



Culture Playbook

Because...

**People are dying.
Lives are in the balance.
Families are on the brink.
Eternity is at stake.
Christ is the answer!**



Dear Fellow Journeyer,

Welcome! What a pleasure for us to welcome you to the journey of your lifetime. The Christ Journey! Following Christ and experiencing God's fullness is so much bigger than any single church or congregation, yet it pleases God to give us to one another as his children so we can make the journey together. No one travels alone. We are happy to welcome you to our Christ Journey family and invite you to help us know you better as you also get acquainted with us.

The Culture Playbook you have here is designed to help you get to know us better, and, as you do, our hope is you will find a family of faith with whom you will continue to find and follow Christ in ever deeper and richer ways. Inside you will find words we pray will become real in life experience as we share the journey of faith and love together.

These are words of aspiration and vision of what we hope to be and become as God's Spirit transforms our lives into the glorious image of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. There are also words of instruction and guidance toward how we intend to make the journey together, sharing Christ's forgiveness of our sins and fullness in His Spirit, seeking to fulfill His mission and purpose for our lives in the process as we grow. You will find them listed under headings like Vision, Values, Attributes and Purpose, but our desire is to let the Word be made flesh through us as we grow to share them together in "nuestra familia."

My wife, Lisa, and I are inspired and encouraged by your presence and participation with us, and look forward to getting personally acquainted in the days ahead. What a ride God has in store for us together!

Expectantly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'B' being particularly large and stylized.

Pastor Bill



INTRODUCTION

At Christ Journey, we say all the time: it only takes one visit to become part of ‘la familia.’ We hope you feel the love and presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as you grow with us in community and Spirit. Friends are the family we choose, so we do life together in circles, not rows.

As you take your next step to gather with us, our desire is that you would feel known and needed every step of the way. Christ Journey is a great place to get to know Jesus for yourself, but not by yourself. We need each other on our journey together. As you walk with us, know that we’re praying for you and welcome any and all of your questions.

This playbook will help you become acquainted with life as part of Christ Journey Church. You will get a sense of why we do what we do and how we do it. We’re an open book - literally - open the pages of this book and discover your new spiritual home. We’re honored to join you as we all make our way on the Christ Journey, together.

WHY WE ARE HERE: A BRIEF LOOK BACK TO OUR FOUNDING VISION

“The future beckons us to build a great church...”

So said William Russell Owen, first pastor of Christ Journey Church. At that time, it was called University Baptist Church. And, no, he was not the founding pastor. There was no founding pastor. This church was launched by a core group of 78 committed lay people, brothers and sisters in Christ, who believed there needed to be a church by that new university, (the University of Miami), just starting in Coral Gables.

They engaged Frank A. Keene, a career postal worker from South Dakota, who had worked at the Miami post office for twelve years. Keene, though educated for ministry, was forced to give up his plans because of his father’s ill health, the late Rev. A.C. Keene, a pioneer minister in South Dakota. Pastor Owen paid tribute to Frank as “unordained, even as yet... the man to whom we owe most in the world that has been done.” He had been instrumental in training lay leaders to teach Sunday School from First Baptist Church, Riverside Baptist Church, and Stanton Memorial Baptist Church in Miami. Now, he would do the same for the new church, and also help raise the capital to build the new building. This church would be called University Baptist Church, and was first located close to the “cardboard college” of the University of Miami.

By the time our fledgling church called Owen to become their first pastor, they had not only survived the destruction of their first building in the horrible devastation of the Hurricane of



1926, the church had almost quadrupled in its first year of existence, receiving 295 members, 62 by baptism! Owen reported, “We have raised \$36,137.31. We have supported four foreign missionaries. We have maintained a branch Sunday School with full time preaching. We have 510 scholars enrolled in our two Bible Schools... We have 333 church members as we enter our second year.”

This church was started by visionary lay people, full of faith, courage, love, and a heart to serve and share Christ. It pre-existed its first pastor, trusting Jesus to carry them through the storm and then, out of the rubble, “build a great church...” They envisioned a multilingual Bible church, harnessing state-of-the-art technology (radio, at that time) to host a great Bible Conference across South America. In addition to reaching students at UM, they dreamed of “making North and South America one” in Christ. **“In our church the North and South are met in bonds of love to build a church of fellowship and power. Our future is as bright as the promises of God.”**

Throughout our amazing history, in spite of challenge and change, God has blessed us time and again. We are the grateful and humble beneficiaries of a tremendous vision and trust. May our faithfulness prove worthy of the heritage we have received. And may our continued trust in Jesus and God’s purpose for his church be blessed in our day to help us as “we help people find and follow Christ.”

BELIEF STATEMENTS:

What binds us together as a familia is our commitment to the following beliefs:

God is Creator and King of the Heavens and the Earth.

God has eternally existed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three are coequal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26- 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a Roman cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King. (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:14-15)

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside the heart of a believer. The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He provides Christians with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His influence daily.



(Acts 1:8; John 14:16-17, 16:7-13; Galatians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

The Bible is God's Word to us.

The Bible was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs about living. Because it is inspired by God, it is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 55:11)

People are the prime object of God's creation and affection.

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." Sin separates us from God and others and causes many problems in our life. (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 139:13-16; Colossians 2:13-15)

For additional information on Christ Journey's core beliefs, see the Baptist Faith and Message 1963 at the end of the playbook.

HOW WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER: OUR PURPOSE, VISION, AND STRATEGY

Based on our beliefs, we choose daily to **"help people find and follow Jesus."** This is our purpose and why we exist as a church.

Strategically, we seek to fulfill our purpose **'by making disciples through cultivating relevant environments toward Christ-centered living.'**

Several years ago, our Senior Pastor, Bill White, received a kingdom-sized vision based on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23: **'To win as many as possible, as soon as possible, by the most effective means possible.'**

This vision statement drives us to keep the main purpose of Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do. Based on this vision, the following five statements help us stay connected to the real needs of our neighbors:

People are dying.

Lives are in the balance.

Families are on the brink.

Eternity is at stake.

Christ is the answer!



The need is great in our city. Jesus said himself, **The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few** (Matthew 9:37, NIV). Though laboring in the harvest may be challenging at times, the joy of friendship with others that arises from serving Jesus leads to blessings that exceed our imagination!

You matter here. We need you on the journey.

WHAT WE VALUE MOST

Core values are like guard rails on the highway. They help us stay on the road together to continue moving further and faster to fulfill our purpose 'to help people find and follow Christ.' The following ten values are our 'all hands in commitment' to one another. These are the values we live by:

People: We help people find and follow Christ. You're never too far or too close to take your next step with God.

Community: We do life together. We celebrate on the good days and show up on the bad.

Generosity: We share our blessings. Generosity isn't something we do. Being generous is who we are.

Missions: We are driven to serve a world in need. Our hearts beat for every neighbor and nation.

Excellence: We aim for the exceptional knowing it's not optional. It's what we bring after we do our best that makes the difference.

Passion: We live and breathe God's call on our lives. God can do immeasurably more than we can ask, think, or imagine.

Humility: We are imperfect people serving a perfect God. It's not about thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less.

Sacrifice: We give up things we love for things we love even more. We are honored to sacrifice for Christ and his Church.

Diversity: We reflect the Kingdom of God. Everyone's invited into our church family.

Joy: We light up the room. There's no greater joy than serving Christ with people we love.



WHAT STRENGTHENS US

Ephesians 4:1 says, “Lead a life worthy of your calling.” Here, Paul encourages every believer to live according to the value of your faith in Christ Jesus. Your calling is priceless. It is a gracious gift given to you by your Heavenly Father through Christ the Son. As we seek to grow together in our calling and faith, the following nine attributes will sustain you when the way gets tough.

Self-Awareness: You are always learning about yourself. You know how others perceive you. You know how Christ perceives you. You regularly ask how He is working on you and through you.

Work Ethic: You work hard and smart. You show up fully on the field, making the most of every minute in your schedule towards accomplishing the goals set out for you and the church.

Rest: You know that to work hard and smart, you need to rest well and create a sustainable rhythm. You prioritize sabbath for your physical, emotional and spiritual health so that your leadership is regularly fueled by God and recreation.

Trust: You do your part of our job and assume goodwill of others to do the same. You mean what you say when it's time to speak, and you hold your comments when it's time to listen. You hold yourself accountable to deadlines and confidences, and you ask direct questions to understand before making statements to be understood. You use Matthew 18 as a communication guide when needed.

Teachability: You have a posture of learning, and you value feedback. Additionally, you have a desire to share insights and learnings with others. You are teachable because you are humble.

Curiosity: You drive faith-filled exploration of the unknown by asking the question “What if?” You discipline yourself to move your thinking beyond human limitations. You believe in the God of unfathomable possibilities.

Resilience: When failure or opposition comes, you recover well and fast, and continue to move forward (spiritually, physically, emotionally).

Flexibility: Healthy things grow, and growing things change. You embrace the faith it takes to change and the growth that will happen in the process. This helps you avoid thinking that change is a bad thing. In some cases, you must leverage self-awareness to know it may take



some time for you to adapt, but you know you can get there. This keeps you moving forward and away from a negative mindset.

Relevance: You seek to understand the world we are trying to reach, as well as the culture in which you work. You meet people where they are, and you stay current with the culture as it exists within the organization. You align to the values and sustaining attributes.

LIVE ON THE EDGE WITH US

- **Evangelism:** We share Christ's story.
- **Discipleship:** We do life together as a family.
- **Generosity:** We give our time, talents, and treasure.
- **Empowerment:** We live God's purpose.

Our Calling to Live Generously...

“For God so loved the world that he gave... God gave... his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

At the root of generosity is life. God *freely, graciously, and mercifully* gave all to save us through Christ Jesus.

Generosity is not a law or an obligation. It's a witness and testimony to the overflow of the unending, life-giving blessing of God's Spirit alive in you. The generosity of God's people enables the ministries of Christ Journey to help people find and follow Christ everyday. YOU fuel the mission and the vision of our church.

As you consider your next steps with how to live a generous, life-giving life: pray, listen, and read God's Word for yourself on what it says about generosity and how our God demonstrated his generosity towards us.

God helps us do hard things. Allow God to invite you into a new way of living that will open the floodgates of joy and satisfaction like never before!

Our Core Essential Spiritual Disciplines:

Spiritual disciplines enable us to lead a life worthy of our call and experience intimacy with Jesus are:

- **Regular worship with the Body on Sunday mornings** - We don't neglect gathering with the Body. When we are with one another, we grow in faith, hope, and love.



- **Daily study in God's Word** - 'First light, first thought, seek first the kingdom of God.' We begin each morning with the words of God guiding our day.
- **Prayer** - We pray continually and in all circumstances.
- **Tithe/Offering** - We bring our best and first from the storehouse to show our trust in the Lord's provision for us.
- **Community** - We grow together by gathering physically when possible and remote when necessary.
- **Sabbath/Rest** - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. We dedicate one whole day of the week to rest and recover in the Lord.
- **Accountability** - "Iron sharpens iron." Proverbs 27:17. We invite trusted voices to speak God's truth in our lives.
- **Serving** - "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." Matthew 20:28. We give back a portion of our time and talents to help others grow in faith and character.

WE STRIVE FOR INTENTIONALITY IN ALL WE DO

As we seek to give our best to God and to one another, a watching world will see the value we place upon our faith and the love we have for all people. Our team purpose statements seek to keep us aligned to our EDGE* discipleship strategy so that no matter where a person serves at Christ Journey, we can pursue our purpose together!

Kids Ministry: To equip kids, partner with parents, and inspire leaders to live on mission to raise children who love Jesus and establish a firm foundation of faith by living on the EDGE.

Student Ministry: To make disciples among students, parents and leaders inside and outside the church, equipping and empowering them to live on the EDGE.

Groups Ministry: To empower leaders to grow healthy, faithful communities of hybrid small groups to equip attenders to live on the EDGE.

Engagement Ministry: To equip and encourage individuals to live on the EDGE through service teams and care opportunities.

Digital Ministry: To reach digital explorers by empowering Christ Journeymen to live on the EDGE in the digisphere.

Missions Ministry: To empower Christ Journey attenders to serve on local and global missions to share the Gospel beyond the walls of the church through living on the EDGE.



Deacon Ministry: To serve as ordained Lay-Ministers by wholeheartedly supporting Pastoral and Ministries Staff, as well as the church body.

Worship Arts Ministry: To cultivate dynamic, sacred spaces that invite people to experience Christ's transformational power to live on the EDGE.

Business Administration: To serve and support Christ Journey with administrative wisdom and sound stewardship of resources that help people live on the EDGE.

Board of Trustees: To serve Jesus Christ and the people of Christ Journey as the governing body of the church helping it fulfill its mission, vision and values as we live on the EDGE

*EDGE stands for Evangelism - Discipleship - Generosity - Empowerment

OUR COMMITMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

As we seek to love and serve one another and the world, we agree to live according to the standards of Christ set forth in the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. The Leadership Covenant outlines key areas of expectation that a leader and disciple maker of Christ agrees to adhere in their service to others at Christ Journey.

Part of our commitment to one love one another includes completing a background check to serve in any capacity at Christ Journey. Background checks don't determine who's in or who's out. Rather, they open healthy, faithful conversations toward growth and discipleship. You can find the Leadership Covenant in the addendum to the playbook.



HOW WE LEAD TOGETHER: TEAM PERFORMANCE WHEEL

The Team Purpose statements across each area of ministry function as the first step to building powerful ministry teams, according to the Triaxia Team Performance Wheel. The following image shows each step in the Wheel. This model provides a pathway for every ministry area to lead the congregation and serve the city at the highest level.



Common Purpose

The single most important ingredient in team success is a clear, common, compelling task. The power of a team flows out of the alignment of a purpose to which every team member is aligned. The task of any team is to accomplish an objective and to do it at exceptional levels of performance. Teams are not ends in themselves, but rather means to an end. Therefore high performance teams will be mission- directed, ultimately judged by their results.

Crystal Clear Roles

High performance teams are also characterized by crystal clear roles. Every team member is clear about his or her particular role, as well as those of the other team members. Roles are all about how we design, divide, and deploy the work of the team.

Accepted Leadership

High performance teams need clear, competent leadership. When such leadership is lacking many groups lose their way. Whereas a common, compelling task might be the biggest contributor to team effectiveness, inadequate team leadership may be the single biggest reason for team ineffectiveness.

Effective Processes

High performance teams and processes go together. They consistently map their processes, hold one another accountable to them, and make adjustments based on the mission needs of the team.

Solid Relationships

The diversity of skill, experience,, and knowledge to build high performance teams necessitate a level of trust and collaboration that often produce mission-based and mission-critical friendships. The gift of friendship is both a catalyst and result of a high performance team.

Excellent Communication

A team cannot move faster than it communicates. Fast, clear, and accurate communication is a hallmark of a high performance team. Such teams have mastered the art of straight talk and have developed little to no tolerance for hyperbole and sarcasm.



WHO WE ARE: WE DISAGREE WITHOUT DISHONORING

We all know that as relationships grow, they can get a little messy. We misunderstand and misinterpret one another. We describe these moments by saying phrases like ‘you’ve stepped on my air hose’ to soften our emotional response. Offensive words can take our breath away, so rather than overpowering one another, we say lighthearted phrases to communicate that ‘I feel offended, and I need to talk about what happened.’

Whenever offensive situations arise of any kind, we seek to practice the principles that Jesus taught his followers in **Matthew chapter 18:15-18**:

15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

When someone steps on your air hose, go directly to the individual that made the offense. This step allows the one in need to state her or his need, seek understanding, and offer forgiveness. ‘Going direct’ provides the opportunity for both parties involved to receive the healing and restoring blessing of God’s Spirit.

If the offender does not listen, then bring one or two trusted people with you to witness the interaction and mediate, if necessary. These individuals must be people of good repute, wisdom, and Spirit-filled discernment. Then, as a final resort, if the person who wronged the other still does not show repentance or remorse, then the hurt individual may invite a pastor or board member to listen and mediate the discussion.

At Christ Journey, this is how we resolve conflict.

In whatever situation that might arise in our church community, we must strive to **“make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3)**. Conflict, tensions, and disagreement will inevitably occur, so when they do, let’s be prepared to “disagree without dishonoring.” We won’t always see eye to eye with one another, and that’s ok. Our goal isn’t to become like minded in all things. Our goal is to remain unified in love and peace amidst our disagreement to show the world that Christ is our center, not our ideologies.

Gossip destroys relationships. It’s like a toxic gas that slowly infiltrates and poisons a community over time. As the Body of Christ, we need to resist gossip at all costs and protect one another from the noxious fumes of evil words and slander. The Apostle Paul wrote in



Ephesians 4:29, “ 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.”

Therefore, we honor one another by going directly to one another.

As our great counselor and teacher, we believe that God’s Holy Spirit meets us in our moments of disagreement to help us learn. In fact, the word disciple means ‘learner,’ so you’re not finished yet. There’s more in you, more to learn, and greater heights to reach!

HOW DO WE SPELL SUCCESS AT CHRIST JOURNEY?

J-E-S-U-S. Success looks like Jesus, and how did he live? Full of love, truth, and grace. In his own words in Matthew 20:28, Jesus said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

How do we know we are succeeding? We consistently review the quality of our ministries and experiences, along with the quantity of those participating and growing. We take our pulse, ask questions, and check in with one another to assess our growth to become more like Jesus.

In the Book of Proverbs, the author offers wisdom to those who lead others, saying: “Be sure you know the condition of your flocks” (Proverbs 27:23, NIV). As staff and ministry leaders helping others on the Christ Journey, we keep our fingers on the pulse of our people and know the condition of our lambs by assessing the Key Performance Indicators of each ministry and achieving our set Objectives and Key Results, according to the Logic Model and Team Performance Wheel.

As we continue to follow Jesus in his great commission to help people find and follow him, may the Lord bless our church with quality and success in Jesus’ name!

ADDENDUM:

Leadership Covenant
1963 Baptist Faith and Message

[By-Laws](#)

[Articles](#)

Revised: Feb 2023



LEADERSHIP COVENANT

At Christ Journey Church our desire and commitment is to cultivate the highest quality of Christlike leadership in and among our people. Our purpose statement reminds us that our church exists “to help people find and follow Christ”. This Leadership Covenant serves as a guide for all our leaders and ministry volunteers in the personal pursuit of this purpose. It also serves as a guardrail for the spiritual and moral health of our ministry community as we seek to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

As a servant of Jesus Christ and a leader at Christ Journey Church, I will endeavor:

To love the Lord with wholehearted devotion.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’” Mark 12:28-30

To grow as an authentic and Spirit empowered leader, making consistent choices in my life that will keep me connected to God, His Word, and His people. (John 15:4, 1 Timothy 4:7-8)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:5-10

To live a life before God and others that is above reproach. (Romans 13:8-10 & 13-14, 1 Corinthians 6:9-18)

This includes abstaining from cohabitation, sexual misconduct, the practice of the occult, cults, divination or sorcery, the use of illegal substances, the abuse of addictive substances, addictive behaviors, criminal misconduct, domestic abuse, financial mismanagement, or using a position of leadership for personal gain. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness. Titus 2:7

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and



honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

To work towards the fulfillment of the purpose and vision of the church.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and 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 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16

To guard the peace and unity of the church. (Titus 2:1, Matthew 18:15-17)

This includes abstaining from an inappropriate online presence, gossip, lying, unresolved conflict within the body, and the teaching of false doctrine.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19

To honor the leadership of the church through Christ-like submission.



Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith...

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 13:7,17

To serve with my Ministry Team faithfully, fulfilling my Ministry Tasks willingly, and offering God my very best. (Colossians 3:17, 1 Peter 5: 2-4)

This includes finishing the volunteer application process completely and truthfully, including the submission of the Volunteer Application Form.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

To generously share my resources of time, talents, and treasure with the church to advance the kingdom of God.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

If at any time, my life does not reflect these commitments, I will initiate a conversation with my Ministry Team Leader to discuss my situation and seek an immediate resolution.

The commitments we ask leaders to make at Christ Journey Church are very serious. This covenant is grounded in the Biblical expectations for those who take on the awesome responsibility of serving Christ in the church. Because these commitments are so important, if a leader is found to be in violation, it will result in a conversation with a Ministry Supervisor and will lead to corrective intervention.



1963 BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

Committee on Baptist Faith and Message

The 1962 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in San Francisco, California, adopted the following motion:

"Since the report of the Committee on Statement of Baptist Faith and Message was adopted in 1925, there have been various statements from time to time which have been made, but no over-all statement which might be helpful at this time as suggested in Section 2 of that report, or introductory statement which might be used as an interpretation of the 1925 Statement."

"We recommend, therefore, that the president of this Convention be requested to call a meeting of the men now serving as presidents of the various state conventions that would qualify as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention committee under Bylaw 18 to present to the Convention in Kansas City some similar statement which shall serve as information to the churches, and which may serve as guidelines to the various agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is understood that any group or individuals may approach this committee to be of service. The expenses of this committee shall be borne by the Convention Operating Budget."

Your committee thus constituted begs leave to present its report as follows:

Throughout its work your committee has been conscious of the contribution made by the statement of "The Southern Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1925. It quotes with approval its affirmation that "Christianity is supernatural in its origin and history. We repudiate every theory of religion which denies the supernatural elements in our faith."



Furthermore, it concurs in the introductory "statement of the historic Baptist conception of the nature and function of confessions of faith in our religious and denominational life" It is, therefore, quoted in full as a part of this report to the Convention:

"(1) That they constitute a consensus of opinion of some Baptist body, large or small, for the general instruction and guidance of our own people and others concerning those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us. They are not intended to add anything to the simple conditions of salvation revealed in the New Testament, viz., repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

"(2) That we do not regard them as complete statements of our faith, having any quality of finality or infallibility. As in the past so in the future, Baptists should hold themselves free to revise their statements of faith as may seem to them wise and expedient at any time.

"(3) That any group of Baptists, large or small, have the inherent right to draw up for themselves and publish to the world a confession of their faith whenever they may think it advisable to do so.

"(4) That the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Confessions are only guides in interpretation, having no authority over the conscience.

"(5) That they are statements of religious convictions, drawn from the Scriptures, and are not to be used to hamper freedom of thought or investigation in other realms of life."

The 1925 Statement recommended "the New Hampshire Confession of Faith, revised at certain points, and with some additional articles growing out of certain needs" Your present committee has adopted the same pattern. It has sought to build upon the structure of the 1925 Statement, keeping in mind the "certain needs" of our generation. At times it has reproduced sections of that Statement without change. In other instances it has substituted words for clarity or added sentences for emphasis. At certain points it has combined articles, with minor changes in wording, to endeavor to relate

certain doctrines to each other. In still others -- e.g., "God" and "Salvation" -- it has sought to bring together certain truths contained throughout the 1925 Statement in order to relate them more clearly and concisely. In no case has it sought to delete from or to add to the basic contents of the 1925 Statement.

Baptists are a people who profess a living faith. This faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Therefore, the sole authority for



faith and practice among Baptists is Jesus Christ whose will is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

A living faith must experience a growing understanding of truth and must be continually interpreted and related to the needs of each new generation. Throughout their history Baptist bodies, both large and small, have issued statements of faith which comprise a consensus of their beliefs. Such statements have never been regarded as complete, infallible statements of faith, nor as official creeds carrying mandatory authority. Thus this generation of Southern Baptists is in historic succession of intent and purpose as it endeavors to state for its time and theological climate those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us.

Baptists emphasize the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion, and the priesthood of the believer. However, this emphasis should not be interpreted to mean that there is an absence of certain definite doctrines that Baptists believe, cherish, and with which they have been and are now closely identified.

It is the purpose of this statement of faith and message to set forth certain teachings which we believe.

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of 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. 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. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Ex. 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; 17:19; Josh. 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isa. 34:16; 40:8; Jer. 15:16; 36; Matt. 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Rom. 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 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. To him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

1. 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 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.

Gen. 1:1; 2:7; Ex. 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:1ff.; 20:1ff.; Levit. 22:2; Deut. 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3,15; 64:8; Jer. 10:10; 17:13; Matt. 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; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal. 4:6; Ephes. 4:6; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

2. 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 the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His 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, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and 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.

Gen. 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isa. 7:14; 53; Matt. 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; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; 8:9; Gal. 4:4-5; Ephes. 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 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; Rev. 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

3. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. 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 assurance of God to 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.



Gen. 1:2; Judg. 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isa. 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matt. 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; Rom. 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Gal. 4:6; Ephes. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Tim. 3:16; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14; 3:16; Heb. 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17.

III. Man

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His 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 inherited a nature and an environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action 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 man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isa. 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Eph. 2:1-22; Col. 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 Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

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 Savior. 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 into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

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 perfection through



the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matt. 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; Rom. 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 Cor. 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephes. 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 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; Rev. 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, 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 a 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, 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.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-8; 1 Sam. 8:4-7,19-22; Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 31:31ff.; Matt. 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; Rom. 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephes. 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10,19; Heb. 11:39-12:2; 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 a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation, members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.



The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Matt. 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; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephes. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 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 Savior, 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.

Matt. 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; Acts 20:7; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Col. 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 be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employment, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 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; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Rev. 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.



Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 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; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Col. 1:13; Heb. 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 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.

Isa. 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 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; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thess. 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Rev. 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. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 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; Rom. 10:13-15; Ephes. 3:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17.

XII. Education

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 schools 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.



Deut. 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Neh. 8:1-8; Job. 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Prov. 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Eccl. 7:19; Matt. 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:3,8-9; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17; Heb. 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.

Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 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; Rom. 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. Co-Operation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure co-operation 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 co-operate 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 co-operation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Co-operation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such co-operation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and his Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Ex. 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judg. 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Neh. 4; 8:1-5; Matt. 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 Cor. 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18.

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life 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 Christ



Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. 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.

Ex. 20:3-17; Lev. 6:2-5; Deut. 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matt. 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; Rom. 12-14; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Thess. 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.

Isa. 2:4; Matt. 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Rom. 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Heb. 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.

Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Matt. 6:6-7; 24:16, 26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Rom. 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Gal. 5:1, 13; Phil. 3:20; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

