**First Baptist Church**

**Mesquite, Texas**

**MANUAL OF**

**PROCEDURES**

Adopted April 28, 2019

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## **CONSTITUTION**

**PREAMBLE**

Having our faith (Ephesians. 2:8-9) firmly fixed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation (Romans. 10:9-10), believing in the teaching and practices of Baptists and the great distinctive principles for which they have ever stood, namely:

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ (Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Act 2:36).
2. The Bible, the standard of faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:1 6f).
3. Regenerated church membership (1 Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 1 Cor. 4:17).
4. Believer's baptism by immersion (Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19f).
5. Progressive sanctification (Prov. 4:18; Heb. 6:1; 1 Thes. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Cor, 7:1; 13:9; Eph. 1 4).
6. Elder led congregational government (Matt. 23:8; 1 Pet. 5:1; Acts 15).
   * 1. Add Elder Led Leadership
7. Separation of church and state (Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29).

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We, as New Testament Baptists, believe in the historical Baptist belief that a scriptural church is a body of baptized believers (Matt. 23:8,28:19-20; Acts 2:41) meeting in some local place, sovereign and autonomous (Acts 9:26; Rom. 14:1; 1 Cor. 5:1; 2 Thes. 3:6) in deciding matters of church policy and affiliation and composed only of persons who profess to have been born again (John 3:3) and have been scripturally baptized by immersion upon their profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior (Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23).

In common with Baptists of all ages and nations, we believe in the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures (Luke 16:29-31; 2 Tim. 3:15-17), in the pre-existence (John 1 :1 -18), the incarnation (John 1:14) through His virgin birth (Luke 1 :31 -32) and essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 5:10); His substitutionary and atoning death (1 Pet. 2:24) providing redemption through His shed blood, and His bodily resurrection (John 20:1-10; 1 Cor. 15:12ff.), in His ascension (Acts 1:10,2:36) and exaltation into heaven; His present mediatorial (1 John 2:1) High Priestly office; in the gift of the person and work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-10); and in our Lord's personal, visible return and His Kingdom and reign (Acts 1 :11, Thes. 4:13-17).

## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

We Affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, here reproduced in its entirety. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 includes the first 18 articles contained herein. Article XIX (19) is left for clarifications and/or Additions to the Baptist Faith and Message which we affirm.

### **I. The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

[*Exodus 24:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2024.4)*;*[*Deuteronomy 4:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%204.1-2)*;*[*17:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%2017.19)*;*[*Joshua 8:34*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Joshua%208.34)*;*[*Psalms 19:7-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2019.7-10)*;*[*119:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20119.11)*,*[*89*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20119.89)*,*[*105*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20119.105)*,*[*140*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20119.140)*;*[*Isaiah 34:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2034.16)*;*[*40:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2040.8)*;*[*Jeremiah 15:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2015.16)*;*[*36:1-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2036.1-32)*;*[*Matthew 5:17-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.17-18)*;*[*22:29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2022.29)*;*[*Luke 21:33*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2021.33)*;*[*24:44-46*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.44-46)*;*[*John 5:39*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%205.39)*;*[*16:13-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2016.13-15)*;*[*17:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.17)*;*[*Acts 2:16ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.16ff)*.;*[*17:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2017.11)*;*[*Romans 15:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2015.4)*;*[*16:25-26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2016.25-26)*;*[*2 Timothy 3:15-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%203.15-17)*;*[*Hebrews 1:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%201.1-2)*;*[*4:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%204.12)*;*[*1 Peter 1:25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%201.25)*;*[*2 Peter 1:19-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Peter%201.19-21)*.*

### **II. God**

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

**A. God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

[*Genesis 1:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%201.1)*;*[*2:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.7)*;*[*Exodus 3:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%203.14)*;*[*6:2-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%206.2-3)*;*[*15:11ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2015.11ff)*.;*[*20:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2020.1ff)*.;*[*Leviticus 22:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Leviticus%2022.2)*;*[*Deuteronomy 6:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%206.4)*;*[*32:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%2032.6)*;*[*1 Chronicles 29:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Chronicles%2029.10)*;*[*Psalm 19:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalm%2019.1-3)*;*[*Isaiah 43:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2043.3)*,*[*15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2043.15)*;*[*64:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2064.8)*;*[*Jeremiah 10:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2010.10)*;*[*17:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2017.13)*;*[*Matthew 6:9ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%206.9ff)*.;*[*7:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%207.11)*;*[*23:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2023.9)*;*[*28:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.19)*;*[*Mark 1:9-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.9-11)*;*[*John 4:24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%204.24)*;*[*5:26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%205.26)*;*[*14:6-13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2014.6-13)*;*[*17:1-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.1-8)*;*[*Acts 1:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.7)*;*[*Romans 8:14-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.14-15)*;*[*1 Corinthians 8:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%208.6)*;*[*Galatians 4:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%204.6)*;*[*Ephesians 4:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%204.6)*;*[*Colossians 1:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.15)*;*[*1 Timothy 1:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%201.17)*;*[*Hebrews 11:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.6)*;*[*12:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2012.9)*;*[*1 Peter 1:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%201.17)*;*[*1 John 5:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%205.7)*.*

**B. God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

[*Genesis 18:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%2018.1ff)*.;*[*Psalms 2:7ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%202.7ff)*.;*[*110:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20110.1ff)*.;*[*Isaiah 7:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%207.14)*;*[*Isaiah 53:1-12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2053.1-12)*;*[*Matthew 1:18-23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%201.18-23)*;*[*3:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%203.17)*;*[*8:29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%208.29)*;*[*11:27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2011.27)*;*[*14:33*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2014.33)*;*[*16:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.16)*,*[*27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.27)*;*[*17:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2017.5)*;*[*27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2017.27)*;*[*28:1-6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.1-6)*,*[*19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.19)*;*[*Mark 1:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.1)*;*[*3:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%203.11)*;*[*Luke 1:35*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%201.35)*;*[*4:41*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%204.41)*;*[*22:70*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2022.70)*;*[*24:46*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.46)*;*[*John 1:1-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%201.1-18)*,*[*29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%201.29)*;*[*10:30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2010.30)*,*[*38*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2010.38)*;*[*11:25-27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2011.25-27)*;*[*12:44-50*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2012.44-50)*;*[*14:7-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2014.7-11)*;*[*16:15-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2016.15-16)*,*[*28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2016.28)*;*[*17:1-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.1-5)*,*[*21-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.21-22)*;*[*20:1-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2020.1-20)*,*[*28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2020.28)*;*[*Acts 1:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.9)*;*[*2:22-24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.22-24)*;*[*7:55-56*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%207.55-56)*;*[*9:4-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%209.4-5)*,*[*20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%209.20)*;*[*Romans 1:3-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%201.3-4)*;*[*3:23-26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%203.23-26)*;*[*5:6-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.6-21)*;*[*8:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.1-3)*,*[*34*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.34)*;*[*10:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2010.4)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.30)*;*[*2:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%202.2)*;*[*8:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%208.6)*;*[*15:1-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.1-8)*,*[*24-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.24-28)*;*[*2 Corinthians 5:19-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Corinthians%205.19-21)*;*[*8:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Corinthians%208.9)*;*[*Galatians 4:4-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%204.4-5)*;*[*Ephesians 1:20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%201.20)*;*[*3:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.11)*;*[*4:7-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%204.7-10)*;*[*Philippians 2:5-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%202.5-11)*;*[*Colossians 1:13-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.13-22)*;*[*2:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%202.9)*;*[*1 Thessalonians 4:14-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%204.14-18)*;*[*1 Timothy 2:5-6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%202.5-6)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%203.16)*;*[*Titus 2:13-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Titus%202.13-14)*;*[*Hebrews 1:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%201.1-3)*;*[*4:14-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%204.14-15)*;*[*7:14-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%207.14-28)*;*[*9:12-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%209.12-15)*,*[*24-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%209.24-28)*;*[*12:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2012.2)*;*[*13:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2013.8)*;*[*1 Peter 2:21-25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%202.21-25)*;*[*3:22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%203.22)*;*[*1 John 1:7-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%201.7-9)*;*[*3:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%203.2)*;*[*4:14-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%204.14-15)*;*[*5:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%205.9)*;*[*2 John 7-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20John%207-9)*;*[*Revelation 1:13-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%201.13-16)*;*[*5:9-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%205.9-14)*;*[*12:10-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2012.10-11)*;*[*13:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2013.8)*;*[*19:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2019.16)*.*

**C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

[*Genesis 1:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%201.2)*;*[*Judges 14:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Judges%2014.6)*;*[*Job 26:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Job%2026.13)*;*[*Psalms 51:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2051.11)*;*[*139:7ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20139.7ff)*.;*[*Isaiah 61:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2061.1-3)*;*[*Joel 2:28-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Joel%202.28-32)*;*[*Matthew 1:18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%201.18)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%203.16)*;*[*4:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%204.1)*;*[*12:28-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2012.28-32)*;*[*28:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.19)*;*[*Mark 1:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.10)*,*[*12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.12)*;*[*Luke 1:35*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%201.35)*;*[*4:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%204.1)*,*[*18-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%204.18-19)*;*[*11:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2011.13)*;*[*12:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2012.12)*;*[*24:49*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.49)*;*[*John 4:24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%204.24)*;*[*14:16-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2014.16-17)*,*[*26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2014.26)*;*[*15:26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2015.26)*;*[*16:7-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2016.7-14)*;*[*Acts 1:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.8)*;*[*2:1-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.1-4)*,*[*38*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.38)*;*[*4:31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%204.31)*;*[*5:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%205.3)*;*[*6:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%206.3)*;*[*7:55*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%207.55)*;*[*8:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%208.17)*,*[*39*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%208.39)*;*[*10:44*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2010.44)*;*[*13:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2013.2)*;*[*15:28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2015.28)*;*[*16:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2016.6)*;*[*19:1-6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2019.1-6)*;*[*Romans 8:9-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.9-11)*,*[*14-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.14-16)*,*[*26-27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.26-27)*;*[*1 Corinthians 2:10-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%202.10-14)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%203.16)*;*[*12:3-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2012.3-11)*,*[*13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2012.13)*;*[*Galatians 4:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%204.6)*;*[*Ephesians 1:13-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%201.13-14)*;*[*4:30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%204.30)*;*[*5:18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%205.18)*;*[*1 Thessalonians 5:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%205.19)*;*[*1 Timothy 3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%203.16)*;*[*4:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%204.1)*;*[*2 Timothy 1:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%201.14)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%203.16)*;*[*Hebrews 9:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%209.8)*,*[*14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%209.14)*;*[*2 Peter 1:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Peter%201.21)*;*[*1 John 4:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%204.13)*;*[*5:6-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%205.6-7)*;*[*Revelation 1:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%201.10)*;*[*22:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2022.17)*.*

### **III. Man**

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

[*Genesis 1:26-30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%201.26-30)*;*[*2:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.5)*,*[*7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.7)*,*[*18-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.18-22)*;*[*3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.3)*;*[*9:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%209.6)*; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5;*[*Isaiah 6:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%206.5)*;*[*Jeremiah 17:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2017.5)*;*[*Matthew 16:26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.26)*;*[*Acts 17:26-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2017.26-31)*;*[*Romans 1:19-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%201.19-32)*;*[*3:10-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%203.10-18)*,*[*23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%203.23)*;*[*5:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.6)*,*[*12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.12)*,*[*19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.19)*;*[*6:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%206.6)*;*[*7:14-25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%207.14-25)*;*[*8:14-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.14-18)*,*[*29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.29)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:21-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.21-31)*;*[*15:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.19)*,*[*21-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.21-22)*;*[*Ephesians 2:1-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%202.1-22)*;*[*Colossians 1:21-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.21-22)*;*[*3:9-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%203.9-11)*.*

### **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, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

[*Genesis 3:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%203.15)*;*[*Exodus 3:14-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%203.14-17)*;*[*6:2-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%206.2-8)*;*[*Matthew 1:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%201.21)*;*[*4:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%204.17)*;*[*16:21-26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.21-26)*;*[*27:22-28:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2027.22-28.6)*;*[*Luke 1:68-69*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%201.68-69)*;*[*2:28-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%202.28-32)*;*[*John 1:11-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%201.11-14)*,*[*29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%201.29)*;*[*3:3-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%203.3-21)*,*[*36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%203.36)*;*[*5:24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%205.24)*;*[*10:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2010.9)*,*[*28-29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2010.28-29)*;*[*15:1-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2015.1-16)*;*[*17:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.17)*;*[*Acts 2:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.21)*;*[*4:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%204.12)*;*[*15:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2015.11)*;*[*16:30-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2016.30-31)*;*[*17:30-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2017.30-31)*;*[*20:32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.32)*;*[*Romans 1:16-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%201.16-18)*;*[*2:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%202.4)*;*[*3:23-25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%203.23-25)*;*[*4:3ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%204.3ff)*.;*[*5:8-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.8-10)*;*[*6:1-23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%206.1-23)*;*[*8:1-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.1-18)*,*[*29-39*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.29-39)*;*[*10:9-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2010.9-10)*,*[*13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2010.13)*;*[*13:11-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2013.11-14)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.18)*,*[*30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.30)*;*[*6:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%206.19-20)*;*[*15:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.10)*;*[*2 Corinthians 5:17-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Corinthians%205.17-20)*;*[*Galatians 2:20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%202.20)*;*[*3:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%203.13)*;*[*5:22-25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%205.22-25)*;*[*6:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%206.15)*;*[*Ephesians 1:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%201.7)*;*[*2:8-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%202.8-22)*;*[*4:11-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%204.11-16)*;*[*Philippians 2:12-13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%202.12-13)*;*[*Colossians 1:9-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.9-22)*;*[*3:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%203.1ff)*.;*[*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%205.23-24)*;*[*2 Timothy 1:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%201.12)*;*[*Titus 2:11-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Titus%202.11-14)*;*[*Hebrews 2:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%202.1-3)*;*[*5:8-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%205.8-9)*;*[*9:24-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%209.24-28)*;*[*11:1-12:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.1-12.8)*,*[*14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.14)*;*[*James 2:14-26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%202.14-26)*;*[*1 Peter 1:2-23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%201.2-23)*;*[*1 John 1:6-2:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%201.6-2.11)*;*[*Revelation 3:20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%203.20)*;*[*21:1-22:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2021.1-22.5)*.*

### **V. God's Purpose of Grace**

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

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

[*Genesis 12:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%2012.1-3)*;*[*Exodus 19:5-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2019.5-8)*;*[*1 Samuel 8:4-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Samuel%208.4-7)*,*[*19-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Samuel%208.19-22)*;*[*Isaiah 5:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%205.1-7)*;*[*Jeremiah 31:31ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2031.31ff)*.;*[*Matthew 16:18-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.18-19)*;*[*21:28-45*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2021.28-45)*;*[*24:22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.22)*,*[*31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.31)*;*[*25:34*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2025.34)*;*[*Luke 1:68-79*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%201.68-79)*;*[*2:29-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%202.29-32)*;*[*19:41-44*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2019.41-44)*;*[*24:44-48*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.44-48)*;*[*John 1:12-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%201.12-14)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%203.16)*;*[*5:24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%205.24)*;*[*6:44-45*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%206.44-45)*,*[*65*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%206.65)*;*[*10:27-29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2010.27-29)*;*[*15:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2015.16)*;*[*17:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.6)*,*[*12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.12)*,*[*17-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.17-18)*;*[*Acts 20:32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.32)*;*[*Romans 5:9-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.9-10)*;*[*8:28-39*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.28-39)*;*[*10:12-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2010.12-15)*;*[*11:5-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2011.5-7)*,*[*26-36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2011.26-36)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.1-2)*;*[*15:24-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.24-28)*;*[*Ephesians 1:4-23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%201.4-23)*;*[*2:1-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%202.1-10)*;*[*3:1-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.1-11)*;*[*Colossians 1:12-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.12-14)*;*[*2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Thessalonians%202.13-14)*;*[*2 Timothy 1:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%201.12)*;*[*2:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%202.10)*,*[*19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%202.19)*;*[*Hebrews 11:39–12:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.39%E2%80%9312.2)*;*[*James 1:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%201.12)*;*[*1 Peter 1:2-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%201.2-5)*,*[*13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%201.13)*;*[*2:4-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%202.4-10)*;*[*1 John 1:7-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%201.7-9)*;*[*2:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%202.19)*;*[*3:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%203.2)*.*

### **VI. The Church**

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

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

[*Matthew 16:15-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.15-19)*;*[*18:15-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2018.15-20)*;*[*Acts 2:41-42*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.41-42)*,*[*47*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.47)*;*[*5:11-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%205.11-14)*;*[*6:3-6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%206.3-6)*;*[*13:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2013.1-3)*;*[*14:23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2014.23)*,*[*27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2014.27)*;*[*15:1-30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2015.1-30)*;*[*16:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2016.5)*;*[*20:28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.28)*;*[*Romans 1:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%201.7)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.2)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%203.16)*;*[*5:4-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%205.4-5)*;*[*7:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%207.17)*;*[*9:13-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%209.13-14)*;*[*12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%209.12)*;*[*Ephesians 1:22-23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%201.22-23)*;*[*2:19-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%202.19-22)*;*[*3:8-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.8-11)*,*[*21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.21)*;*[*5:22-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%205.22-32)*;*[*Philippians 1:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%201.1)*;*[*Colossians 1:18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.18)*;*[*1 Timothy 2:9-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%202.9-14)*;*[*3:1-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%203.1-15)*;*[*4:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%204.14)*;*[*Hebrews 11:39-40*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.39-40)*;*[*1 Peter 5:1-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%205.1-4)*; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

### **VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen 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*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%203.13-17)*;*[*26:26-30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2026.26-30)*;*[*28:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.19-20)*;*[*Mark 1:9-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.9-11)*;*[*14:22-26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%2014.22-26)*;*[*Luke 3:21-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%203.21-22)*;*[*22:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2022.19-20)*;*[*John 3:23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%203.23)*;*[*Acts 2:41-42*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.41-42)*;*[*8:35-39*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%208.35-39)*;*[*16:30-33*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2016.30-33)*;*[*20:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.7)*;*[*Romans 6:3-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%206.3-5)*;*[*1 Corinthians 10:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2010.16)*,*[*21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2010.21)*;*[*11:23-29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2011.23-29)*;*[*Colossians 2:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%202.12)*.*

### **VIII. The Lord's Day**

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

[*Exodus 20:8-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2020.8-11)*;*[*Matthew 12:1-12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2012.1-12)*;*[*28:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.1ff)*.;*[*Mark 2:27-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%202.27-28)*;*[*16:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%2016.1-7)*;*[*Luke 24:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.1-3)*,*[*33-36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.33-36)*;*[*John 4:21-24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%204.21-24)*;*[*20:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2020.1)*,*[*19-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2020.19-28)*;*[*Acts 20:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.7)*;*[*Romans 14:5-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2014.5-10)*;*[*I Corinthians 16:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/I%20Corinthians%2016.1-2)*;*[*Colossians 2:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%202.16)*;*[*3:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%203.16)*;*[*Revelation 1:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%201.10)*.*

### **IX. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

[*Genesis 1:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%201.1)*;*[*Isaiah 9:6-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%209.6-7)*;*[*Jeremiah 23:5-6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jeremiah%2023.5-6)*;*[*Matthew 3:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%203.2)*;*[*4:8-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%204.8-10)*,*[*23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%204.23)*;*[*12:25-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2012.25-28)*;*[*13:1-52*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2013.1-52)*;*[*25:31-46*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2025.31-46)*;*[*26:29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2026.29)*;*[*Mark 1:14-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.14-15)*;*[*9:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%209.1)*;*[*Luke 4:43*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%204.43)*;*[*8:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%208.1)*;*[*9:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%209.2)*;*[*12:31-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2012.31-32)*;*[*17:20-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2017.20-21)*;*[*23:42*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2023.42)*;*[*John 3:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%203.3)*;*[*18:36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2018.36)*;*[*Acts 1:6-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.6-7)*;*[*17:22-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2017.22-31)*;*[*Romans 5:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%205.17)*;*[*8:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%208.19)*;*[*1 Corinthians 15:24-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.24-28)*;*[*Colossians 1:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.13)*;*[*Hebrews 11:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.10)*,*[*16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.16)*;*[*12:28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2012.28)*;*[*1 Peter 2:4-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%202.4-10)*;*[*4:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%204.13)*;*[*Revelation 1:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%201.6)*,*[*9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%201.9)*;*[*5:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%205.10)*;*[*11:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2011.15)*;*[*21-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2011.21-22)*.*

### **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

[*Isaiah 2:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%202.4)*;*[*11:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%2011.9)*;*[*Matthew 16:27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.27)*;*[*18:8-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2018.8-9)*;*[*19:28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2019.28)*;*[*24:27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.27)*,*[*30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.30)*,*[*36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.36)*,*[*44*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.44)*;*[*25:31-46*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2025.31-46)*;*[*26:64*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2026.64)*;*[*Mark 8:38*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%208.38)*;*[*9:43-48*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%209.43-48)*;*[*Luke 12:40*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2012.40)*,*[*48*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2012.48)*;*[*16:19-26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2016.19-26)*;*[*17:22-37*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2017.22-37)*;*[*21:27-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2021.27-28)*;*[*John 14:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2014.1-3)*;*[*Acts 1:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.11)*;*[*17:31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2017.31)*;*[*Romans 14:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2014.10)*;*[*1 Corinthians 4:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%204.5)*;*[*15:24-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.24-28)*,*[*35-58*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2015.35-58)*;*[*2 Corinthians 5:10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Corinthians%205.10)*;*[*Philippians 3:20-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%203.20-21)*;*[*Colossians 1:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.5)*;*[*3:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%203.4)*;*[*1 Thessalonians 4:14-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%204.14-18)*;*[*5:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%205.1ff)*.;*[*2 Thessalonians 1:7ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Thessalonians%201.7ff)*.;*[*2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Thessalonians%201.2)*;*[*1 Timothy 6:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%206.14)*;*[*2 Timothy 4:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%204.1)*,*[*8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%204.8)*;*[*Titus 2:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Titus%202.13)*;*[*Hebrews 9:27-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%209.27-28)*;*[*James 5:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%205.8)*;*[*2 Peter 3:7ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Peter%203.7ff)*.;*[*1 John 2:28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%202.28)*;*[*3:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20John%203.2)*;*[*Jude 14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Jude%2014)*;*[*Revelation 1:18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%201.18)*;*[*3:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%203.11)*;*[*20:1-22:13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2020.1-22.13)*.*

### **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

[*Genesis 12:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%2012.1-3)*;*[*Exodus 19:5-6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2019.5-6)*;*[*Isaiah 6:1-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%206.1-8)*;*[*Matthew 9:37-38*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%209.37-38)*;*[*10:5-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2010.5-15)*;*[*13:18-30*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2013.18-30)*,*[*37-43*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2013.37-43)*;*[*16:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.19)*;*[*22:9-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2022.9-10)*;*[*24:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2024.14)*;*[*28:18-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.18-20)*;*[*Luke 10:1-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2010.1-18)*;*[*24:46-53*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2024.46-53)*;*[*John 14:11-12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2014.11-12)*;*[*15:7-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2015.7-8)*,*[*16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2015.16)*;*[*17:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.15)*;*[*20:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2020.21)*;*[*Acts 1:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.8)*;*[*2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.2)*;*[*8:26-40*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%208.26-40)*;*[*10:42-48*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2010.42-48)*;*[*13:2-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2013.2-3)*;*[*Romans 10:13-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2010.13-15)*;*[*Ephesians 3:1-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.1-11)*;*[*1 Thessalonians 1:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%201.8)*;*[*2 Timothy 4:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%204.5)*;*[*Hebrews 2:1-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%202.1-3)*;*[*11:39-12:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.39-12.2)*;*[*1 Peter 2:4-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%202.4-10)*;*[*Revelation 22:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Revelation%2022.17)*.*

### **XII. Education**

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

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

[*Deuteronomy 4:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%204.1)*,*[*5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%204.5)*,*[*9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%204.9)*,*[*14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%204.14)*;*[*6:1-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%206.1-10)*;*[*31:12-13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%2031.12-13)*;*[*Nehemiah 8:1-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Nehemiah%208.1-8)*;*[*Job 28:28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Job%2028.28)*;*[*Psalms 19:7ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2019.7ff)*.;*[*119:11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20119.11)*;*[*Proverbs 3:13ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%203.13ff)*.;*[*4:1-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%204.1-10)*;*[*8:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%208.1-7)*,*[*11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%208.11)*;*[*15:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2015.14)*;*[*Ecclesiastes 7:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ecclesiastes%207.19)*;*[*Matthew 5:2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.2)*;*[*7:24ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%207.24ff)*.;*[*28:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.19-20)*;*[*Luke 2:40*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%202.40)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.18-31)*;*[*Ephesians 4:11-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%204.11-16)*;*[*Philippians 4:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%204.8)*;*[*Colossians 2:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%202.3)*,*[*8-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%202.8-9)*;*[*1 Timothy 1:3-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%201.3-7)*;*[*2 Timothy 2:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%202.15)*;*[*3:14-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%203.14-17)*;*[*Hebrews 5:12-6:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%205.12-6.3)*;*[*James 1:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%201.5)*;*[*3:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%203.17)*.*

### **XIII. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

[*Genesis 14:20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%2014.20)*;*[*Leviticus 27:30-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Leviticus%2027.30-32)*;*[*Deuteronomy 8:18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%208.18)*;*[*Malachi 3:8-12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Malachi%203.8-12)*;*[*Matthew 6:1-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%206.1-4)*,*[*19-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%206.19-21)*;*[*19:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2019.21)*;*[*23:23*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2023.23)*;*[*25:14-29*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2025.14-29)*;*[*Luke 12:16-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2012.16-21)*,*[*42*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2012.42)*;*[*16:1-13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2016.1-13)*;*[*Acts 2:44-47*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.44-47)*;*[*5:1-11*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%205.1-11)*;*[*17:24-25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2017.24-25)*;*[*20:35*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.35)*;*[*Romans 6:6-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%206.6-22)*;*[*12:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2012.1-2)*;*[*1 Corinthians 4:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%204.1-2)*;*[*6:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%206.19-20)*;*[*12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%206.12)*;*[*16:1-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%2016.1-4)*; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15;*[*Philippians 4:10-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%204.10-19)*;*[*1 Peter 1:18-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%201.18-19)*.*

### **XIV. Cooperation**

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

[*Exodus 17:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2017.12)*;*[*18:17ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2018.17ff)*.;*[*Judges 7:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Judges%207.21)*;*[*Ezra 1:3-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ezra%201.3-4)*;*[*2:68-69*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ezra%202.68-69)*;*[*5:14-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ezra%205.14-15)*; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5;*[*Matthew 10:5-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2010.5-15)*;*[*20:1-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2020.1-16)*;*[*22:1-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2022.1-10)*;*[*28:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2028.19-20)*;*[*Mark 2:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%202.3)*;*[*Luke 10:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2010.1ff)*.;*[*Acts 1:13-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%201.13-14)*;*[*2:1ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.1ff)*.;*[*4:31-37*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%204.31-37)*;*[*13:2-3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2013.2-3)*;*[*15:1-35*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2015.1-35)*;*[*1 Corinthians 1:10-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.10-17)*;*[*3:5-15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%203.5-15)*;*[*12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%203.12)*; 2 Corinthians 8-9;*[*Galatians 1:6-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%201.6-10)*;*[*Ephesians 4:1-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%204.1-16)*;*[*Philippians 1:15-18*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%201.15-18)*.*

### **XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

[*Exodus 20:3-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2020.3-17)*;*[*Leviticus 6:2-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Leviticus%206.2-5)*;*[*Deuteronomy 10:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%2010.12)*;*[*27:17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%2027.17)*;*[*Psalm 101:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalm%20101.5)*;*[*Micah 6:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Micah%206.8)*;*[*Zechariah 8:16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Zechariah%208.16)*;*[*Matthew 5:13-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.13-16)*,*[*43-48*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.43-48)*;*[*22:36-40*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2022.36-40)*;*[*25:35*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2025.35)*;*[*Mark 1:29-34*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%201.29-34)*;*[*2:3ff*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%202.3ff)*.;*[*10:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%2010.21)*;*[*Luke 4:18-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%204.18-21)*;*[*10:27-37*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2010.27-37)*;*[*20:25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2020.25)*;*[*John 15:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2015.12)*;*[*17:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%2017.15)*; Romans 12–14;*[*1Corinthians 5:9-10*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1Corinthians%205.9-10)*;*[*6:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1Corinthians%206.1-7)*;*[*7:20-24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1Corinthians%207.20-24)*;*[*10:23-11:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1Corinthians%2010.23-11.1)*;*[*Galatians 3:26-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%203.26-28)*;*[*Ephesians 6:5-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%206.5-9)*;*[*Colossians 3:12-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%203.12-17)*;*[*1 Thessalonians 3:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Thessalonians%203.12)*; Philemon;*[*James 1:27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%201.27)*;*[*2:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%202.8)*.*

### **XVI. Peace and War**

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

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

[*Isaiah 2:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Isaiah%202.4)*;*[*Matthew 5:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.9)*,*[*38-48*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.38-48)*;*[*6:33*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%206.33)*;*[*26:52*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2026.52)*;*[*Luke 22:36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2022.36)*,*[*38*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Luke%2022.38)*;*[*Romans 12:18-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2012.18-19)*;*[*13:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2013.1-7)*;*[*14:19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2014.19)*;*[*Hebrews 12:14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2012.14)*;*[*James 4:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%204.1-2)*.*

### **XVII. Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

[*Genesis 1:27*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%201.27)*;*[*2:7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.7)*;*[*Matthew 6:6-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%206.6-7)*,*[*24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%206.24)*;*[*16:26*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2016.26)*;*[*22:21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2022.21)*;*[*John 8:36*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/John%208.36)*;*[*Acts 4:19-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%204.19-20)*;*[*Romans 6:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%206.1-2)*;*[*13:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%2013.1-7)*;*[*Galatians 5:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%205.1)*,*[*13*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Galatians%205.13)*;*[*Philippians 3:20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%203.20)*;*[*1 Timothy 2:1-2*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%202.1-2)*;*[*James 4:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/James%204.12)*;*[*1 Peter 2:12-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%202.12-17)*;*[*3:11-17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%203.11-17)*;*[*4:12-19*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%204.12-19)*.*

### **XVIII. The Family**

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

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

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

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

[*Genesis 1:26-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%201.26-28)*;*[*2:15-25*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%202.15-25)*;*[*3:1-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Genesis%203.1-20)*;*[*Exodus 20:12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Exodus%2020.12)*;*[*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Deuteronomy%206.4-9)*;*[*Joshua 24:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Joshua%2024.15)*;*[*1 Samuel 1:26-28*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Samuel%201.26-28)*;*[*Psalms 51:5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2051.5)*;*[*78:1-8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2078.1-8)*;*[*127*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2078.127)*;*[*128*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%2078.128)*;*[*139:13-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Psalms%20139.13-16)*;*[*Proverbs 1:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%201.8)*;*[*5:15-20*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%205.15-20)*;*[*6:20-22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%206.20-22)*;*[*12:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2012.4)*;*[*13:24*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2013.24)*;*[*14:1*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2014.1)*;*[*17:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2017.6)*;*[*18:22*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2018.22)*;*[*22:6*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2022.6)*,*[*15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2022.15)*;*[*23:13-14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2023.13-14)*;*[*24:3*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2024.3)*;*[*29:15*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2029.15)*,*[*17*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2029.17)*;*[*31:10-31*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Proverbs%2031.10-31)*;*[*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ecclesiastes%204.9-12)*;*[*9:9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ecclesiastes%209.9)*;*[*Malachi 2:14-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Malachi%202.14-16)*;*[*Matthew 5:31-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%205.31-32)*;*[*18:2-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2018.2-5)*;*[*19:3-9*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2019.3-9)*;*[*Mark 10:6-12*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Mark%2010.6-12)*;*[*Romans 1:18-32*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%201.18-32)*;*[*1 Corinthians 7:1-16*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%207.1-16)*;*[*Ephesians 5:21-33*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%205.21-33)*;*[*6:1-4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%206.1-4)*;*[*Colossians 3:18-21*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%203.18-21)*;*[*1 Timothy 5:8*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%205.8)*,*[*14*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%205.14)*;*[*2 Timothy 1:3-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/2%20Timothy%201.3-5)*;*[*Titus 2:3-5*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Titus%202.3-5)*;*[*Hebrews 13:4*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2013.4)*;*[*1 Peter 3:1-7*](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%203.1-7)*.*

**XIX. Additions and Clarifications**

* Clarification to Article XVII. The Family - Complementarianism
  + We affirm a complementarian view on gender roles. Complementarianism is the teaching that masculinity and femininity are ordained by God and that men and women are created to complement, or complete, each other. We believe that the gender roles found in the Bible are purposeful and meaningful distinctions that, when applied in the home and church, promote the spiritual health of both men and women. Embracing the divinely ordained roles of men and women furthers the ministry of God’s people and allows men and women to reach their God-given potential.
  + Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18, Ephesians 5:21-23, Galatians 3:281 Timothy 2:11-3:7, Titus 2: 3-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
* Addition to Baptist Faith and Message: We affirm the 2017 Nashville Statement contained below:

**Preamble**

Evangelical Christians at the dawn of the twenty-first century find themselves living in a period of historic transition. As Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, it has embarked upon a massive revision of what it means to be a human being. By and large the spirit of our age no longer discerns or delights in the beauty of God’s design for human life. Many deny that God created human beings for his glory, and that his good purposes for us include our personal and physical design as male and female. It is common to think that human identity as male and female is not part of God’s beautiful plan, but is, rather, an expression of an individual’s autonomous preferences. The pathway to full and lasting joy through God’s good design for his creatures is thus replaced by the path of shortsighted alternatives that, sooner or later, ruin human life and dishonor God.

This secular spirit of our age presents a great challenge to the Christian church. Will the church of the Lord Jesus Christ lose her biblical conviction, clarity, and courage, and blend into the spirit of the age? Or will she hold fast to the word of life, draw courage from Jesus, and unashamedly proclaim his way as the way of life? Will she maintain her clear, counter-cultural witness to a world that seems bent on ruin?

We are persuaded that faithfulness in our generation means declaring once again the true story of the world and of our place in it—particularly as male and female. Christian Scripture teaches that there is but one God who alone is Creator and Lord of all. To him alone, every person owes glad- hearted thanksgiving, heart-felt praise, and total allegiance. This is the path not only of glorifying God, but of knowing ourselves. To forget our Creator is to forget who we are, for he made us for himself. And we cannot know ourselves truly without truly knowing him who made us. We did not make ourselves. We are not our own. Our true identity, as male and female persons, is given by God. It is not only foolish, but hopeless, to try to make ourselves what God did not create us to be.

We believe that God’s design for his creation and his way of salvation serve to bring him the greatest glory and bring us the greatest good. God’s good plan provides us with the greatest freedom. Jesus said he came that we might have life and have it in overflowing measure. He is for us and not against us. Therefore, in the hope of serving Christ’s church and witnessing publicly to the good purposes of God for human sexuality revealed in Christian Scripture, we offer the following affirmations and denials.

**Article 1**

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.  
WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

**Article 2**

WE AFFIRM that God’s revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage.  
WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual immorality.

**Article 3**

WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.  
WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female render them unequal in dignity or worth.

**Article 4**

WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God’s original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing.  
WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are a tragedy to be overcome.

**Article 5**

WE AFFIRM that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God’s design for self-conception as male or female.  
WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the God-appointed link between biological sex and self-conception as male or female.

**Article 6**

WE AFFIRM that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about “eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb.” With all others they are welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known.

WE DENY that ambiguities related to a person’s biological sex render one incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.

**Article 7**

WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.  
WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption.

**Article 8**

WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.  
WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God’s original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.

**Article 9**

WE AFFIRM that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality— a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.  
WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality justifies sexually immoral behavior.

**Article 10**

WE AFFIRM that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness.  
WE DENY that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should agree to disagree.

**Article 11**

WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female.  
WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God’s design of his image- bearers as male and female.

**Article 12**

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ gives both merciful pardon and transforming power, and that this pardon and power enable a follower of Jesus to put to death sinful desires and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.  
WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ is insufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give power for holiness to every believer who feels drawn into sexual sin.

**Article 13**

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender self- conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one’s biological sex and one’s self-conception as male or female.  
WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God’s revealed will.

**Article 14**

WE AFFIRM that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ’s death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure.  
WE DENY that the Lord’s arm is too short to save or that any sinner is beyond his reach.

## **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior,

And on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

We do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines,

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of kindred and acquaintances; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior;

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment;

To avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger;

To remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay;

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I: Name**

The name of this church shall be The First Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas, and the same is located at 127 East Kimbrough Street, Mesquite, Texas.

### **Article II: Purpose of the Church**

Under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ the purpose of this church shall be:

1. To promote the worship of God by recognizing Him as supreme over all things.
2. To grow in the knowledge of God by making disciples through the preaching and study of His Word.
3. To help others know God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the surrounding community.
4. To participate in the mission of God by supporting the fulfillment of the Great Commission both locally and abroad.
5. To enjoy the family of God in fellowship with His people.

### **Article III: Non-Profit Status**

The Church is a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the state of Texas and is organized under the Texas Business Organization Code, as amended (the “Code”). Federal tax exemption is granted under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

### **Article IV. Associations**

This church shall be a self-governing church, subject only to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. It has the right to cooperate and associate with other biblical groups on a voluntary basis and as such has chosen to cooperate with The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention

### **Article V: Membership**

1. ***General***

This is a sovereign and autonomous Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

1. ***Candidacy***

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and holding views of faith and practice in conformity with those of this church may offer himself as a candidate for membership of this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership. The membership of this church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and shall be presented to the church for membership in one of the following ways:

1. By profession of faith and baptism according to the policies of this church.
2. By a transfer of membership letter from a Southern Baptist Church.
3. By statement of prior conversion experience and scriptural baptism when no letter is available.
4. By restoration by vote of the church to receive a member who by prior vote of the church has had membership rescinded and who has repented and expressed a desire to re-enter the fellowship.

In the event there is as many as one dissenting vote in the receiving of a member or granting of a letter, the matter should be referred to the Pastor and Elders for review. This would entail talking with the person giving a negative vote as well as the person being received or for whom a letter is to be granted, and making final disposition of the matter.

1. ***Voting Rights of Membership***

Every member shall have the right to vote on the following matters:

1. Merger or dissolution of the Church.

2. Acquisition of land or buildings and related indebtedness.

3. Changes to the Constitution or Bylaws of the Church.

4. Calling of the Lead Pastor.

5. Affirmation and removal of members of the Elder Board and Deacons.

6. Affirmation of Church Ministerial Staff

Each member 13 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy or absentee is prohibited.

1. ***Termination of Membership***

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Upon the death of the member.

2. Upon request for transfer of membership to another Church.

3. By personal request of the member.

4. Removal due to inactivity in the Church for a period of 1 year without extenuating circumstances (removal is to be evaluated by the Elders).

5. Dismissal by the Church according to the following conditions:

a. The member’s life and conduct are not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.

b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be in accordance to Matthew 18:15-17.

It shall be the practice of this Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for reconciliation rather than punishment or dismissal.

1. ***Restoration of Membership***

The Church, acting according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, shall restore members dismissed by the Church upon evidence of repentance, reformation, and when their lifestyles are in accordance with the membership covenant. The Church may restore to membership any person previously dismissed, upon request of the excluded person, and by affirmation at any regular Worship Service.

1. ***Congregational Meetings***

Congregational meetings will be held in the times, in the manner, and the purposes set forth below:

1. Congregational meetings will be held at least quarterly. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct any business listed in Article V, Section C. The budget shall be reviewed during the fourth quarter’s (October) business meeting.

2. The elders may schedule the dates of the quarterly or other scheduled congregational meeting as provided below.

3. A special congregational meeting may be called at any time by the elders.

4. Members shall be notified no less than one (1) week prior to a meeting which considers any matter set forth in Article V, Section C.

5. Members shall be notified by any one of the following methods:

a. Distribution of written materials to the congregation in attendance at a weekend service.

b. Announcement of the meeting in the church newsletter.

c. Oral announcement to the congregation at the Sunday Morning service.

d. By email to members.

e. By first class mail to members.

6. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting.

7. Motions to be presented at any congregational meeting must be submitted to the elders for consideration at least one week prior to the meeting.

### **Article VI: Elder Board**

***A. General***

The church is led by elders. An elder is a man of exemplary, Christ-like character who is able to lead God’s people by teaching them God’s Word in a way that profits them spiritually. God calls elders and grants them authority to lead the affairs of the church under His direction. They primarily provide spiritual leadership through prayer and teaching the Bible. When necessary, they may delegate certain organizational and administrative responsibilities to other individuals and teams (committees) as they see fit.

No elder shall have any right, title, or interest in or to any property of the corporation. No elder shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of the corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the elders be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of the corporation.

If an elder has a conflict of interest in any matter of church business, hiring, termination, etc. he must disclose that conflict to the other elders and recuse himself from voting on any such matters.

***B. Qualifications***

Elders are male members of the church who meet the biblical requirements for eldership set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and personify the mission, vision, and values of the church.

“It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

-1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NASB)

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.”

-Titus 1:5-9 (NASB)

***C: Selection and Dismissal***

We do not choose elders, rather, we discover those whom God has gifted and called to serve in that capacity. The current elders will lead in the process of identifying, evaluating, and training potential elders. The final determination of selection or dismissal of an elder rests with the membership.

Elders are selected through the following process:

1. Potential elders are recognized as they serve, meet the biblical qualifications and evidence Spirit-led ability to care for the spiritual growth of others and teach the Bible.

a. These men may be recognized by those currently on the elder board or may be recommended to the board by the membership.

2. Candidates are invited to participate in the elder training process.

3. During this process, their character and abilities are examined.

4. Unanimity among the current elders is achieved regarding whether or not to nominate the candidate.

5. The elders recommend candidates to the membership as a nominee for eldership. This nomination rests with the membership for three months. Any objecting to the nomination can address their concerns to the elders. If necessary, the elders may withdraw the nomination.

6. If no concerns are raised, a 75% majority affirmation of the membership in quorum is necessary.

Elders may be dismissed according to the following and guided by 1 Timothy 5:19-22:

1. Elders may be removed if it is clear that they are acting in contradiction to Scripture.

2. The accusation must be brought to the current elders by two or three witnesses.

3. They will investigate the matter, seeking repentance and restoration. Any necessary discipline may also be imposed. If the matter is serious enough to warrant church discipline, the elder shall be brought before the membership and removed from the eldership for a period of at least 1 year at which point he can be reevaluated by going through the elder selection process anew.

4. If necessary, the matter will be brought to the congregation and the elder can be removed by a 75% vote.

In addition, the elders continued service will be evaluated annually in light of the biblical qualifications and personal factors. This evaluation shall be conducted internally by the members of the board. During this time of evaluation any comments from the membership on the qualifications and continued service of the elders shall be submitted to the board in writing for consideration. Those elders completing the review process will be presented to the congregation for affirmation.

An individual’s service as an elder may be discontinued by his own decision, or the unanimous decision of the other elders. Any unanimous decision of the elders shall be subject to being brought before the congregation where a 75% vote of the quorum is needed to confirm the decision. One week following the Sunday after the announcement of the decision to the congregation, there will be a specially called business meeting where the elders will bring a motion for dismissal, along with and explanation. The vote shall be by ballot.

### **Article VII: Lead Pastor**

***A. General***

Although elders act jointly and share responsibility and authority for leadership of the church, not all are equal in their giftedness, biblical knowledge, leadership ability, experience or dedication. There will be a “first among equals” who will be primary leader and teacher of the church. This is the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor fulfills the following responsibilities

1. The Pastor is recognized as the under shepherd of Jesus in the local church, and is responsible to preach the Word of God, to administer the ordinances of the New Testament, to equip the saints, and to lead the church in the fulfillment of its sacred task.
2. He is to guide the Church through casting the vision which God has given to him as His appointed representative for how the church shall unite in worshiping the Lord, maturing in the faith, and ministering to the community.
3. Be chief executive to the entire Church Staff and serve as the leader of the Board of Elders. He or his designated representative shall preside over all Church business meetings.
4. He shall serve as counselor to all departments of the church.

He shall maintain at all times a Godly deportment that no reproach may come through him upon the church

***B. Lead Pastor Search Team***

When the church is without a Lead Pastor, the first priority of the elders shall be to secure an interim pastor and to oversee the transition. The elders will then designate a representative from among themselves to oversee the church staff and business meetings. Concurrently with finding an interim, a Pastor Search Team will be appointed by the elders. A balanced team representative of the congregation consisting of seven, Spirit-led individuals who are members in good standing will be responsible for the process of prayerfully searching prospective pastors. While the elders are not prohibited from serving on this team, it is recommended that no more than 3 spots be filled by current members of the elder board, with the remainder taken from the membership. When the team is in agreement, they will bring one candidate to the Elders. The Elders will then bring the candidate before the membership

***C. Election***

The membership will elect the Lead Pastor by paper ballot at a special meeting of the church. A favorable vote of 75% of the quorum is required.

***D. Dismissal***

The pastor shall be evaluated annually by the other members of the elder board. The membership can make written comments for the board to consider during this evaluation. The Lead Pastors continued service is not to be affirmed yearly by the membership. An individual’s service as Lead Pastor may be discontinued by his own decision, or the unanimous decision of the other elders. Any unanimous decision of the elders shall be subject to being brought before the congregation where a 75% vote of the quorum is needed to confirm the decision. One week following the Sunday after the announcement of the decision to the congregation, there will be a specially called business meeting where the elders will bring a motion for dismissal, along with an explanation. The vote shall be by ballot.

### **Article VIII: Deacons**

***A. General***

In addition to elders, the body is served by deacons. Deacons serve under the authority of the elders and provide physical leadership of the church, enabling elders to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word. The deacons shall choose from among themselves a chairman to organize and lead the deaconate’s ministry and to coordinate with the elder board.

***B. Selection***

1. Deacons are chosen from among the membership. The guideline is at least one deacon per 20 church members. When new deacons are needed, the deacon chairman shall ask for nominations from the membership.
2. Deacons are selected by a panel of the elders and current deacons in accordance with the qualification in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
3. They are appointed by a 75% affirmation among the membership.

“Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

-1 Timothy 3:8-13 (NASB)

Deacons will be evaluated annually in light of biblical qualifications and personal factors. This evaluation shall be conducted internally by the members of the deaconate. During this time of evaluation any comments from the membership on the qualifications and continued service of the deacons shall be submitted to the deacon chairman in writing for consideration. An individual’s service may be discontinued by his own decision or the unanimous decision of either the elder board or other deacons. Usually the deacons will make these decisions internally, however the elder board may step in when necessary. Those deacons completing the review process will be presented to the congregation for affirmation.

### **Article IX: Church Ministers and Staff**

In order for the church to properly function, and to allow for future changes in the needs of the church, various positions beyond the office of Lead Pastor shall be classified as ministerial (e.g. music minister, youth minister, children’s minister, etc.) and support staff (e.g. treasurer, secretary, janitor, etc.). The creation of positions and elimination of vacant positions shall be under the authority of the elders.

Hiring and termination of support staff is the jurisdiction of the elder board.

The hiring of ministerial staff shall be as follows: The elder board or their designated representatives (nominating committee) shall be responsible for finding and vetting the candidate. The candidate will then be brought before the congregation for a vote of affirmation.

The ministerial staff may be ordained and be elders in the church without necessarily being members of the elder board. These staff are not subject to yearly affirmation of their position by the membership, though the elder board will evaluate their continued service. Any comments on the continued qualification and service of the ministerial staff shall be presented in writing to the elder board for consideration. The staff position is separate from service on the Board of Elders (a person can serve on one or both and may resign of their own accord from one without affecting their standing in the other position).

### **Article X: Use of Church Facilities**

The Church’s facilities and property can be made available for the use of the membership upon request to the elder board or their designated representative. The priority of use is for official ministry functions of the Church. The Church also reserves the right to disallow any use which is contrary to the principles laid out in our statement of faith.

### **Article XI. Rules of Suspension**

If and when unforeseen conditions arise under which the rules of this Manual of Procedures cannot be carried out as to time or manner or an emergency arises which cannot be met without violating the rules of this Manual of Procedures, the Lead Pastor or his representative may entertain a motion to suspend the Manual of Procedures. Upon a second of the prior motion, the Manual may be suspended when approved by 80% of the members present and voting.

### **Article XII: General**

***A. Legal Provisions***

1. The church shall have the right to own, buy or sell tangible property, both real and personal, in its own name through designated individuals, when authorized by the membership.

2. No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individual (member or staff of the church) from the assets, holdings, or other transactions in which the church may become involved.

3. In the event of the dissolution of the church, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall irrevocably be designated prior to dissolution to the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention, its successor, or if it ceases to exist to such other non-profit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Articles adopted by the church.

***B. Amendments***

This document was drafted by faithful but fallible people. Should it become necessary to revise this document in any way, any proposed amendment shall be presented to the elders. In the event that the elders vote to adopt such an amendment by majority vote, the amendment will be presented to the membership for approval. The amendment shall be given a 30 day comment period with the membership prior to voting during a regular or specially called business meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of those in quorum is required to approve the amendment.

Adopted at the business meeting of First Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas this 28th day of April, 2019.