

Our Statement of Faith and Daily Practice

THE SCRIPTURES

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

Exodus 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; Deut. 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; Psalm 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; Isaiah 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; Jeremiah 36; Matthew 5:17-18; Matthew 22:29; Luke 21:33; Luke 24:44-46; John 5:39; John 16:13-15; John 17:17; Acts 2:16ff; Acts 17:11; Romans 15:4; Romans 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21

GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

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

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 2:7; Exodus 3:14; Exodus 6:2-3; Exodus 15:11ff; Exodus 20:1ff; Leviticus 22:2; Deut. 6:4; Deut. 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3, 15; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Jeremiah 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff; Matthew 7:11; Matthew 23:9; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; John 5:26; John 14:6-13; John 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephes. 4:6; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7

God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended

into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff; Psalm 2:7ff; Psalm 110:1ff; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53; Matthew 1:18-23; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 8:29; Matthew 11:27; Matthew 14:33; Matthew 16:16, 27; Matthew 17:5; Matthew 27; Matthew 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; Mark 3:11; Luke 1:35; Luke 4:41; Luke 22:70; Luke 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; John 10:30, 38; John 11:25-27; John 12:44-50; John 14:7-11; John 16:15-16, 28; John 17:1-5, 21-22; John 20:1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; Acts 2:22-24; Acts 7:55-56; Acts 9:4-5, 20; Romans 1:3-4; Romans 3:23-26; Romans 5:6-21; Romans 8:1-3, 34; Romans 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 1 Cor. 2:2; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Cor. 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephes. 1:20; Ephes. 3:11; Ephes. 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; Col. 2:9; 1 Thes. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Tim. 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 7:14-28; Hebrews 9:12-15, 24-28; Hebrews 12:2; Hebrews 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 1 John 3:2; 1 John 4:14-15; 1 John 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 1:13-16; Rev. 5:9-14; Rev. 12:10-11; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 19:16

God the Holy Spirit

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

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; Psalm 139:7ff; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 4:1; Matthew 12:28-32; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 1:35; Luke 4:1, 18-19; Luke 11:13; Luke 12:12; Luke 24:49; John 4:24; John 14:16-17, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4, 38; Acts 4:31; Acts 5:3; Acts 6:3; Acts 7:55; Acts 8:17, 39; Acts 10:44; Acts 13:2; Acts 15:28; Acts 16:6; Acts 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:3-11; Galatians 4:6; Ephes. 1:13-14; Ephes. 4:30; Ephes. 5:18; 1 Thes. 5:19; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14; 2 Tim. 3:16; Hebrews 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 1 John 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; Rev. 22:17

Man's Creation and fall

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence; whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. We believe that God, by His powerful word, freely created the universe out of nothing in six days and continues to sustain and rule over it even now; that as the pinnacle of His creation, He made our first father Adam in His own image, sinless, and upright; that He appointed Adam head and representative of the whole human race; and that He thereby made all Adam's offspring liable to the effects of Adam's obedience or disobedience to His commandment.

Genesis 1:26-30; Genesis 2:5, 7, 18-22; Genesis 3; Genesis 9:6; Psalm 1; Psalm 8:3-6; Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; Romans 3:10-18, 23; Romans 5:6, 12, 19; Romans 6:6; Romans 7:14-25; Romans 8:14-18, 29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 1 Cor. 15:19, 21-22; Ephes. 2:1-22; Col. 1:21-22; Col. 3:9-11 a) Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26; Jhn. 1:1-3.b) Gen. 1:31; Isa. 45:12; Jer. 10:12-13, 16, the Maker of all is He; Col. 1:16.c) Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3.d) Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:11; 31:17.e) Ps. 119:90-91; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3. f) Ps. 115:3; Isa. 45:7; 46:10; Dan. 4:25, the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind. g) Ps. 8:5-6.h) Gen. 1:27; 5:1.i) Gen. 1:31, And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good; Ecc. 7:29. j) Rom. 5:12.k) Rom. 5:18; 1 Cor. 15:21

Election

Union between Christ and his people was planned already in eternity, in the sovereign pretemporal decision whereby God the Father selected certain sinners as His own. Christ himself was chosen to be our Savior before the creation of the world (1 Pet. 1:20); When the Father chose Christ, he also chose us (Ephesians 1:4). We are initially united with Christ in regeneration; next we appropriate and continue to live out of this union through faith. Third, we are justified in union with Christ. Fourth, we are sanctified through union with Christ. Fifth, we persevere in the life of faith in union with Christ. Finally, we shall be eternally glorified with Christ.

This pretemporal choice was not based on the fact that God knew which persons would believe of their own free will, for there is no person which fits that description. This decision was based upon God's sovereign good pleasure alone. It is God's gracious decision, from eternity past, to save fallen souls of His own choosing. Therefore, God will infallibly bring all of His elect to final perseverance and eternal life (Phil 1:6; John 10:29; Rom 8:30; John 6:37, 39). The Persons of the Trinity work in harmony to accomplish and apply salvation. The Father, from eternity, elects a particular people (Ephesians 1:4, 5; Rom 8:29, 30) Christ redeems those the Father has "given Him" (John 6:37, 39; 10:29) and the Holy Spirit likewise applies the redemptive benefits of the atonement to the same. (John 1:13; James 1:18, 1 Peter 1:23,25).

GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

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

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

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff; Matthew 16:18-19; Matthew 21:28-45; Matthew 24:22, 31; Matthew 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; Luke 2:29-32; Luke 19:41-44; Luke 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; John 3:16; John 5:24; John 6:44-45, 65; John 10:27-29; John 15:16; John 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; Romans 8:28-39; Romans 10:12-15; Romans 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Ephes. 1:4-23; Ephes. 2:1-10; Ephes. 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thes. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:10, 19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 1 John 2:19; 1 John 3:2

Perseverance

We teach that all those who believe are justified and are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise unto the ultimate day of redemption. Therefore, if a person has been effectually called and drawn to Christ, he will never lose that salvation since it was based wholly on the finished work of Christ and God's election, not on the strength of the believer's commitment or obedience. (Jn.10:27-30; Rom.8:28-30). The person whose affections and dispositions have been changed by the Holy Spirit in regeneration will not reject eternal life once they are saved because they do not want to reject eternal life. God causes His people to continue wanting to believe in Him once we are saved (Jeremiah 32:40; Ezekiel 36:27). This is not based on how perfect we are, but solely on the promise and finished work of Christ (John 3:16; John 10:29).

The Person and Work of Christ

A. We believe that Christ was sent into the world by His heavenly Father; that He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin; that He lived a sinless life, perfectly fulfilling the law of God; that He was and is both fully man and fully God in two distinct natures, and one Person forever; that as man, he is our elder brother and High Priest before God, representing us to God the Father; and that as God, He is the visible image of the invisible Father, representing God to us.

a) Jhn. 17:18; 20:21,b) Luke 1:35,c) Matt. 1:16,d) 2 Cor. 5:21, Him who knew no sin; 1 Pet, i) Col. 2:9, j) Heb. 7:24; 13:8.k) Heb. 2:11-12, 17.l) Heb. 2:17-18. :19, unblemished and spotless.
e) Heb. 4:15; 7:26.f) Phil. 2:8; Jhn. 17:4, cf. Heb. 10:5-9.g) Rom. 1:3; Heb. 2:14, 17.h) Jhn. 1:1-2, 14; 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Heb. 1:3. m) 1 Pet 3:22.n) Heb. 7:25; 1 Jhn 2:1, we have an Advocate with the Father.o) Jhn 1:18; Col. 1:15; 2:9.p) Jhn. 14:9.

B. We believe that as High Priest, Christ once offered Himself up to God on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for the elect, thereby propitiating God's wrath which was upon them, procuring their reconciliation with God, and redeeming them from the curse of the Law; and that He continually intercedes for them in the presence of His Father in Heaven, thereby assuring their perseverance in holiness unto the end.

a) Heb. 7:27.b) Heb. 10:12; Isa. 53:5; 2 Cor. 5:21.c) Matt. 1:21, He who will save His people from their sins.d) Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17. e) Rom. 5:10; Eph. 2:16, reconcile them both . . . to God; Col. 1:21-22.f) Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:14.g) Heb. 7:25.h) Rom. 8:34.i) 1 Cor. 1:8; Jude 24

C. We believe that as King, Christ was declared the Son of God with power by His bodily resurrection from the dead on the third day; that, having in this way conquered His enemies, He ascended to the right hand of the Father and was enthroned in glory, thus inaugurating His Heavenly Kingdom; that He poured out His Spirit on the day of Pentecost to carry forward His work on earth; that He rules in the hearts of His people, subduing their sin and enabling them to love and obey Him; and that He rules over all creation, visible and invisible, for their sake.

a) Rom. 1:4.b) Col. 2:15; Luke 11:20-22; 1 Pet. 3:21c-22; Rev. 12:1-12.c) Acts 2:30-35; Rom. 8:34, Christ Jesus . . . who is at the right hand of God. d) Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8, cf. 2:33.
e) Gen. 49:10, to him shall be the obedience of the peoples; Ezek. 36:27; Jer. 31:33, cf. Heb. 8:10.f) Tit. 2:11-12, instructing us to deny ungodliness.g) Phil. 4:13; Col. 1:11.h) Col. 1:17.
i) Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:22, He...gave Him as head over all things to the church

THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

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

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

Matthew 16:15-19; Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; Acts 5:11-14; Acts 6:3-6; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23, 27; Acts 15:1-30; Acts 16:5; Acts 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 1 Cor. 7:17; 1 Cor. 9:13-14; 1 Cor. 12; Ephes. 1:22-23; Ephes. 2:19-22; Ephes. 3:8-11, 21; Ephes. 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 1 Tim. 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2-3; Rev. 21:2-3

Christ's Return & the Eternal State

We believe in the blessed hope, that at the end of this age Jesus Christ will return to earth personally, visibly, physically, and suddenly, in power and great glory; and that He will gather His elect, raise the dead, judge the nations, and establish His Kingdom. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

a) Titus 2:13b) Acts 1:9-11c) Mark 14:61-62d) Philippians 3:20-21; Luke 4:39-43

e) 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3f) Luke 21:27 g) Matthew 24:31h) 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17i) 1 Cor 15:22-24; 2 Tim 4:1; Luke 22 28-30j) Matt 13:43; 25:34, 46; John 5:29bk) Daniel 12:2; Matthew 3:12; 13:41-42; John 5:29c; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:10-11; 19:3; 20:10-15

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

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

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 10:5-15; Matthew 13:18-30, 37-43; Matthew 16:19; Matthew 22:9-10; Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; Luke 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; John 15:7-8, 16; John 17:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Acts 2; Acts 8:26-40; Acts 10:42-48; Acts 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephes. 3:1-11; 1 Thes. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17

EDUCATION

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

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

Deut. 4:1, 5, 9, 14; Deut. 6:1-10; Deut. 31:12-13; Neh. 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalm 19:7ff; Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff; Proverbs 4:1-10; Proverbs 8:1-7, 11; Proverbs 15:14; Eccles. 7:19; Matthew 5:2; Matthew 7:24ff; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Ephes. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:3, 8-9; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; James 3:17

STEWARDSHIP

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

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; Matthew 19:21; Matthew 23:23; Matthew 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; Luke 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 17:24-25; Acts 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Cor. 12; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 2 Cor. 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19

COOPERATION

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

Exodus 17:12; Exodus 18:17ff; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; Ezra 2:68-69; Ezra 5:14-15; Neh. 4; Neh. 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; Matthew 20:1-16; Matthew 22:1-10; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff; Acts 1:13-14; Acts 2:1ff; Acts 4:31-37; Acts 13:2-3; Acts 15:1-35; 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 1 Cor. 3:5-15; 1 Cor. 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephes. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth,

and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deut. 10:12; Deut. 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; Mark 2:3ff; Mark 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; Luke 10:27-37; Luke 20:25; John 15:12; John 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:1-7; 1 Cor. 7:20-24; 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephes. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Thes. 3:12; Philemon 1-25; James 1:27; James 2:8

PEACE AND WAR

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

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; Romans 13:1-7; Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2

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 for 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; Genesis 2:18-25; Genesis 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalm 78:1-8; Psalm 127; Psalm 128; Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 5:15-20; Proverbs 6:20-22; Proverbs 12:4; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 14:1; Proverbs 17:6; Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 22:6, 15; Proverbs 23:13-14; Proverbs 24:3; Proverbs 29:15, 17; Proverbs 31:10-31; Eccles. 4:9-12; Eccles. 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 18:2-5; Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Ephes. 5:21-33; Ephes. 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:14; 2 Tim 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.