

# Discovering ChristWay

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## **NAME**

“**Christ**” is first in our name. Our primary purpose as a body of believers is to lift up His name. Christ is the head of the body. Our name reflects Christ as being preeminent in our mission and purpose.

“**Way**” reflects our desires to be true followers of Christ. The earliest designation for the followers of Christ was the people of “the Way”. “This is the way, walk in it.” (Isaiah 30:21). To be a true disciple and to make disciples, we must follow Christ and that is the way of the cross. We desire to be a body of believers whose very lives link us to the way of the cross.

“**CHRISTWay**” is the essence of the Christian life!

“**Community**” reminds us that we are to return to being a functioning Biblical community as outlined in Acts 2:42-47. It speaks of unity in the call and mission of Christ. We are to be a community of believers.

“**SBC**” speaks of our affiliation. We will remain southern Baptist in both our doctrine and affiliation. Fellow Baptists will be able to identify us easily while the unchurched, who care very little about denominations, will see us as a functioning body of Christ.

## **Distinctives**

CHRISTWay will be seeker aware in our approach to ministry. We will seek to be sensitive to the needs of those who attend our services by trying to create excellent and relevant environments that are conducive for the Holy Spirit to work most effectively. We will be proactive in removing all potential obstacles but the cross (the message of Christ). We will seek to be a place where the hurting and confused can find love, acceptance, help, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement. We will have seeker events. These events are designed for people who may be seeking answers concerning God. These people will have the opportunity to come and learn in a non-threatening environment.

However, CHRISTWay will NOT be a seeker driven church. We will seek to be Savior sensitive in our worship. For seekers cannot worship the Living God. We will seek to represent a holy and righteous, yet loving and forgiving God in the worship of our church. We will uphold a high standard of Christian living while answering the question of why for those seeking answers.

CHRISTWay will seek to become a spirit-filled church. We will value spirit-filled music and preaching/teaching of the Word of God. We will value joyful and celebrative praise and worship. We will use the latest technology to communicate, but will not compromise the message.

CHRISTWay will be an Elder led and equipped church. Members will be free from unnecessary maintenance meetings to perform ministry. We will embrace ministry teams for the effective execution of ministry. Every member will be viewed as a minister and expected to participate in group life as well as Strategic Service teams.

CHRISTWay will utilize covenants to uphold the highest integrity and accountability for membership and ministry.

## **MISSION/PURPOSE**

The starting point for every church should be the questions, "Why do we exist?" Until we know for what reason we exist, we have no foundation, no motivation, and no direction for ministry.

Therefore, we have developed a mission statement to clarify in the minds of everyone involved exactly why the church exists and what it is supposed to do. This will help us to build unity, eliminate distractions, give focus, increase participation, and facilitate evaluation.

Our desire as a body of believers is to present Christ with as many mature and functioning disciples as possible at His return. Our mission statement is as follows:

### ***"DEVELOPING PEOPLE INTO FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST"***

This mission statement is:

- Biblical, expressing the New Testament doctrine of the church.
- simple, practical, understandable in everyday terms
- transferable, easy to be remembered and passed on
- action-oriented, communicates on-going action
- compelling, drawing people to something worth getting involved with
- measurable, can be evaluated easily

**"Developing"** – the action. We want to change lives. We desire to make a difference.

**"People"** – includes members and nonmembers, believers and nonbelievers.

**"Developing people"** – "make disciples of all nations"

**"Faithful followers"** – the description of a disciple. A disciple is one who has been taught to obey everything Jesus commanded. Simply stated, a disciple is an obedient follower of Jesus.

**"Jesus Christ"** – The goal is Christ likeness.

CHRISTWay exists to developing people into faithful followers of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this we will:

1. Find people where they are.
2. Move them toward Christ, Christ likeness, and maturity.
3. Equip them for faithful service.

**IF CHRISTWAY DOES NOT LIVE TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE NOT A CHURCH!**

## **FUNCTION**

Jesus said, *"I will build my church"* (Mt. 16:18). Two statements He used to summarize what the church is to be and do:

The Great Commandment  
The Great Commission

How is a healthy New Testament body of Christ to function? The early church is the clearest example of a properly functioning body of Christ.

*"They devoted themselves"* – to be continuing steadfast, persisting in or continuing in, steadfast and single-minded fidelity to a certain course of action: Translated "joined together constantly" (Acts 1:14).

These activities had priority in the early church:

1. Worship

The early Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper together as their hearts focused on Christ. They joyfully praised the Lord.

Worshiping God is the church's first purpose. In genuine worship, God's presence is felt, His pardon is offered, His purposes are revealed, and His power is displayed.

Every worship service is to be an encounter with the risen Lord. It is a time to hear from the Lord and to be changed by his presence, power, and word.

2. Prayer

Prayer was a priority in the early church. It kindled a personal involvement with each other and sparked a desire to serve the Lord.

*"My house will be called a house of prayer..."* (Mt. 21:13). Jesus launched the church, not while someone was preaching, but while people were praying.

The atmosphere of a genuine church is prayer. Prayer is not a substitute for the other functions. Prayer is a support for all other efforts.

3. Evangelism

The early church continued the evangelistic work that was initiated by Jesus – to seek and to save the lost.

*"Go and make disciples..."* (Mt. 28:19)

There are only two things you cannot do in heaven that you can do on earth: sin and witness to unbelievers. Which of the two do you think Christ left us here to do?

It is every Christian's responsibility to share the Good News wherever they go. We are to tell the whole world of Christ's coming, His death on the cross, His resurrection, and His promise to return. **Someday each of us will give an account to God regarding how seriously we took this responsibility.**

4. Discipleship

The early church was devoted to both teaching and modeling the Christian life.

*“Teaching them to obey...”* (Mt. 28:20)

Discipleship is the process of helping people become more like Christ in their thoughts, feelings, and actions.

It is the church's responsibility to develop people to spiritual maturity. Discipling believers requires commitment, patience, and obedience because growing and maturing believers requires time.

5. Ministry

The early church was known for how they cared for each other, but also devoted themselves to serving others in ways that demonstrated their transformation and caused unbelievers to take notice of their unusual kindness.

The church is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12). Ministry is demonstrating God's love to others by meeting their needs and healing their hurts in the name of Jesus. The church exists to minister to all kinds of needs: spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical.

6. Community

The early Christians shared a commonality with one another based on the faith in Christ. There was a sense of belonging together. “Together” depicts a strong emphasis on unity.

Baptism symbolizes one of the purposes of the church: identification with the Body of Christ. We are called to belong, not just to believe. The work of Christ and the Spirit in our lives gives us love for one another and unity of purpose and vision.

The first century church did not have much form, but they did function very effectively. They prayed, they taught each other. They fellowshiped together, they worshiped. They ministered and they evangelized (Acts 2:42-47).

The forms of ministry are always changing, but the functions of ministry never do.

## VALUES

1. *Biblical Authority*  
The Bible is God's Word to us. It is divine, authoritative, infallible, inerrant, God-breathed, and truth without any mixture of error. CHRISTWay will uphold the authority of Scripture. WE will seek to apply timeless truth in timely ways without compromising accurate interpretation of the text in its original context.
2. *Personal Integrity*  
CHRISTWay will value authentic Spirit-led living. Christ's desire is that His body be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt. 5:13-16). We are to live by the power of His Spirit and allow His life to be formed in us (Gal. 5:16-25).
3. *Intimacy with God*  
CHRISTWay will value intimacy with God. This is an important value because it affects two important functions of the healthy church: prayer and worship. The Christian life is an intimate relationship with God. It is this personal relationship that transforms our lives into His likeness. CHRISTWay will value this intimate relationship and seek to develop passionate, fully devoted followers of Christ.  
(*Vital Relationship # 1*)
4. *Authentic Community*  
CHRISTWay will value authentic relationship within the body. We will seek to become a Biblically functioning community of believers who reflect His love before a watching world. (*Vital Relationship # 2*)
5. *A Passion for the Lost*  
CHRISTWay will value the intentional building of relationships with the lost. A healthy church must have the heart of God, and God's heart beats for those who are lost. CHRISTWay must properly understand God's great salvation, embrace the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ as the atonement for the world's sins, and see herself on mission with God to reach the world with the Good News. Reaching the lost is to be a priority at CHRISTWay. (*Vital Relationship # 3*)
6. *Disciple-development*  
CHRISTWay will take seriously the mandate of Christ to "make disciples" (Mt. 28:19). The goal of CHRISTWay will be that every newborn Christian becomes a mature, faithful follower of Jesus Christ.  
  
**Discipleship is more than knowing God's Word. Discipleship is living God's Word and mentoring others in God's Word!**
7. *Each Believer's Giftedness*  
CHRISTWay will value the commitment to use individual spiritual gifts in ministry. Each member of the body has an important function within the overall mission of the body. For the body to accomplish its God-given purpose each member must recognize his or her area of giftedness and delight to serve to the betterment of the entire body. CHRISTWay will value this giftedness and help believers discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts.

## **VISION**

A beautiful modern campus located on 20+ highly visible, easily accessible acres of property in the heart of God's activity.

State-of-the-art facilities (lighting, sound, communications equipment) that are also highly functional for the development of the total person – spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially.

To create culturally relevant environments where life change can occur.

To build intentional relationships with outsiders and seek to lead them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Small Groups meeting weekly driven by a commitment to the Great Commission and a desire to create an authentic Biblical community where transformation can occur.

Development of gifted lay teachers, equipped with the vision, character, knowledge, passion, and compassion to feed our flock.

Development of multiple worship teams that are leading the congregation into the presence of God and to true worship.

Teams of students and adults serving on short-term mission projects each year.

Servant ministries reaching into the heart of our community and making a lasting impact upon the Kingdom of God.

Bible studies being led by our members in the marketplace of life.

A gifted and equipped body of believers on mission with God everywhere and everyday.

**This is what CHRISTWay Community Church could be, should be, and by the grace of God will be for His glory.**

**Requirements for vision to become a reality:**

**Hard work**

**Good leadership**

**The touch of God!**



## **STRATEGY**

CHRISTWay will accomplish its mission by giving proper emphasis to the six functions of an authentic New Testament church: worship, ministry, evangelism, community, discipleship, and prayer. Healthy church growth strategies will be developed for each of these six functions. For example,

CHRISTWay will encourage spiritual development by connecting people in small group environments. In order to become an authentic community of Christ we recognize that Sunday morning worship environments are not the most conducive context for accountability, belonging, and care. Therefore CHRISTWay will strive to move it's attendees through, but not out of, our large group congregational worship into a small group context where we feel real authentic life change can occur most easily.

### **Evangelism**

The message of the gospel is unchanging, but the method of communicating that gospel must change according to the language, culture, and background of the audience. Because of these changes, we must give fresh attention to the process that leads people to salvation.

**Evangelism must begin where people are and then make the message as clear and compelling as possible.**

### **CHRISTWay's Strategy**

1. Live an authentic Christian life.
2. Pray specifically for nonbelievers.
3. Build relationships with nonbelievers.
4. Share a verbal witness.
5. Create an evangelistic environment.
6. Invite friends to an evangelistic environment.

Strategies for each function of an authentic New Testament church will be developed specifically for CHRISTWay.

# The Baptist Faith and Message

## 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; 53; 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  
Recommendation from another church o 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 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 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 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.*



## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this Church is a covenant relationship, not only with God, but also with other members of the body. Under God's leadership through Jesus Christ, the members become committed to each other to do the work of the Church.

Membership requires the following: a conversion experience in which the individual becomes a new person in Christ, a public profession of that faith, believer's baptism, and a commitment to be an active part of this local body, supporting it in word and deed.

Applicants for membership become candidates by presenting themselves to any pastoral staff, Elder, or at any public worship service where opportunity is given. Candidates will be required to complete a new member's orientation class. After completion of the membership orientation and giving of their testimony, the Elders will review and approve the candidate's membership request. Upon approval, candidates will be publicly affirmed by the body. New Members may be received in the following ways:

- a. **By Baptism** after conversion.
- b. **By Letter of Recommendation** from another church of like faith and order, which verifies membership.
- c. **By Statement.** When a church letter cannot be obtained because of lost records or similar unavoidable circumstances, applicants are received upon their statement affirming their faith, baptism by immersion and church membership.

## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

CHRISTWay Community Church seeks no more in commitment than what the Bible clearly teaches. We only seek to encourage our members to follow Christ by doing what the Bible instructs every believer to do. These basic responsibilities are spelled out in this covenant.

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, having been scripturally baptized, and being in agreement with the beliefs and purposes of CHRISTWay Community Church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF CHRISTWay...

- By acting in love and respect toward all members.
- By discussing any issue with the person involved rather than gossiping
- By following the leaders as they give evidence of walking with God.

*So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

—Romans 12:5

*Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

—Romans 14:19

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who listen.*

—Ephesians 4:29

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

—Hebrews 13:17

2. I WILL SHARE THE MISSION RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTWay...

- By praying for its growth.
- By inviting the unchurch to attend.
- By warmly welcoming those who visit.

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking god to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the LORD and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*

—Colossians 1:9-10

*...Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.*

—Luke 14:23

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

—Romans 15:7

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF CHRISTWay...
- By discovering and developing my gifts and talents.
  - By being available to serve where I am gifted
  - By developing a servant's heart.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

—I Peter 4:10

*It was He who gave...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

—Ephesians 4:11-12

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

—Philippians 2:4

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF CHRISTWay...
- By attending a Life Group and worship services faithfully.
  - By living a godly life.
  - By giving regularly.

*Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.*

—Hebrews 10:25

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ...*

—Philippians 1:27

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...*

—I Corinthians 16:2

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