



DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

First Baptist Church of Mount Dora
(352) 385-2222
1000 E. 1st. Ave., Mount Dora, FL 32757
www.firstmtdora.org
@firstmtdora

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WAYS TO CONNECT

1000 E. 1st Ave.
Mount Dora, FL 32757

Office Phone Number: (352) 385-2222
Text Line: (352) 704-1577

www.firstmtdora.org
@FirstMtDora on Facebook

Please scan the QR code below to complete our Discovery Class Information Sheet. Thank you!





WELCOME HOME

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about First Baptist Church of Mount Dora! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

CLASS BASICS

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

Ephesians 2:19

Key Truths:

1. The church is *family*.
2. God expects you to be a *member* of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an *orphan*.

CLASS GOAL

That I will commit myself to *Christ* and the *church family*.

INTRODUCTION

Our mission at First Baptist Church of Mount Dora is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, worship, the study of God's Word and fellowship; equipping the saints for the work of the ministry to the glory of God.

OUR HISTORY

We've celebrated our Centennial! First Baptist Church of Mount Dora was constituted on March 19, 1922. Twenty-one members signed The New Hampshire Confession of Faith as charter members. Our first pastor was Rev. E.A. McDowell, of Eustis, and our current and 17th pastor is Dr. Thomas Jamieson.

Our church has persevered through the hardships of time, the elements, and the economy in the 100 years that we've been ministering to the world from Mount Dora. Early on, our worship services took place in the Town Hall, the old schoolhouse, and a few other buildings until utilizing the Princess Theater in 1925.

The next year, FBMD occupied a tabernacle-type structure until the construction of a new building at the corner of 6th and Tremain, which was started in 1938 and was completed in 1945. Years later, a multi-story educational facility was built in 1961 and then a sanctuary in 1975. In 1989, we created a "Together We Build" campaign, which resulted in pledges that allowed for a larger sanctuary to be constructed. Finally, our Family Ministry Center was added in 2004.

Today, we can reflect on all the amazing stories we've written, transitions we've endured, and growth for Jesus as we ministered to our community. From termites "holding hands," God using a tornado to clear land, and personal stories from generations that have worshipped here. You can learn more on our website at www.firstmtdora.org.



[Read stories and watch videos!](#)

MEET THE STAFF

EXECUTIVE PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Thomas Jamieson	Senior Pastor
Rev. Scott Humston	Family/Connections Pastor
Rev. Jon Marks	Administration/Education Pastor
Rev. Colton Frix	Youth Pastor

MINISTRY SUPPORT STAFF

Debi Meyer	Admin/Financial Secretary
Diane Tibbets	Senior Pastoral/Administrative Assistant
Denise Barnard	Nursery Director
Maegan Bracciale	Pastoral/Administrative Assistant
Pam Brady	Administrative Assistant
Abby Frix	Media/Graphics
Kurtis Brinkerhoff	MDY Assistant/Middle School
Josh Collins	MDY Assistant/Middle School
Ellie Jamieson	Office Support
Ahjanae Bernard	Office Support

MAINTENANCE

Randy Meyer
Tina Jordan
Josh Collins

Facilities Director
Facilities Assistant
Facilities Assistant

OUR MINISTRIES

LIFE GROUP

We provide a class for every age group from birth to senior adult. LIFE Group is the foundational strategy in a local church for leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and for building on-mission Christians through open Bible study groups that engage people in evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. You are automatically enrolled in a LIFE Group Class when you join the church.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Music is a vital part of worship at First Baptist Church of Mount Dora. It allows us to focus on God and His Word. We sing a variety of different styles of music so that everyone can participate. From old hymns to new choruses, everything we sing is an offering to the Lord. In a day when the arts are flourishing in the church, some are questioning the relevance of church choirs. Many churches have done away with choir. One of the most powerful and penetrating experiences of the arts is found in the dynamic of hundreds of voices lifted in passionate worship. It is pleasing to God, fulfilling to the worshipper, and compelling to the seeker.

At First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, we never pray for great voices: we ask for lovers of song. Hearts make the best music. If you are college-age or older, you are welcome to join this community of worshippers in the Sanctuary Choir. Our schedule is flexible and creative in style. We worship, work, laugh, cry, and grow week by week. There are no auditions, and we meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. There are several other ways you can become involved in the music of First Baptist Church of Mount Dora: Kid's Choir, Tech Team and Orchestra.

MISSION MINISTRIES

We have an Acts 1:8 mission vision. Acts 1:8 simply talks about reaching out to your community and then to the broader area of your state, then your country, and finally to the ends of the earth. We have embraced a term called "Glocal" which means we want to reach the globe and our local areas. We do this through local projects in our community, state, and extended projects in other parts of our nation. Then we also do short-term projects around the world. Each year you will find a variety of opportunities to

serve from gathering food and clothes for local drives to working on homes in disadvantaged areas. We encourage all members to consider going on one of our annual short-term trips to some part of the world.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY

First Baptist Church of Mount Dora has a vital Intercessory Prayer Ministry where prayer warriors spend time in prayer, standing in the gap before the Lord on behalf of our church, its ministries, and those who have specific prayer requests. We know that burdens are lifted, hearts are comforted, and souls are saved when God's people pray. If you have a prayer request, you may call the church office at (352) 385-2222. For more information about our prayer ministry, or about becoming a prayer warrior, please call Diane Tibbets, Prayer Room Coordinator at (352) 385-2222.

MEN'S MINISTRY

First Baptist Church Men's Ministry is an extension of LIFE Group. God created man to lead: to lead his wife and home, to lead his church, to lead his community. We have a three-fold goal through our men's ministry – to develop leaders that disciple their own families, share the gospel with the lost and do missions projects locally and globally. We want to do all this with the ultimate goal of glorifying our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Currently we have a Men's Bible study every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Also, every two to three months we will have a special outreach event.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Renew Women's Ministry at First Baptist Church of Mount Dora is an extension of LIFE Group. Our goal is to bring together women of all ages and stages of life to:

- Share Christ with those who do not know Him.
- Encourage and strengthen women who know Him.
- Prayerfully seek opportunities to minister in His name.

We accomplish these goals by having special outreach events, special Bible studies in the Fall and Spring, and mission projects locally and globally.

KID'S MINISTRIES

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. At First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, it is our privilege to answer God's call to "train them up in the way they should go." We are committed to providing a safe and loving environment where children can learn of God and grow to love Him. Our ultimate goal is to guide them to the place in their lives where they have the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and become dedicated servants in His Kingdom.

PRE-K CHILDCARE

Childcare for infants through Pre-K5 is available during church services, discipleship classes, and other ministries. This includes Sunday morning and Wednesday night programs.

KID'S WORSHIP

Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade are dismissed from LIFE Groups to enjoy Kid's Worship, led by our Kid Min team. Activities include a lesson from God's Word, learning to pray, offering, sharing, singing, and snacks.

Listed below are some activities that are just for children.

Sunday:

- LIFE Group – 9:00 a.m. – Infants through 5th grade

Wednesday:

- AWANA – 6:30 p.m.

Summertime:

- Special Bible Studies & Recreation Events; varied dates & times; 3 yrs. through 5th grade.
- Vacation Bible School – A week in June from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)., K through 6th grade.

MOUNT DORA YOUTH

We believe the future of our church rests in the lives of our young people. Our youth ministry has become well-known throughout the community as a setting in which middle school, high school, and college students can make crucial life decisions apart from negative peer influence and without pressure

to conform to an artificial standard. Our programs are based upon a group concept and are designed to be exciting and spiritually uplifting. Bible studies, music, recreation, fellowships, mission trips, weekend retreats and summer camps comprise the ministry opportunities provided for our young people.

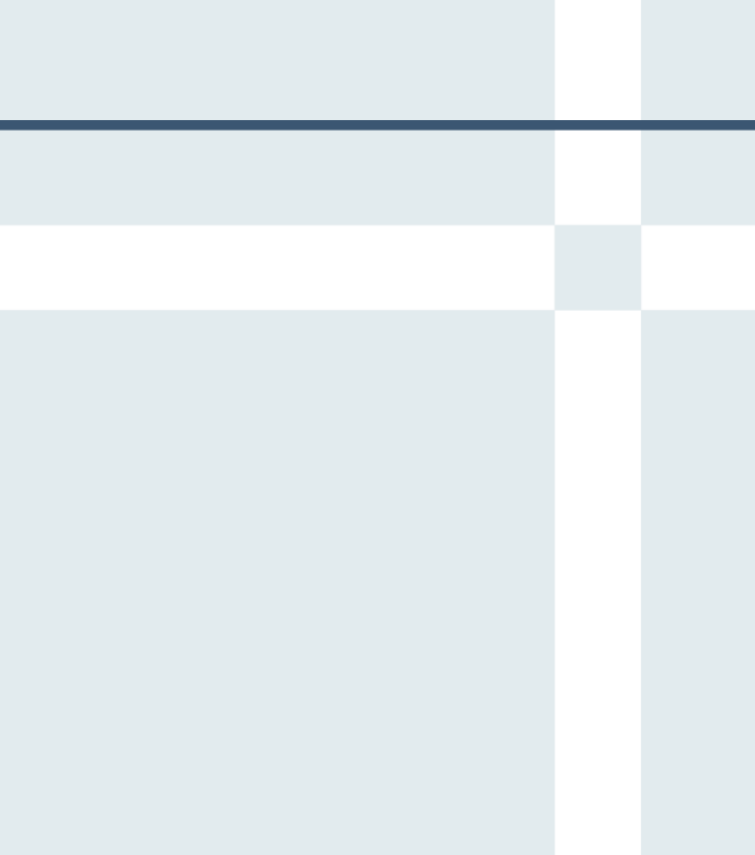
We offer Youth LIFE Group at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and Youth Group at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

LIFE UNIVERSITY

This is one of our equipping ministries of the church. We offer a variety of special classes at a variety of times (e.g. Tuesday mornings, Wednesday 6:30 p.m.). Some of the classes are sponsored by the Men or Women's Ministries and are tailored for men or women specifically. Some classes are of a general nature, and anyone would be welcome to attend. These classes are offered in the Fall and Spring.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

The purpose of our Senior Adult Ministry is to minister to adults, 55 and over, in the name of Jesus Christ. It is our desire at FBMD to promote and build fellowship that will motivate senior adults to make a contribution for the Kingdom of God in an innovative and exciting atmosphere.



HOW WE ACTIVELY SERVE THE LORD

OUR PURPOSE

(The Great Commandment)

Love God by serving Him;
Love others by telling the Gospel.

Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:29-31

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the GLORY OF GOD.”

1 Corinthians 10:31

OUR MISSION

(The Great Commission)

To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, worship, the study of God’s Word, and fellowship; equipping the saints for the work of the ministry to the glory of God.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

OUR HEART

DISCOVER THE HEART OF OUR CHURCH AS YOU:

EXPERIENCE

God in dynamic
WORSHIP.

EQUIP

Yourself with God's
word in
LIFE GROUPS

ENGAGE

Our world with God's
love through
MISSIONS.

EXPERIENCE GOD IN DYNAMIC WORSHIP

DYNAMIC WORSHIP SERVICES

The church assembled to be strengthened by the preaching of the Word, to reinforce our faith through song, and to express congregational praise and worship to Christ, our Audience.

I. “THE CHURCH ASSEMBLED...”

Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8:2; Luke 4:16; James 2:2; Acts 5:12; 6:5, Hebrews 10:24-25

Though small groups are essential, the Bible clearly teaches that the larger congregation should assemble regularly.

a. In the Old Testament

Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8:2; Luke 4:16

Deuteronomy 31:12 “assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town...”

b. In the New Testament

James 2:2; Acts 5:12; Acts 6:5; Hebrews 10:24-25

- *The word “assembly” that was used of the congregation of Israel in the Old Testament is used to refer to the congregation of the local church in the New Testament.*

*James 2:2 “For if a man comes into your **assembly**...”*

*Acts 5:12 “And at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were **all with one accord in Solomon’s portico.**”*

*Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **not forsaking our own assembling together...**”*

- *Faithfulness to **congregational assemblies** was commanded and expected in both the Old and New Testaments.*

II. “...TO BE STRENGTHENED BY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD...”

Acts 20:32; Exodus 35:1; Nehemiah 8:1-3; II Timothy 3:14-5:5; Ephesians 4:11-12

a. In the Old Testament

Exodus 35:1; Nehemiah 8:1-3

Exodus 35:1 “Then Moses assembled all the congregation of sons of Israel, and said to them, ‘These are the things that the Lord has commanded you to do.’”

b. In the New Testament

II Timothy 3:1-4:5; Ephesians 4:11-12

- “True discipleship requires one to be *faithful* to the congregational assemblies to be equipped through the biblical preaching of the Word.”

III. “...TO REINFORCE OUR FAITH THROUGH SONG...”

Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12

a. We sing to teach and admonish one another.

Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

b. Music is to accompany the message of the song.

- The key element in our singing is not *tune* but *truth*.
- Music, or singing, is not a *gift* of the Spirit.

IV. “...AND TO EXPRESS CONGREGATIONAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP TO CHRIST, OUR AUDIENCE”

Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 33:1; II Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 40:3; Exodus 15:1-18; Judges 5:1; Acts 16:25; Ephesians 5:18-19

The people of God are a singing people.

a. We worship and praise Him for all He has done for us.

Psalm 33:1; II Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 40:3; Exodus 15:1-8; Judges 5:1

Psalm 33:1 “Praise is becoming to the upright.”

*Psalm 40:3 “And **He** put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God...”*

- b. **We worship and praise Him because *we know Him*. God inhabits the praise of the people.** Psalm 22:3; Acts 16:25; Ephesians 5:18-19

*Acts 16:25 “But about midnight Paul and Silas **were praying and singing hymns of praise to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them.”*

*Ephesians 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the spirit**.”*

*Ephesians 5:19 “Speaking to one another in **Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord**.”*

EQUIP YOURSELF WITH GOD'S WORD IN LIFE GROUP

LIFE GROUP

The church organized into small groups to reach people, teach the Bible, win lost souls and develop the saved.

I. “THE CHURCH ORGANIZED...”

Genesis 1:1-31; Exodus 18:13-26; Mark 6:39-40; Acts 6; I Corinthians 14:40

a. Our God is a God of Organization

- He created the universe in an **organized** fashion. (*Genesis 1:1-31*)
- Organizing the people for effective **ministry** is taught in the Old and New Testaments.

1 Corinthians 14:40 “But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.” (NAS)

II. “...INTO SMALL GROUPS ...”

Exodus 18:13-26; Luke 6:12-13; Acts 2:41, 46; 5:42

a. God implemented small groups to help His people **effectively minister** to each other.

- **Moses** used small groups. (*Exodus 18:13-26*)
- **Jesus** organized His followers into small groups.

*Luke 6:12-13 “And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him; and **chose twelve** of them, whom He also named as apostles.”*

b. **The First Church** organized into small groups

*Acts 2:41 “So then, those who had received His word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls...And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread **from house to house**, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart...And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus {as} the Christ. (NAS)*

III. “...TO REACH PEOPLE...”

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 14:23; Deuteronomy 31:12-13; Luke 10:1

a. **We have a clear command to “go”**

Matthew 28:18-20

- **Jesus** gave the command - the only command that is repeated in five books of the New Testament.

- *Matthew 28:18-20*

- *Mark 16:15*

- *Luke 24:44-48*

- *John 17:18*

- *Acts 1:8*

- **Moses** instructed Israel to “*Gather the People...*” (*Deuteronomy 31:12-13*)

b. ***Open enrollment*** is the key principle in LIFE Group evangelism. Enroll ***anybody, anytime, anyplace.***

IV. “...TEACH THE BIBLE...”

Deuteronomy 31:12-13; Hosea 4:6; Acts 5:42; II Timothy 2:2

- The purpose of reaching people is to ***teach*** them the Word of God.
- The Lament of the Old Testament Prophets was that the “...*People are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*” (*Hosea 4:6*)

Acts 5:42 “*And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus {as} the Christ.*” (NAS)

V. “... WIN LOST SOULS...”

II Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:9,11; Romans 2:20; II Timothy 2:25; John 3:20; Psalms 126:5,6

- It is the teaching of the Word of God that brings *conviction* and conviction leads to *conversion*.
- Winning souls is ***not an option*** for the New Testament Church.

- 79% of all Christians said they became Christians and joined a particular church because of *friends or relatives*. The place of first contact with the church is most often with a LIFE Group member.

VI. “...DEVELOP THE SAVED...”

II Timothy 2:2; Galatians 6:9,10; Acts 2:42, 46; Acts 1:1; Colossians 1:28-29

- **Jesus** equipped believers using small groups. (*Luke 6:12-13*)
- **The Apostles** used small groups to equip believers in the first church (*Acts 2:42, 46*)
- **Ministry** - develop the saved to minister to others.
 - Teachers
 - Outreach Leaders
 - Group Leaders
 - Some need help in overcoming sin. (*Galatians 6:1*)
 - Some need help to repent of sin. (*Matthew 18:15-17*)
 - Some need help with a physical crisis. (*James 2:15-16*)
 - Some need help in time of bereavement and sorrow. (*I Corinthians 12:26*)

ENGAGE OUR WORLD WITH GOD'S LOVE THROUGH MISSIONS

PERSONALIZED, STRATEGIC WORLD MISSION MINISTRY

The church organized into small groups to reach people, teach the Bible, win lost souls, and develop the saved.

I. “THE ENTIRE CHURCH...”

Psalm 67:1-2,7; Psalm 96:3; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8

God has called His people to make world missions a *top priority*!

a. In the Old Testament

Psalm 67:1-2, 7; Psalm 96:3

- The congregation of Israel:

*Psalm 96:3 “Tell of His glory **among the nations**, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.”*

b. In the New Testament

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8

- The local church: The only command given in the five books of the New Testament is to “**go into all the world.**”

*Mark 16:1 “And He said to them, ‘**go into all the world** and preach the gospel to all creation.’”*

*The **entire** church family should be involved!*

PRAY, GIVE, SEND, GO!

II. “...PERSONALLY AND STRATEGICALLY INVOLVED IN WORLD MISSIONS...”

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8

a. Personalizing Missions

- The command to go into all the world was **not** given to a denominational mission board or mission society, but to a *local body of believers* (local church).
- We must have a *personalized* approach rather than an *institutionalized* approach. A mission board may be utilized by a local church as a *channel* to the world, but

it must never replace the local church's *personal* involvement

b. **Strategic Involvement**

- Unreached people groups (availability of the Gospel)
- Training national church leaders to reach their own people
- Where the Holy Spirit has opened a door for ministry
- As confirmed by the Holy Spirit to the Leadership of the local church

III. **“...DIRECT PROJECTS...”**

In the past we have worked in Ukraine, Cuba, Central America, and North America. We are praying that the Lord will increase our vision for the world.

Over the next 10 years our goal is:

- to involve even 75% of the church on a mission trip, either stateside or overseas.
- to see God raise up even 100 people who are called into full-time Christian service.
- to have someone from First Baptist Church of Mount Dora on the mission field 12 months of every year. We would also like a partnership with an unreached people group somewhere in the world.
- to move the church to being a *Great Commission Church* in every way; giving, going and praying!

IV. **“...AND GIVING THROUGH THE FAITH COMMITMENT OFFERING”**

II Corinthians 9:1-5

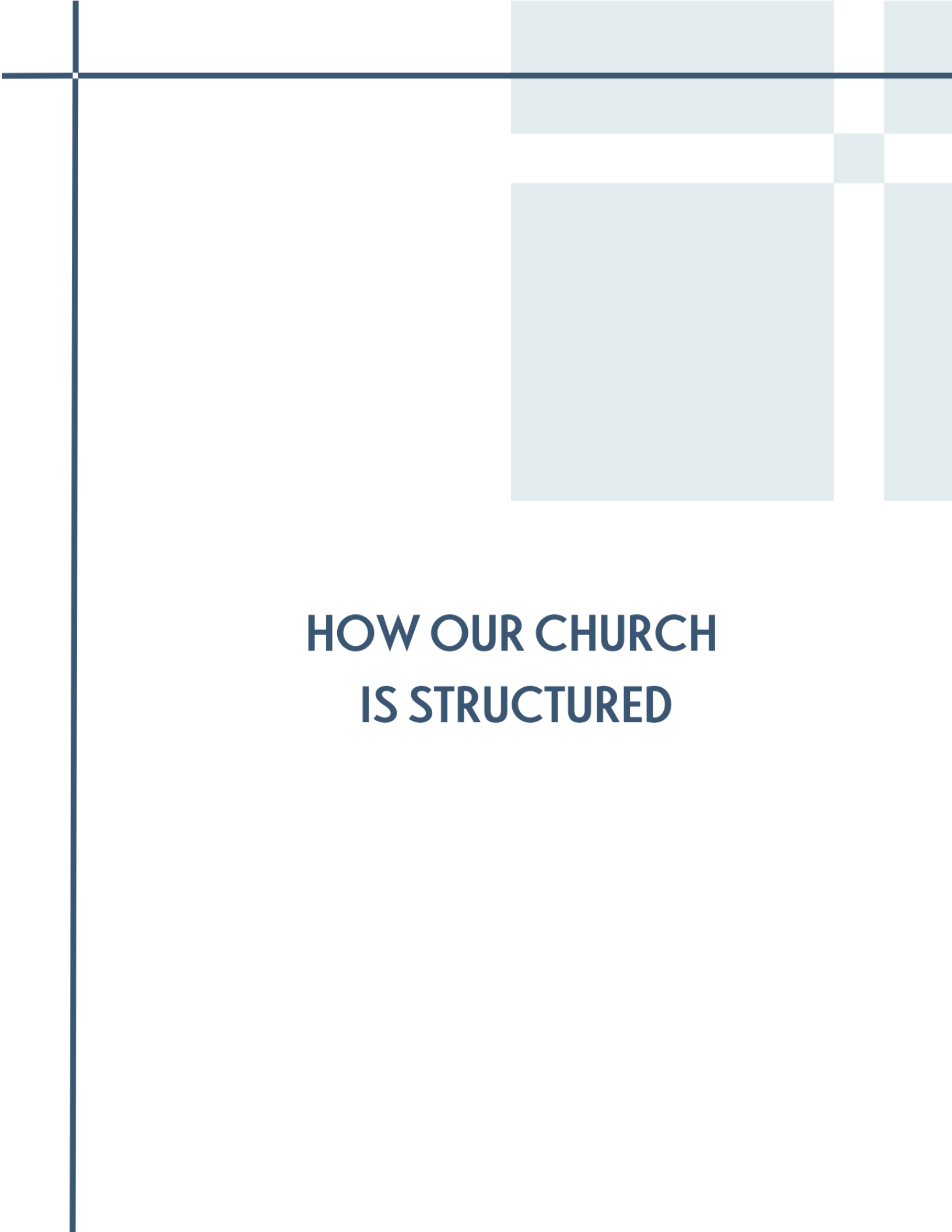
a. God has given biblical principles for us to financially support the work of His church.

- **Mission Giving:** For ministry need outside the local church (global missions budget).
II Corinthians 9:1-5

***II Corinthians 9:1-5** “For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I have sent the brethren, that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to speak of you) should be put to shame by this confidence. **So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not affected by covetousness.**”*

NOTES

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HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

OUR STRUCTURE

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” Acts 2:42

a. A top priority in a fellowship is *Unity and Harmony*.

- *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* Ephesians 4:3
- *“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.”* Romans 14:19
- ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.
- ***Pastor’s Note:*** *As your Pastor, I am charged by the Living God to protect the unity of the body.*

Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6; Romans 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalm 133:1

b. At First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, we strive for high accountability:

- In reference to financial matters, there is a committee of First Baptist members who make up the finance team. They meet monthly to review all financial expenditures.
- In reference to personnel issues, there is a committee of First Baptist members who make up the personnel team. They meet as needed to give insight and wisdom in reference to matters of personnel issues.

II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17

a. So, we operate on the basis of *Relationships* rather than *Rules*.

*“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**...”*
1 Tim. 5:1-2

*“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God’s church**?”*
1 Tim. 3:4-5

III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY.

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

- We are a body — not a business!
- We are an organism — not an organization!

IV. THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF *SPIRITUAL GIFTS* NOT *ELECTED OFFICES*.

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.”* **Romans 12:4-6**

- a. In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

At First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, we have a simple structure so we can maximize ministry and minimize maintenance.

*“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for **works of ministry**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”* **Ephesians 4:11-12**

OUR STRUCTURE

The people are the “**Ministers**.” The Pastors are the “**Equippers**.”

ECCLESIOLOGY

The Truth about the N.T. Church – Assembly, called out ones.

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

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.

I. A LOCAL BODY

First, a New Testament church is a local body of believers. The word for “church” is used 114 times in the New Testament. Five of these occurrences have no reference to the New Testament church, leaving a total of 109 references to Christian assemblies. Of these 109 references the great majority refer to a local congregation of believers.

It is never used to designate a national or international body or organization. Dr. W.T. Conner states it rather bluntly: “The only ecclesiastical organization found in the New Testament was that of a local church” (Christian Doctrine, p. 259).

II. VISIBLE

A second emphasis in this definition is that the church is a body or company of believers. This means that a New Testament church has a visibility. The Greek word translated “church in the New Testament is ekklesia. It originally meant an assembly of people who were called together to consider matters of public interest. When our Lord and the Apostles used this word to describe His church they intended to describe a visible group of people gathered for a specific purpose. Thus, the New Testament knows nothing of a nebulous, indefinable, invisible, scattered church. It only

knows a church which has regular meetings (I Corinthians 5:4; 11:19, 33-34; 14:19, Hebrews 9:25), prescribed officers (I Timothy 3: 1-13; Ephesians 4:8-11), observes tangible ordinances (I Corinthians 11:23-34), and disciplines its members (I Corinthians 5:4; Matthew 18:15-17).

III. BELIEVERS

A church is not simply a conglomerate or assembly of people. It is an assembly of people who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. When Paul writes the churches; he addresses them as “the called of Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:6).

IV. BAPTIZED BELIEVERS

But not only is a church made up of believers, it is made up of baptized believers. The New Testament knows nothing of unbaptized church members. The idea is simply never entertained. The book of Acts demonstrates that baptism was practiced by all churches in the New Testament, beginning at Pentecost and continuing throughout the Apostolic period.

V. SPIRITUAL ORGANISM

It is a spiritual organism and not merely an organization. A gospel church is made up of people who have been changed by the Spirit (I Corinthians 6:11), indwelt by the Spirit (Romans 8:9), led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14), and are brought together by the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3-4).

This all means that a New Testament church is a divine creation, a divine institution. It is not an organization on the order of a lodge or civic club. The church uniquely belongs to God. The members are called the “the people of God” (Romans 9:25; I Peter 2:10).

VI. CHURCH POLITY

Church Leadership:

a. Pastor Led

God calls men who live out the biblical qualifications of pastor to provide leadership for the church. The pastor’s role is to edify the saints through accurate teaching of God’s Word, equip and mobilize members for ministry, and protect and nurture the flock so that the church functions as a healthy and unified body.

1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-6; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:7, 17

b. Deacon Served

Through the affirmation of the pastor and the church, men are chosen whose lives exemplify the biblical qualifications for the role of deacon. Deacons are appointed primarily for the purpose of ministering to the various needs within the body.

Acts 6:1-10; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1

c. Committee & Team Facilitated

Ephesians 4 teaches that the members of the church are to perform the work of the ministry. The Bible does say much about commitment and operating in harmony with others of common commitment. That’s a committee!

d. **Congregationally Affirmed**

The congregation invests trust in the leadership of the church to make a multitude of operating decisions. The leadership, together with the affirmation of the congregation, approves major decisions affecting the direction of the church. All official actions of the church, its officers, employees and agents are subject to the discretion of the membership.

VII. ORDINANCES

Ordinance – Act of arranging, to put in order. 1) an authoritative decree or direction: order, b. a law set forth by a governmental authority, a municipal regulation. 2) something ordained or decreed by fate or a deity. 3) a prescribed usage, practice, or ceremony. (Webster 9th New Collegiate Dictionary)

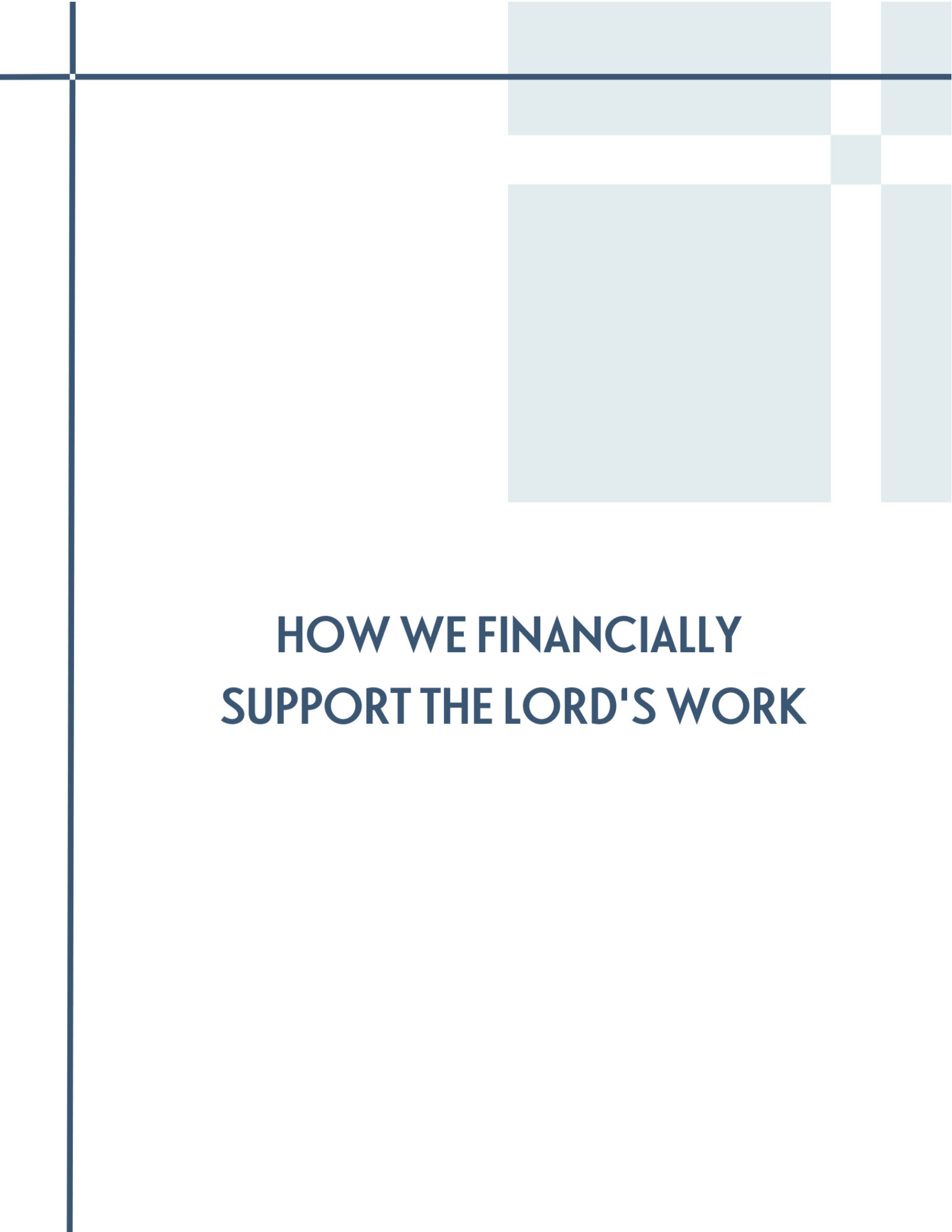
Therefore we say that the ordinances of Baptism and The Lord's Supper are *ordered* by Christ (Matt. 28:18-20 & Luke 22:19-20) and they set in order the church. We follow them in obedience to Christ and for the *order* of the church.

a. **Baptism** – It is a matter of church **doctrine** (what do you believe)

- i. An Obligation – Ordered by Christ for all believers.
- ii. The Mode – Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water.
- iii. The Subjects – Only believers are proper candidates for baptism.
- iv. The Administrator – The local Church.
- v. The Design – It is a symbol.

b. **Lord's Supper** – It is a matter of church **discipline** (how do you behave)

- i. Its Institution – It was instituted by Jesus himself.
- ii. The Participants – Only baptized believers.
- iii. Its Meaning – “This do in remembrance of me.” It is an examination of your life.



HOW WE FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE LORD'S WORK

THREE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

TITHING IS FOR THE ONGOING NEEDS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Leviticus 27:30 “Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.” (NAS)

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." (NAS)

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others." (NAS)

Tithe = **Required** (You pay the Tithe)

Offering = **Above Tithe**

MISSIONS GIVING IS FOR WORLD MISSIONS

2 Corinthians 9:1-7 “For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, {namely,} that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I have sent the brethren, that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to speak of you) should be put to shame by this confidence. So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not affected by covetousness.

Now this {I say,} he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one {do} just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (NAS)

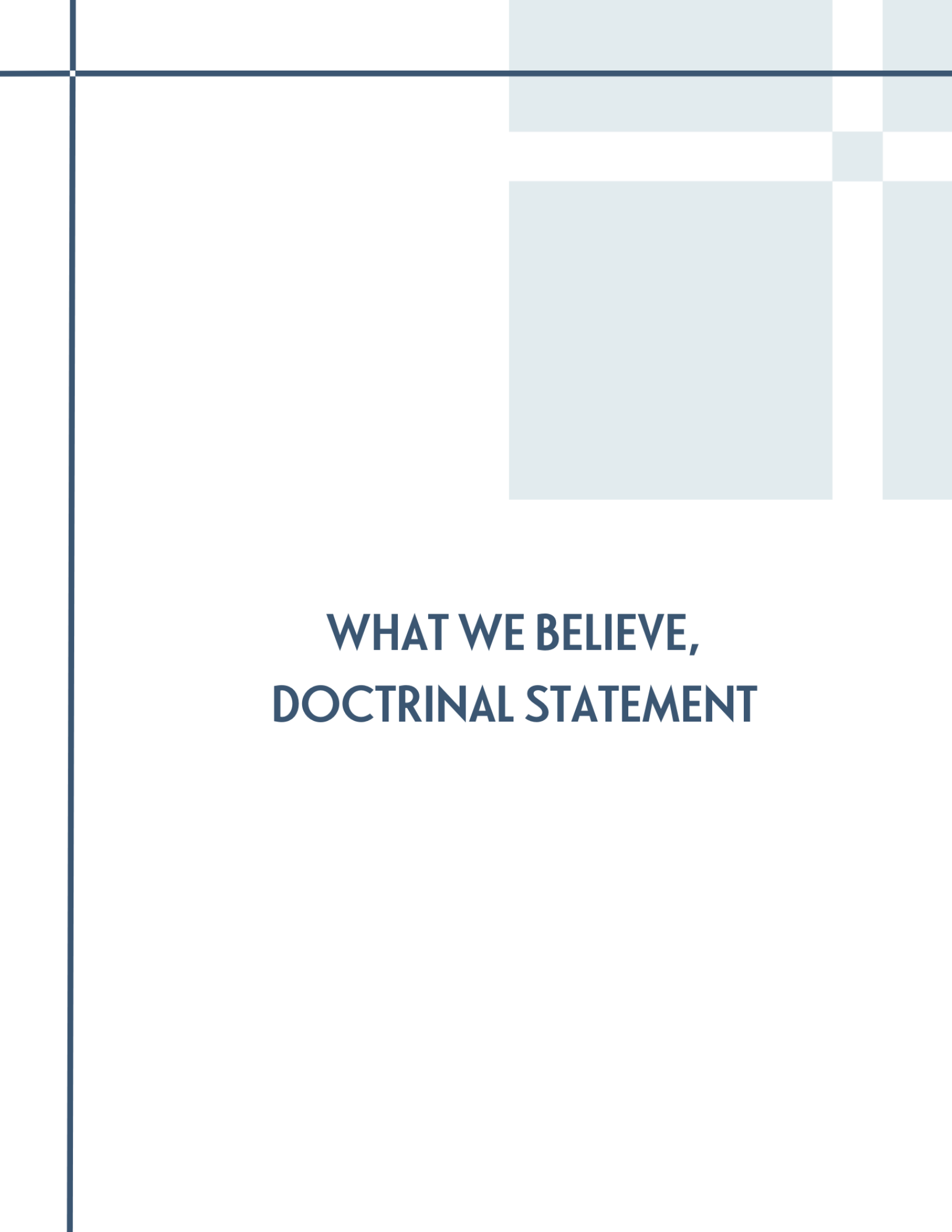
LIFESTYLE SACRIFICE IS FOR THE NEW AND EXPANDING FACILITIES

2 Samuel 24:24 “However, the king said to Araunah, ‘No, but I will surely buy (it) from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.” (NAS)

2 Corinthians 8:3 “For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability (they gave) of their own accord.” (NAS)

NOTES

NOTES



WHAT WE BELIEVE, DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

(Truths We Hold Dear)

BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Savior, 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 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

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 inherited a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the **grace of God** can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and 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.

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**. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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 unto 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 maturity 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 under girded 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

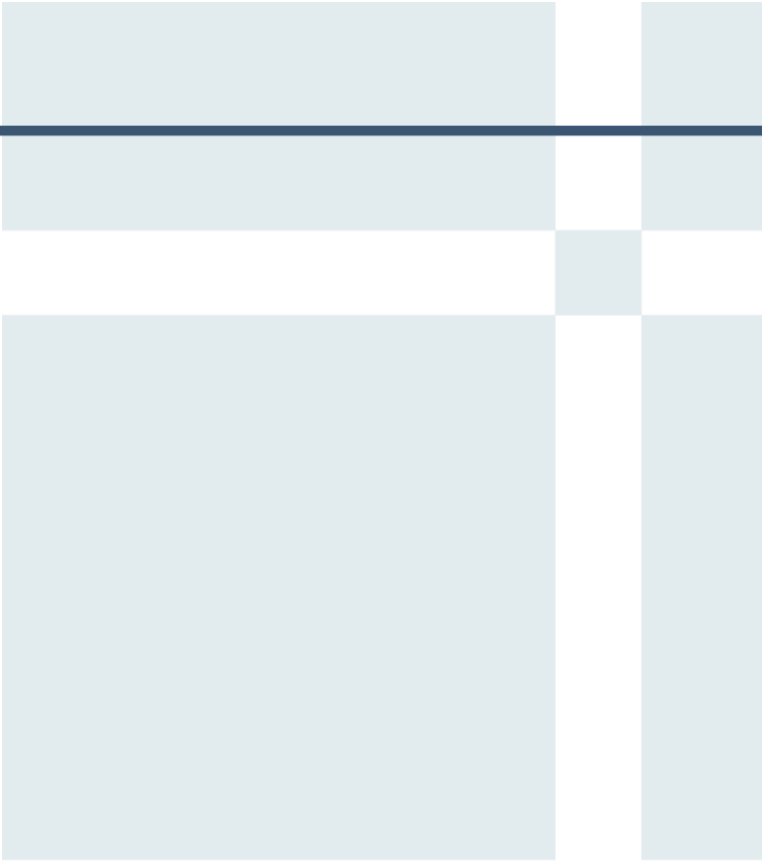
should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians 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.

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.



ORDINANCES OF BAPTISM

CHURCH ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE

Act of arranging, to put in order. 1) an authoritative decree or direction: order, b. a law set forth by a governmental authority, a municipal regulation. 2) something ordained or decreed by fate or a deity. 3) a prescribed usage, practice, or ceremony. (*Webster 9th New Collegiate Dictionary*)

Therefore we say that the ordinances of Baptism and The Lord's Supper are **ordered** by Christ (Matt. 28:18-20 & Luke 22:19-20) and they set in order the church. We follow them in obedience to Christ and for the **order** of the church.

a. **Baptism** – It is a matter of church **doctrine** (what do you believe)

- i. An Obligation – Ordered by Christ for all believers.
- ii. The Mode – Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water.
- iii. The Subjects – Only believers are proper candidates for baptism.
- iv. The Administrator – The local Church.
- v. The Design – It is a symbol.

b. **Lord's Supper** – A matter of church **discipline** (how do you behave)

- i. Its Institution – It was instituted by Jesus himself.
- ii. The Participants – Only baptized believers.
- iii. Its Meaning – “This do in remembrance of me.” It is an examination of your life.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

Acts 2:41 “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” (NAS)

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

a. Follow the **example** set by Jesus.

Mark 1:9 “And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (NAS)

b. Christ **commanded** it.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (NAS)

- c. It demonstrates that I really am *a Christian*.

Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.” (NAS)

I John 2:3 “And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.” (NAS)

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- a. It illustrates Christ’s *death and resurrection*.

1 Corinthians 15:3 “Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and rose again.” (NAS)

Colossians 2:12 “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (NAS)

- b. It illustrates your *new life* as a Christian.

Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man is in Christ, {he is} a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (NAS)

Romans 6:4 “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (NAS)

- c. Baptism doesn’t make you a believer – it shows that you *already believe*.

- d. Baptism does not “save” you, only your *faith in Christ* does that.

- Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” (NAS)

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

- a. Jesus was baptized that way.

Matthew 3:16 “And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, {and} coming upon Him.” (NAS)

b. Every baptism in the Bible was *by immersion*.

Acts 8:38-39 “And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.” (NAS)

IV. The Greek word baptizo (baptize) means “*to immerse or dip under water*.”

a. It best symbolizes a *burial and resurrection*!

The founders of denominations agree: (From the Protestant Reformation forward)

Martin Luther (1483-1546)... “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word import and the mystery signifies.” (Founder of Lutheran Church)

John Calvin (1509-1564)... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain immersion was the practice of the ancient church.” (Founder of Reformed Churches, i.e. Presbyterian Church)

John Wesley (1703-1791)... “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.” (Founder of Methodist Church)

V. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

a. Every person who has *believed* in Christ.

Acts 2:41 “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” (NAS)

Acts 8:13 “And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.” (NAS)

Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” (NAS)

At First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

VI. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

a. As soon as you have *believed*!

Acts 2:41 “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” (NAS)

Acts 8:35-38 “And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.” (NAS)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you will never feel “good enough!”

VII. OTHER QUESTIONS

a. Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be

baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with one of our ministerial staff.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a **personal statement of faith**, not a family tradition. It is not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on the other family members to accept Christ, this puts undue pressure on them and delays your obedience.

b. What should I wear when I am baptized?

Please bring a change of underclothes, a plastic bag for your wet clothes and a hair dryer (if needed). You may wear washable pants/shorts. The church will furnish white robes and towels.

c. Will I have to say anything?

Just your name and that you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Twenty minutes before the service, a member of the baptism committee will meet with you to answer any last-minute questions.

At your baptism, the pastor will introduce you briefly, lower you just under the water and raise you up. You can then leave the baptistry, dry off, change clothes and return to the service. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

d. Special Needs?

Talk with the pastor about any special circumstances.

If coming from a denomination other than Southern Baptist or Baptist, the Pastor prefers that you be baptized under the authority of this local church. There are now so many off shoots of different denominations and independent churches, it is difficult for us to know what each believe.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way {He took} the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink {it,} in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (NAS)

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers

I. WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

a. It is a simple act.

1 Corinthians 11:23 “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread...” (NAS)

b. It is a reminder.

1 Corinthians 11:24 “...and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’” (NAS)

c. It is a proclamation.

1 Corinthians 11:26 “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (NAS)

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER?

Only those who are *already saved*. (Mark 14:22-26)

1 Corinthians 11:29 “For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.” (NAS)

III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

a. You do so by:

- i. Self-examination (*1 Corinthians 11:27*)
- ii. Confessing my sins (*1 John 1:9*)
- iii. Recommitment (*Romans 12:1*)
- iv. Restoring Relationships (*Matthew 5:23-24*)

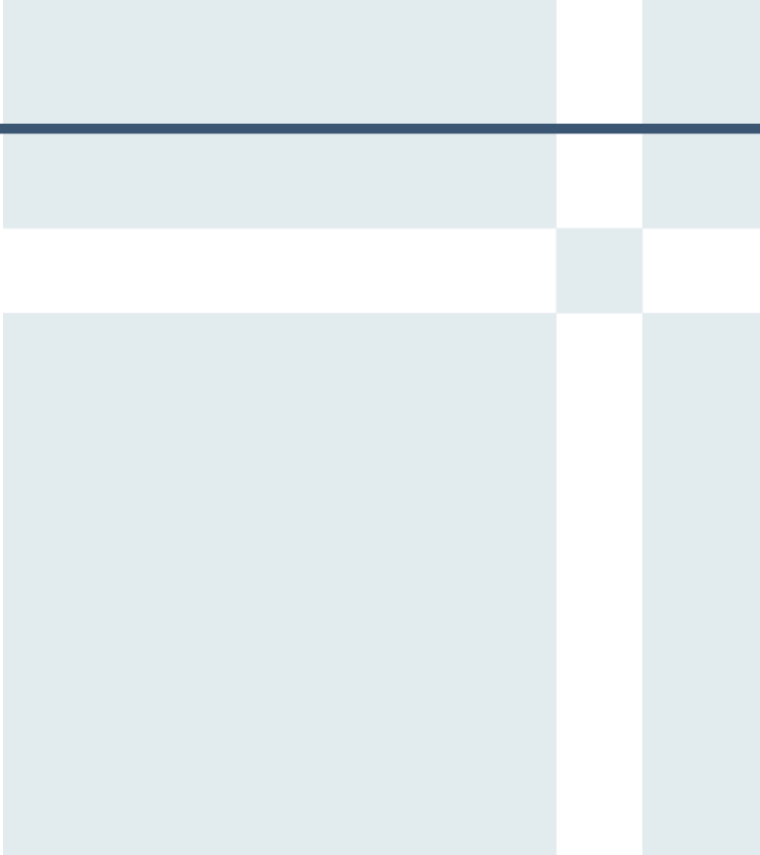
1 Corinthians 11:27-28 "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." (NAS)

IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since it is a 'supper,' it may seem more appropriate to observe it at an evening service.

NOTES

NOTES



BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

Man is naturally *sinful* and *separated* from a personal relationship with God.

- I. Man is naturally *sinful* and *separated* from a personal relationship with God.
Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8:2; Luke 4:16; James 2:2; Acts 5:12; 6:5; Hebrews 10:24-25; Isaiah 59:2

Though small groups are essential, the Bible clearly teaches that the larger congregation should assemble regularly.

- a. **In the Old Testament**

Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8:2; Luke 4:16

Deuteronomy 31:12 “assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town...”

- b. **In the New Testament**

James 2:2; Acts 5:12; Acts 6:5; Hebrews 10:24-25

The word “assembly” that was used of the congregation of Israel in the Old Testament is used to refer to the congregation of the local church in the New Testament.

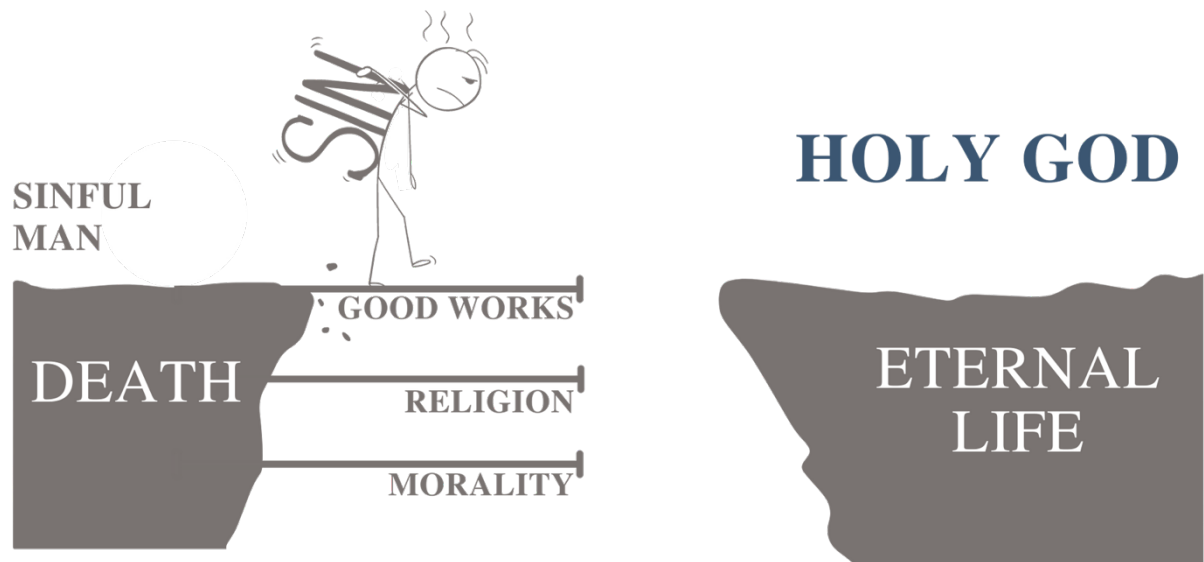
James 2:2 “For if a man comes into your assembly...”



II. Human efforts to unite God and man *always fail*.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, (it is) the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”



III. Man, separated from God, experiences *spiritual death*, will encounter *physical death*, and will eventually face *eternal death* in hell.

a. **Spiritual Death**

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:1 “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.”

Ephesians 4:18 “...being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God,

because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;”

b. Physical Death

1 Corinthians 15:22 “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

Hebrews 9:27 “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

c. Eternal Death

Revelation 21:8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part (will be) in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

- IV. God, being holy, ***must punish sin***; but, ***because of His love***, He provided His Son to suffer in our place.

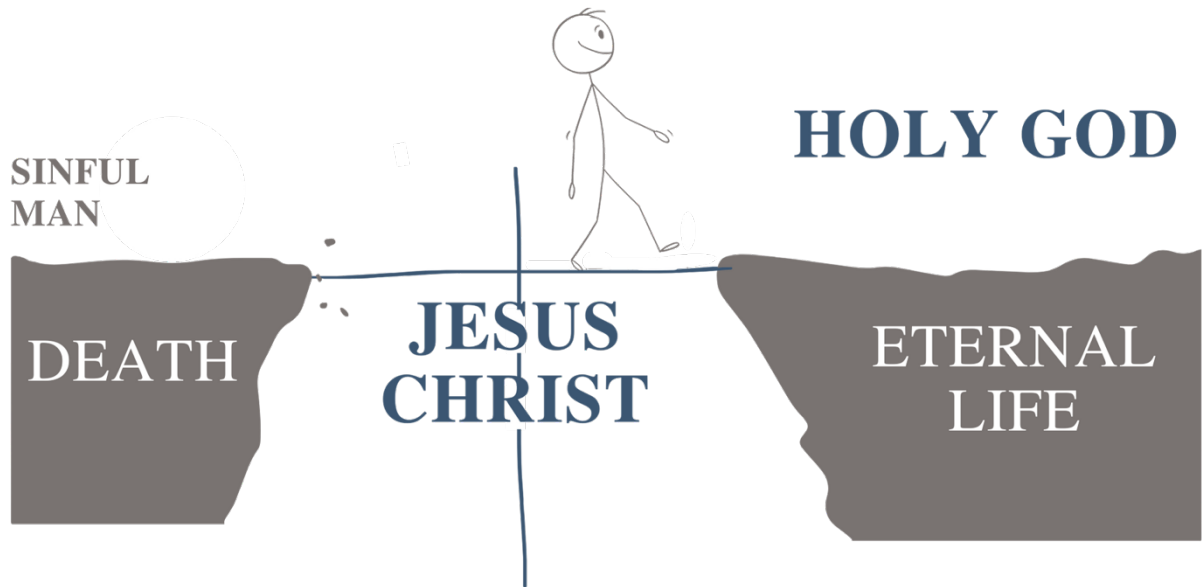
John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also died for sins once for all, (the) just for (the) unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;”

Isaiah 53:10 “But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting (Him) to grief; If He would render Himself (as) a guilt offering, He will see (His) offspring, He will prolong (His) days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

Man, in faith, ***must reject*** all other ways of salvation (good works, religion, *morality*) and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.



Acts 20:21-22 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

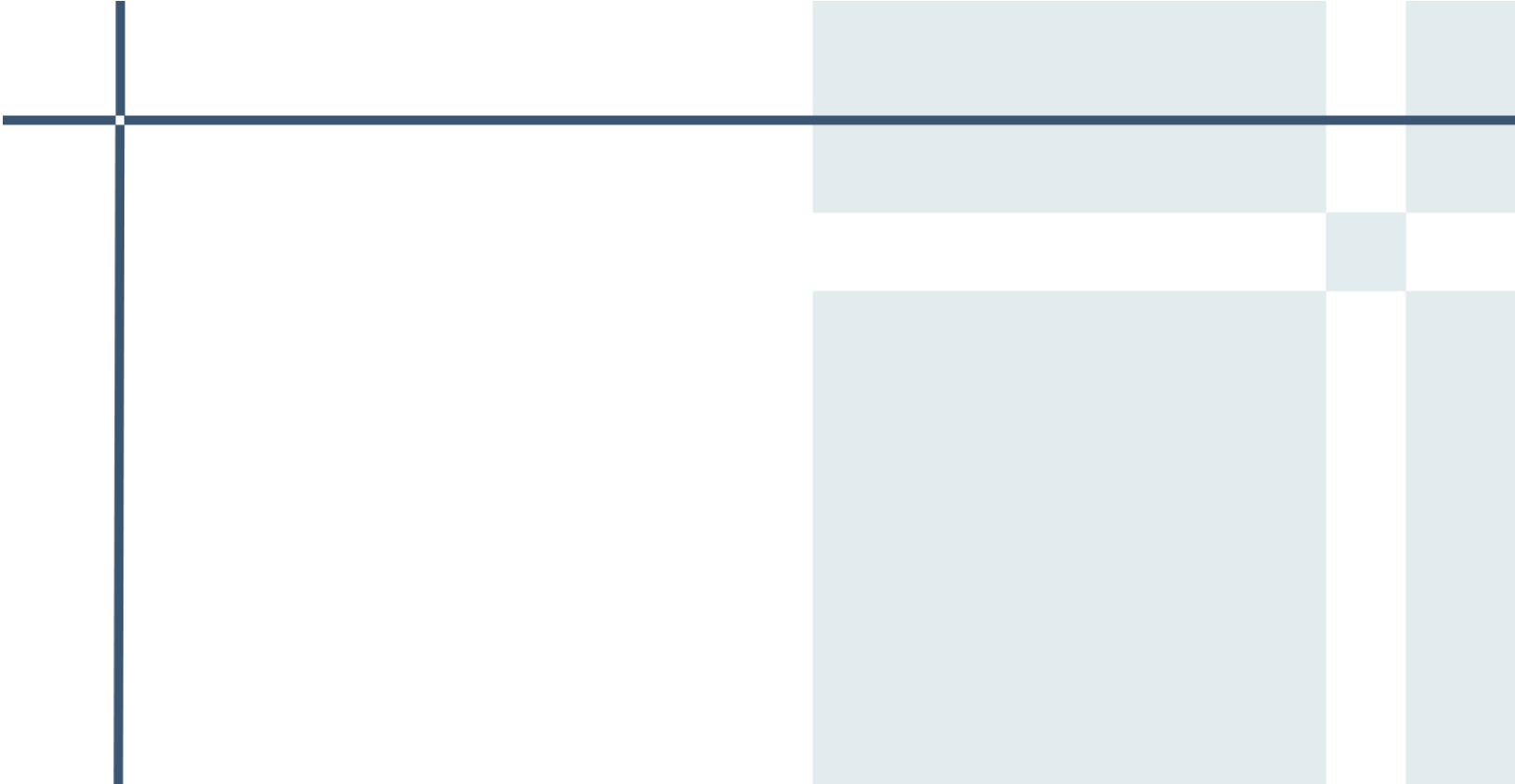
Romans 3:28 “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”

John 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, (even) to those who believe in His name...”

The new believer at present has ***eternal life***, in the future will not face ***judgment***, and has forever ***passed death***.

John 5:24 *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”*



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AT FBMD

BECOMING A MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP

To join First Baptist Church of Mount Dora means that the individual and the corporate body enter into a unique commitment to one another. Church membership is a mutual relationship with both the individual and corporate body having specific responsibilities.

Man is naturally *sinful* and *separated* from a personal relationship with God.

I. THE CHURCH FAMILY'S COMMITMENT

When someone joins First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, the church family commits to:

a. Teach that person the Word of God.

II Timothy 3:15; 4:1-4, I Peter 2:2; Ephesians 5:26

b. Provide “opportunities” for growth, nurturing, and service.

Ephesians 4:12-14; II Timothy 1:6; I Corinthians 12:4-7

c. “Provide a Framework” for building fellowship and godly relationships.

Ephesians 4:16; I Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:3-21

d. To carry out responsibilities of reproving, exhorting, caring, and disciplining.

Ephesians 4:14-16; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Thessalonians 5:14; Galatians 6:1-; Matthew 18:1-17

e. To broaden the believer's concern and perspective on the non-Christian world.

Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:14-17; Philippians 1:27-28

II. THE INDIVIDUAL CHURCH MEMBER'S COMMITMENT

The church member commits:

a. To develop in *personal growth* and *sanctification*.

Romans 6:19; Ephesians 4:1; I Peter 2:2

- b. To be *faithful* in attendance and participation.

Hebrews 10:24-25

- c. To *support* the ministries of the church through *giving* and *service*.

I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 9:6-8; I Peter 4:10

- d. To seek to preserve the *unity* of the church.

Ephesians 4:3

- e. To maintain a *good testimony* toward unbelievers.

I Thessalonians 2:11-12, 4:11-12

I. JOINING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MOUNT DORA

An individual may join First Baptist Church of Mount Dora by one of the following ways:

- a. By *transfer* of one's church letter from another Baptist church (or by statement that the individual has been saved, scripturally baptized, and has been a member of another church of like doctrine.) Both require completion of the Discovery Class.
- b. By *profession of faith* through believer's baptism. (These new members should plan to attend the next Discovery Class.)

If coming from a denomination other than Southern Baptist, the Pastor prefers that you be baptized under the authority of this local church. There are now so many off shoots of different denominations and independent churches, it is difficult for us to know what each believe.

II. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be terminated by one of the following:

- a. By transfer of letter or joining a church of another denomination.
- b. By the member's death.
- c. By a failure to respond to church discipline (*see section on Church Discipline*).

- d. By church member requesting that his/her name be dropped from church roll.

III. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Church discipline is an unusual subject in most churches today. Yet, as we study the New Testament, it is obvious that church discipline was an integral part of local church life. It served to maintain unity, purity, and faithfulness in the early church. A return to Biblical church discipline is sorely needed in our day. With bloated membership rolls, church fights, toleration of open sin, the church must pay heed to the clear instruction of God's Word regarding the discipline of its members.

Why do we need to exercise discipline in the church today? The purposes of discipline are clearly stated in Scripture:

- a. To *glorify God* by obedience to His instructions.

Matthew 18:15; II Corinthians 2:9

- b. To *sanctify* the Lord's Supper.

I Corinthians 11:27

- c. To *purify the Spirit and message* of the church.

I Corinthians 5:6

- d. To *deny Satan* any advantage in the church.

II Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 4:27

- e. To *prove* that leaders love and care.

II Corinthians 7:1-13

- f. To *deter others* from sin.

I Timothy 5:20

- g. To *destroy fleshly* lusts in a believer.

I Corinthians 5:5

- h.** To *cut emotional ties* with unrepentant Christians.

I Corinthians 5:11

- i.** To *protect Scripture* from perversion and error.

II Thessalonians 3:14

- j.** To *shame* a brother to repentance.

II Thessalonians 3:14

- k.** To *restore* repentant believers.

Galatians 6:1

- l.** To *expose and remove* the unregenerate.

I John 2:19

Church discipline is necessary:

- a.** When Christian love is violated by serious private offenses... though such offenses may begin in secret, they must ultimately result in public censure if the offender stubbornly refuses to repent.

Matthew 18:15-18

- b.** When Christian unity is violated by those who form divisive factions which destroy the peace of the church. Such persons must be watched, rebuked, and, if necessary, removed.

Romans 16:17-18; Titus 3:10

- c.** When Christian law is violated by those living scandalous lives... Biblical Christianity undeniably teaches a high standard of conduct and morality... Those who live in a habitual violation of Biblical morality, and refuse to repent when admonished and rebuked, must be removed from church membership.

Matthew 15:19-20; Roman 13:8-14; Ephesians 4:25-6:8; Colossians 3:5-4:6; I Thessalonians 4:1-1-; II Timothy 3:2-4-5; Titus 2:1-3:3

- d. When Christian truth is violated by those who reject essential doctrines of the faith... This does not mean that Christians should be censured for failing to understand and receive every doctrine revealed in the Bible, for all Christians are learning and growing. Rather, this refers to those who knowingly reject any of those doctrines which the church considers essential and fundamental.

I Timothy 1:19-20, 6:3-5; II John 7-11; Acts 20:27; I Timothy 3:2, 9; Titus 1:9; James 3:1

Church discipline may take the somewhat mild form of private or public admonition, particularly through the Scriptures (*Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16; I Thessalonians 5:14; I Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 10:24-25*), to the more serious mode of reproof, rebuking and convincing concerning sin (*Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:15, 5:11, I Timothy 5:20; II Timothy 3:16, 4:2; Titus 1:9, 2:15*), to the final mode of discipline, removal from membership (*Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 5:11, 13*)

The goal of church discipline is always to bring about genuine repentance and complete restoration to fellowship of the member who is under discipline. Discipline must be exercised in a loving, yet firm way. When a member of the church is in need of discipline, the diagrammed procedure on the following page should be followed.

IV. THE GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR CHURCH DISCIPLINE

(Material, quotations, and diagram in the *Church Discipline* section were taken from notes by Dr. Jay Letey and the booklet Biblical Church Discipline, by Daniel Wray.)



*Requires Pastoral oversight

MEMBER RESOURCES

RIGHT NOW MEDIA

Receive free access to “Biblically-based videos on topics like marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances and much more.” There are thousands of video resources at your fingertips. Sign up at <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/join/firstmountdora> or login at <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/library/default>.

BLESS EVERY HOME PRAYER CAMPAIGN

Get “the tools to become a Light for Christ in your neighborhood” by joining the Bless Every Home prayer campaign. Bless Every Home provides tools for you to get to know your neighbors, from progress checkers to prayer prompts. Visit <https://app.blesseveryhome.com/>.

LIFE’S CHOICES

Life’s Choices Women’s Clinic offers assistance to those affected by unplanned pregnancies. They “provide no-cost, confidential pregnancy testing, ultrasound verification, STD testing, options consultations, and education.” Visit Life’s Choices Women’s Clinic at lifeschoices.net, call them at (352) 357-2202 or text them at (352) 460-1277.

LAKE CARES, INC.

Lake Cares Inc. is an “independent community food pantry” that provides food and other services to people in need in Lake County, Florida. Affiliated with Second Harvest Food Bank, Lake Cares distributes 25,000 pounds of food each week. Visit them online at lakecares.org or call (352) 383-0100.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Currently, this class is for men only. Celebrate Recovery offers freedom from our hurts, hang-ups, and habits through eight healing choices that promise true happiness and life transformation. In our upcoming 8-week series, we will learn about Celebrate Recovery and its eight principles and the basics of the ministry for addiction recovery. Contact the church office for more information on time & location.

LIFE WORKS COUNSELING GROUP

Christian based individual and family counseling. You can reach them at lifeworksgroup.org or 407-647-7005

