.fbcstephenville.org

All requests must be completed and returned to the Office at least two (2) weeks prior to the date needed to allow adequate time for processing.

Event On FBC Campus Event Off FBC Campus

EVENT DATE _____ START TIME _____ AM PM END TIME _____ AM PM

ONE TIME EVENT REOCCURRING EVENT _____ TO _____

Ministry/Group _____ Name of Event? _____

If Off FBC Campus, please list location: _____

If On FBC Campus, please fill out this section:

Building(s) to be used: EDUCATION BUILDING WORSHIP CENTER BUILDING PARADIGM BUILDING

Room(s) to be used _____
 (Please list the room numbers/names, or location.)

Is a special set up time needed? No Yes Set Up Day/Date _____ / _____ Time _____ AM PM
 (Set up will be taken down by church facilities personnel after completion of event.)

DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO UNLOCK AND LOCK THE BUILDING? Yes Who? _____
 Church Is Open No (Please arrange access to the building with the Facilities Manager.)

The Following Require Additional Approval/Forms:

CHURCH VAN NEEDED? (FBC MINISTRY ONLY) No Yes (Requires Van Request Form - Online)

DO YOU WISH TO THE USE THE FH KITCHEN? No Yes (Requires Facilities Manager approval)

IS AN OUTSIDE CATERER BEING USED? No Yes
 Name _____ Time of Arrival _____ AM PM

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

6' or 8' Tables No. _____ Computer/projector TV/DVD
 Chairs (6 per table) No. _____ White board Kitchen Equipment
 Round 6' Tables No. _____ Projector/DVD _____

NOTICE:

- Please list necessary equipment and furnishings need for set up.
- Tables and chairs will be provided but NOT arranged or set up.
- **NOTE: Church personnel will NOT set up furnishings for your event.**
- **Groups/Events must be clear of building(s) no later than 10:00pm.**

PERSON RESPONSIBLE _____ **PHONE(S)** _____

If Non-FBC Group, please list FBC Staff Partner: _____

Return Completed Form to the Church Office for Staff Approval.

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Appendix C. Southern Baptist Convention Baptist Faith and Message, v. 2000

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. [Exodus 24:4](#); [Deuteronomy 4:1-2](#); [17:19](#); [Joshua 8:34](#); [Psalms 19:7-10](#); [119:11,89,105,140](#); [Isaiah 34:16](#); [40:8](#); [Jeremiah 15:16](#); [36:1-32](#); [Matthew 5:17-18](#); [22:29](#); [Luke 21:33](#); [24:44-46](#); [John 5:39](#); [16:13-15](#); [17:17](#); [Acts 2:16ff.](#); [17:11](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [16:25-26](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [Hebrews 1:1-2](#); [4:12](#); [1 Peter 1:25](#); [2 Peter 1:19-21](#).

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. [Genesis 1:1](#); [2:7](#); [Exodus 3:14](#); [6:2-3](#); [15:11ff.](#); [20:1ff.](#); [Leviticus 22:2](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [32:6](#); [1 Chronicles 29:10](#); [Psalm 19:1-3](#); [Isaiah 43:3,15](#); [64:8](#); [Jeremiah 10:10](#); [17:13](#); [Matthew 6:9ff.](#); [7:11](#); [23:9](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [John 4:24](#); [5:26](#); [14:6-13](#); [17:1-8](#); [Acts 1:7](#); [Romans 8:14-15](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 4:6](#); [Colossians 1:15](#); [1 Timothy 1:17](#); [Hebrews 11:6](#); [12:9](#); [1 Peter 1:17](#); [1 John 5:7](#).

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord. [Genesis 18:1ff.](#); [Psalms 2:7ff.](#); [110:1ff.](#); [Isaiah 7:14](#); [Isaiah 53:1-12](#); [Matthew 1:18-23](#); [3:17](#); [8:29](#); [11:27](#); [14:33](#); [16:16,27](#); [17:5](#); [27](#); [28:1-6,19](#); [Mark 1:1](#); [3:11](#); [Luke 1:35](#); [4:41](#); [22:70](#); [24:46](#); [John 1:1-18,29](#); [10:30,38](#); [11:25-27](#); [12:44-50](#); [14:7-11](#); [16:15-16,28](#); [17:1-5](#); [21-22](#); [20:1-20,28](#); [Acts 1:9](#); [2:22-24](#); [7:55-56](#); [9:4-5,20](#); [Romans 1:3-4](#); [3:23-26](#); [5:6-21](#); [8:1-3,34](#); [10:4](#); [1 Corinthians 1:30](#); [2:2](#); [8:6](#); [15:1-8,24-28](#); [2 Corinthians 5:19-21](#); [8:9](#); [Galatians 4:4-5](#); [Ephesians 1:20](#); [3:11](#); [4:7-10](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [Colossians 1:13-22](#); [2:9](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#); [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#); [3:16](#); [Titus 2:13-14](#); [Hebrews 1:1-3](#); [4:14-15](#); [7:14-28](#); [9:12-15,24-28](#); [12:2](#); [13:8](#); [1 Peter 2:21-25](#); [3:22](#); [1 John 1:7-9](#); [3:2](#); [4:14-15](#); [5:9](#); [2 John 7-9](#); [Revelation 1:13-16](#); [5:9-14](#); [12:10-11](#); [13:8](#); [19:16](#).

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. [Genesis 1:2](#); [Judges 14:6](#); [Job 26:13](#); [Psalms 51:11](#); [139:7ff.](#); [Isaiah 61:1-3](#); [Joel 2:28-32](#); [Matthew 1:18](#); [3:16](#); [4:1](#); [12:28-32](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:10,12](#); [Luke 1:35](#); [4:1,18-19](#); [11:13](#); [12:12](#); [24:49](#); [John 4:24](#); [14:16-17,26](#); [15:26](#); [16:7-14](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2:1-4,38](#); [4:31](#); [5:3](#); [6:3](#); [7:55](#); [8:17,39](#); [10:44](#); [13:2](#); [15:28](#); [16:6](#); [19:1-6](#); [Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 2:10-14](#); [3:16](#); [12:3-11,13](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#); [4:30](#); [5:18](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:19](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [4:1](#); [2 Timothy 1:14](#); [3:16](#); [Hebrews 9:8,14](#); [2 Peter 1:21](#); [1 John 4:13](#); [5:6-7](#); [Revelation 1:10](#); [22:17](#).

III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and

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Christian love. [Genesis 1:26-30](#); [2:5,7,18-22](#); [3](#); [9:6](#); [Psalms 1](#); [8:3-6](#); [32:1-5](#); [51:5](#); [Isaiah 6:5](#); [Jeremiah 17:5](#); [Matthew 16:26](#); [Acts 17:26-31](#); [Romans 1:19-32](#); [3:10-18,23](#); [5:6,12,19](#); [6:6](#); [7:14-25](#); [8:14-18,29](#); [1 Corinthians 1:21-31](#); [15:19,21-22](#); [Ephesians 2:1-22](#); [Colossians 1:21-22](#); [3:9-11](#).

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. [Genesis 3:15](#); [Exodus 3:14-17](#); [6:2-8](#); [Matthew 1:21](#); [4:17](#); [16:21-26](#); [27:22-28:6](#); [Luke 1:68-69](#); [2:28-32](#); [John 1:11-14,29](#); [3:3-21,36](#); [5:24](#); [10:9,28-29](#); [15:1-16](#); [17:17](#); [Acts 2:21](#); [4:12](#); [15:11](#); [16:30-31](#); [17:30-31](#); [20:32](#); [Romans 1:16-18](#); [2:4](#); [3:23-25](#); [4:3ff.](#); [5:8-10](#); [6:1-23](#); [8:1-18,29-39](#); [10:9-10,13](#); [13:11-14](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18,30](#); [6:19-20](#); [15:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-20](#); [Galatians 2:20](#); [3:13](#); [5:22-25](#); [6:15](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#); [2:8-22](#); [4:11-16](#); [Philippians 2:12-13](#); [Colossians 1:9-22](#); [3:1ff.](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#); [2 Timothy 1:12](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#); [Hebrews 2:1-3](#); [5:8-9](#); [9:24-28](#); [11:1-12:8,14](#); [James 2:14-26](#); [1 Peter 1:2-23](#); [1 John 1:6-2:11](#); [Revelation 3:20](#); [21:1-22:5](#).

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Exodus 19:5-8](#); [1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22](#); [Isaiah 5:1-7](#); [Jeremiah 31:31ff.](#); [Matthew 16:18-19](#); [21:28-45](#); [24:22,31](#); [25:34](#); [Luke 1:68-79](#); [2:29-32](#); [19:41-44](#); [24:44-48](#); [John 1:12-14](#); [3:16](#); [5:24](#); [6:44-45,65](#); [10:27-29](#); [15:16](#); [17:6,12,17-18](#); [Acts 20:32](#); [Romans 5:9-10](#); [8:28-39](#); [10:12-15](#); [11:5-7,26-36](#); [1 Corinthians 1:1-2](#); [15:24-28](#); [Ephesians 1:4-23](#); [2:1-10](#); [3:1-11](#); [Colossians 1:12-14](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13-14](#); [2 Timothy 1:12](#); [2:10,19](#); [Hebrews 11:39-12:2](#); [James 1:12](#); [1 Peter 1:2-5,13](#); [2:4-10](#); [1 John 1:7-9](#); [2:19](#); [3:2](#).

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. [Matthew 16:15-19](#); [18:15-20](#); [Acts 2:41-42,47](#); [5:11-14](#); [6:3-6](#); [13:1-3](#); [14:23,27](#); [15:1-30](#); [16:5](#); [20:28](#); [Romans 1:7](#); [1 Corinthians 1:2](#); [3:16](#); [5:4-5](#); [7:17](#); [9:13-14](#); [12](#); [Ephesians 1:22-23](#); [2:19-22](#); [3:8-11,21](#); [5:22-32](#); [Philippians 1:1](#); [Colossians 1:18](#); [1 Timothy 2:9-14](#); [3:1-15](#); [4:14](#); [Hebrews 11:39-40](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#); [Revelation 2-3](#); [21:2-3](#).

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. [Matthew 3:13-17](#); [26:26-30](#); [28:19-20](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [14:22-26](#); [Luke 3:21-22](#); [22:19-20](#); [John 3:23](#); [Acts 2:41-42](#); [8:35-39](#); [16:30-33](#); [20:7](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#); [1 Corinthians 10:16,21](#); [11:23-29](#); [Colossians 2:12](#).

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the

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Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. [Exodus 20:8-11](#); [Matthew 12:1-12](#); [28:1ff.](#); [Mark 2:27-28](#); [16:1-7](#); [Luke 24:1-3, 33-36](#); [John 4:21-24](#); [20:1, 19-28](#); [Acts 20:7](#); [Romans 14:5-10](#); [1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#); [Colossians 2:16](#); [3:16](#); [Revelation 1:10](#).

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age. [Genesis 1:1](#); [Isaiah 9:6-7](#); [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#); [Matthew 3:2](#); [4:8-10, 23](#); [12:25-28](#); [13:1-52](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:29](#); [Mark 1:14-15](#); [9:1](#); [Luke 4:43](#); [8:1](#); [9:2](#); [12:31-32](#); [17:20-21](#); [23:42](#); [John 3:3](#); [18:36](#); [Acts 1:6-7](#); [17:22-31](#); [Romans 5:17](#); [8:19](#); [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](#); [Colossians 1:13](#); [Hebrews 11:10, 16](#); [12:28](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#); [4:13](#); [Revelation 1:6, 9](#); [5:10](#); [11:15](#); [21-22](#).

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. [Isaiah 2:4](#); [11:9](#); [Matthew 16:27](#); [18:8-9](#); [19:28](#); [24:27, 30, 36, 44](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:64](#); [Mark 8:38](#); [9:43-48](#); [Luke 12:40, 48](#); [16:19-26](#); [17:22-37](#); [21:27-28](#); [John 14:1-3](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [17:31](#); [Romans 14:10](#); [1 Corinthians 4:5](#); [15:24-28, 35-58](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [Philippians 3:20-21](#); [Colossians 1:5](#); [3:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#); [5:1ff.](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.](#); [2](#); [1 Timothy 6:14](#); [2 Timothy 4:1, 8](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Hebrews 9:27-28](#); [James 5:8](#); [2 Peter 3:7ff.](#); [1 John 2:28](#); [3:2](#); [Jude 14](#); [Revelation 1:18](#); [3:11](#); [20:1-22:13](#).

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ. [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Exodus 19:5-6](#); [Isaiah 6:1-8](#); [Matthew 9:37-38](#); [10:5-15](#); [13:18-30](#); [37-43](#); [16:19](#); [22:9-10](#); [24:14](#); [28:18-20](#); [Luke 10:1-18](#); [24:46-53](#); [John 14:11-12](#); [15:7-8, 16](#); [17:15](#); [20:21](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2](#); [8:26-40](#); [10:42-48](#); [13:2-3](#); [Romans 10:13-15](#); [Ephesians 3:1-11](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:8](#); [2 Timothy 4:5](#); [Hebrews 2:1-3](#); [11:39-12:2](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#); [Revelation 22:17](#).

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists. [Deuteronomy 4:1, 5, 9, 14](#); [6:1-10](#); [31:12-13](#); [Nehemiah 8:1-8](#); [Job 28:28](#); [Psalms 19:7ff.](#); [119:11](#); [Proverbs 3:13ff.](#); [4:1-10](#); [8:1-7, 11](#); [15:14](#); [Ecclesiastes 7:19](#); [Matthew 5:2](#); [7:24ff.](#); [28:19-20](#); [Luke 2:40](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#); [Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [Philippians 4:8](#); [Colossians 2:3, 8-9](#); [1 Timothy 1:3-7](#); [2 Timothy 2:15](#); [3:14-17](#); [Hebrews 5:12-6:3](#); [James 1:5](#); [3:17](#).

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth. [Genesis 14:20](#); [Leviticus 27:30-32](#); [Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [Malachi 3:8-12](#); [Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21](#); [19:21](#); [23:23](#); [25:14-29](#); [Luke 12:16-21, 42](#); [16:1-13](#); [Acts 2:44-47](#); [5:1-11](#); [17:24-25](#); [20:35](#); [Romans 6:6-22](#); [12:1-2](#); [1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#); [6:19-20](#); [12](#); [16:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 8-9](#); [12:15](#); [Philippians 4:10-19](#); [1 Peter 1:18-19](#).

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of

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conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament. [Exodus 17:12](#); [18:17ff.](#); [Judges 7:21](#); [Ezra 1:3-4](#); [2:68-69](#); [5:14-15](#); [Nehemiah 4](#); [8:1-5](#); [Matthew 10:5-15](#); [20:1-16](#); [22:1-10](#); [28:19-20](#); [Mark 2:3](#); [Luke 10:1ff.](#); [Acts 1:13-14](#); [2:1ff.](#); [4:31-37](#); [13:2-3](#); [15:1-35](#); [1 Corinthians 1:10-17](#); [3:5-15](#); [12](#); [2 Corinthians 8-9](#); [Galatians 1:6-10](#); [Ephesians 4:1-16](#); [Philippians 1:15-18](#).

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth. [Exodus 20:3-17](#); [Leviticus 6:2-5](#); [Deuteronomy 10:12](#); [27:17](#); [Psalm 101:5](#); [Micah 6:8](#); [Zechariah 8:16](#); [Matthew 5:13-16](#), [43-48](#); [22:36-40](#); [25:35](#); [Mark 1:29-34](#); [2:3ff.](#); [10:21](#); [Luke 4:18-21](#); [10:27-37](#); [20:25](#); [John 15:12](#); [17:15](#); [Romans 12-14](#); [1 Corinthians 5:9-10](#); [6:1-7](#); [7:20-24](#); [10:23-11:1](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#); [Ephesians 6:5-9](#); [Colossians 3:12-17](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:12](#); [Philemon](#); [James 1:27](#); [2:8](#).

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 2:4](#); [Matthew 5:9](#), [38-48](#); [6:33](#); [26:52](#); [Luke 22:36](#), [38](#); [Romans 12:18-19](#); [13:1-7](#); [14:19](#); [Hebrews 12:14](#); [James 4:1-2](#).

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power. [Genesis 1:27](#); [2:7](#); [Matthew 6:6-7](#), [24](#); [16:26](#); [22:21](#); [John 8:36](#); [Acts 4:19-20](#); [Romans 6:1-2](#); [13:1-7](#); [Galatians 5:1](#), [13](#); [Philippians 3:20](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#); [James 4:12](#); [1 Peter 2:12-17](#); [3:11-17](#); [4:12-19](#).

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. [Genesis 1:26-28](#); [2:15-25](#); [3:1-20](#); [Exodus 20:12](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#); [Joshua 24:15](#); [1 Samuel 1:26-28](#); [Psalms 51:5](#); [78:1-8](#); [127](#); [128](#); [139:13-16](#); [Proverbs 1:8](#); [5:15-20](#); [6:20-22](#); [12:4](#); [13:24](#); [14:1](#); [17:6](#); [18:22](#); [22:6, 15](#); [23:13-14](#); [24:3](#); [29:15, 17](#); [31:10-31](#); [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#); [9:9](#); [Malachi 2:14-16](#); [Matthew 5:31-32](#); [18:2-5](#); [19:3-9](#); [Mark 10:6-12](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [1 Corinthians 7:1-16](#); [Ephesians 5:21-33](#); [6:1-4](#); [Colossians 3:18-21](#); [1 Timothy 5:8, 14](#); [2 Timothy 1:3-5](#); [Titus 2:3-5](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#); [1 Peter 3:1-7](#).