



Welcome to First Class

Our Mission: Proclaiming Christ in the 21st Century!

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FIRST CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

PC 21

Confidentiality: All the information you provide will be used only by the pastoral staff in helping to minister to you and your family.

Full Name _____ DOB _____

Spouse Full Name _____ DOB _____

Who is in attendance? Both (circle both or list who is attending): _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

His Cell Number (_____) _____ Her Cell Number (_____) _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Primary Email _____ His Occupation _____

Secondary Email _____ Her Occupation _____

Questions (Circle One)

1. Send correspondence to both email addresses: Yes or No
2. I would like to begin receiving preaddressed giving envelopes: Yes or No or Already Receiving Them
3. I would like information about giving to the church electronically online: Yes or No or Already Do
4. I would like more information about serving in: _____
5. I would like my spouse to received DVDs from the church while he/she is deployed: Yes or No or N/A
Address _____
6. Upon completion of First Class what ABF/SS class will you attend: _____

Membership: Please contact my former church about transferring my membership to BBC.

Name of Church _____

Address _____

Children (who will be attending BBC)

Name _____ DOB _____

one per person





Introductions

**Please share your
Name, where are you from, and
how long you have been
attending Berean**

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(910)

818.9539

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BUH-REE-UHN



Why Berean (pronounced "Buh-REE-uhn")

Berea was a city in southern Macedonia (Greece) located at the foot of Mount Bermius. The apostle Paul visited the city during his second missionary journey where he found a substantial number of people ready to receive the Gospel. Paul preached to them that the God of the Universe now requires all people everywhere to repent and place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and many citizens of Berea did exactly that ([Acts 20:21](#)). In [Acts 17:10-11](#), Luke describes the Berean converts as people more noble than others. They received the Word of God with readiness of mind and great eagerness, and they examined the scriptures daily to determine the truth. We at Berean (Bur ree uhn) find the only way to truly be a Christ-centered community is to follow the Bible.

Why Baptist

Sometimes a person will ask, "Why does Berean retain the word "Baptist" in its name if it is primarily a Bible-believing church?" This is a valid question because the Bible is our sole written standard for beliefs and practice. However, Berean retains the name "Baptist" after "Berean" because Baptists have historically stood firm on very important New Testament doctrines: such as the centrality of the Gospel, baptism by immersion for only those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the individual priesthood of all believers and the liberty of those in Christ to disagree over non-essentials of the faith. Historically, Baptists have also stood for regenerate (born again) church membership, congregational government led by pastors (elders), the autonomy of the local church, the separation of church and state, and the practice of only two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Retaining the name "Baptist" helps the world know what they can expect from Berean.

Who We Are

Berean is an autonomous historically conservative Baptist church; it is not part of any network of churches. However, it does fellowship with and maintains relationships with other like minded churches in Cumberland County. Berean is not a member of the Southern Baptist Convention or any other association. Berean retains "Baptist" in its name to communicate it holds to distinctively baptistic beliefs, it is not part of a denomination which governs the church. Berean is a Bible-based church—the Bible is the supreme authority for the doctrine and structure of the church. Berean is not obligated or expected to give money to a larger organization which then distributes the funds as it sees fit to seminaries, Sunday school boards, and other organizations. Berean does not send messengers to conventions to vote on matters and resolutions. It is free to associate with or not associate with any church as it determines. Berean is free to support colleges, seminaries, church-planters, or global missionaries as it sees fit. Berean elects its own pastor, board of directors, and deacons. It establishes its own budget, covenant, articles of faith, and constitution and is free to change any of this as the membership determines.

Finally, there is not a single college or seminary that the church or academy seeks to find applicants for employment; instead, we seek to have diversity in the education institutions our staff comes from.

Today, we are a multifaceted ministry. We are a community of faith, hope, and love ([1 Cor 13:13](#)). We strive to teach and provide people of all ages with the knowledge and passion needed to share the good news of Jesus Christ, build strong families and lasting relationships, and bring honor and glory to God by His Grace.

For over 40 years, Berean has remained faithful to God's Word and our Baptist heritage. If you spend any time at Berean, you will see our focus on "Proclaiming Christ in the 21st Century!"



Mission Statement

Why have a
mission statement
and a vision?

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PURPOSE



- The purpose of this church is established by its mission statement
 - “the Why”
 - Ultimately ~ to glorify God
 - But how do we glorify God?
- **Mission comes from the great commission in:**
 - Mark 16:15
 - Matthew 28:19-20



PROCLAMATION



- Mark 16:15
 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach** [**proclaim**] the gospel to every creature.



Matthew 28:19-20



- Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:
- Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.



MISSION STATEMENT



- Berean Baptist Church Exists To:
 - Proclaim Christ in the 21st Century,
 - In Fayetteville, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and the world:
 - To make fully-functioning followers of
Je
 -

**Christ
and His Gospel**



Question

What does it mean
to proclaim
'Christ'?

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Question

What is the gospel?

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These
are
Disciples

- To make fully-functioning followers of Jesus Christ,

- To the Glory of God the Father.

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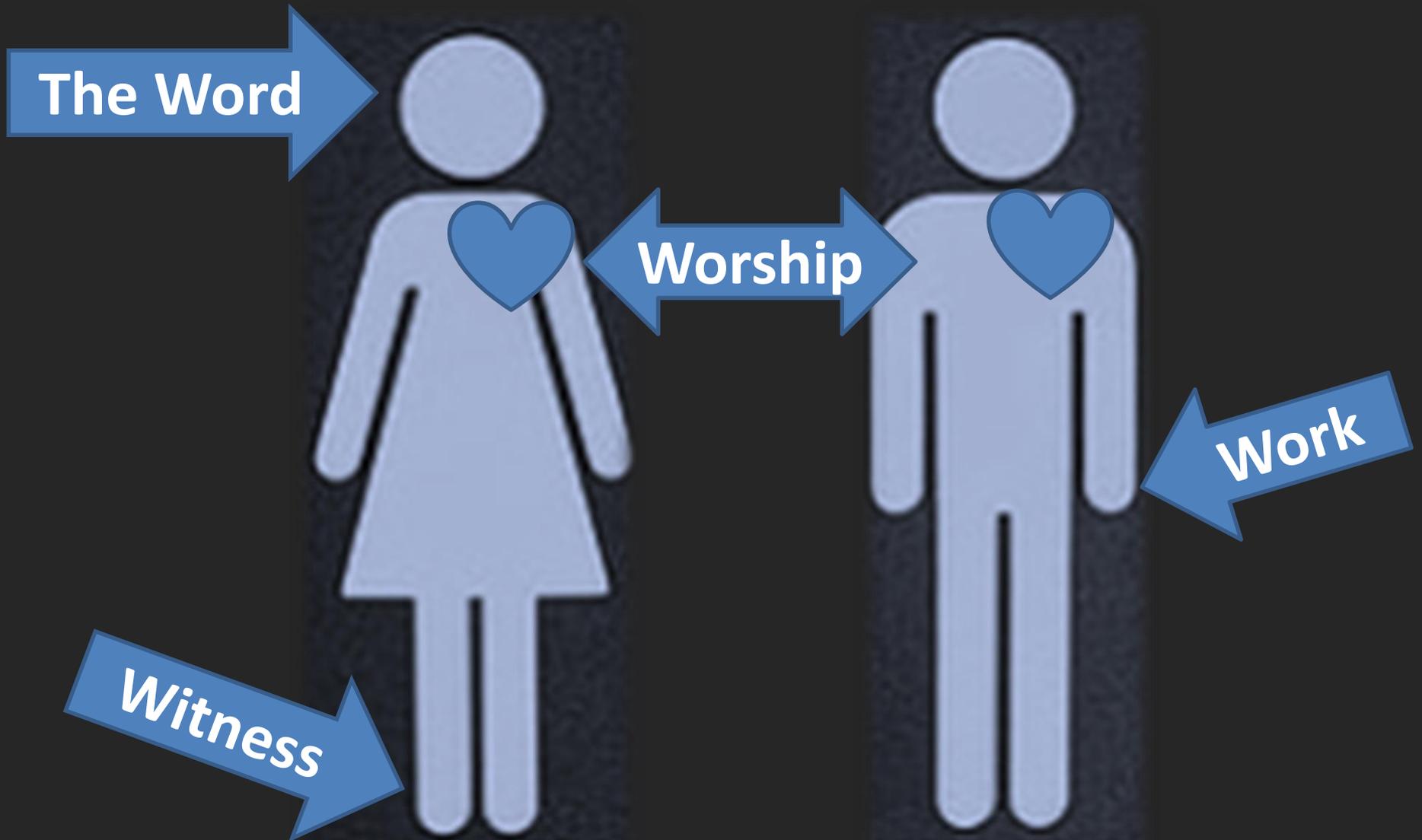


Question

What is the
difference between a
fan and a follower?

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Fully-functioning Follower of Christ





MISSION STATEMENT



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 - To make fully-functioning followers of Jesus Christ,
 - **To the Glory of God the Father.**

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God's Plan of Salvation

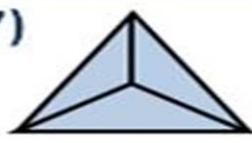
Our Mission: Proclaiming Christ in the 21st Century!

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God of the Bible	Man the Sinner (Bad News)	Christ the Savior (Good News)	Man's Response (& Results)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triune God¹ (Mt 3:16-17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God the Father ○ The Son of God ○ God the Holy Spirit • Creator God (Gen 1:1; Rom 1:25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Uncaused Cause"² (Rom 4:17b) ○ God made mankind "in our Image" (Gen 1:1,26-27) • The Sovereign (1 Tim 6:15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law-Giver³ (Gen 2:16-17) ○ Omnipotent (Rev 19:6) ○ Omniscient (Is 46:10) • God is Holy (Is 6:3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Just (De 32:4) ○ Judge (Gen 18:25) ○ Righteous (Psalm 11:7) ○ Merciful (Ex 34:6-7; Eph 2:4) ○ Love (Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8; 1 Jn 4:8) ○ Angry (Ps 7:11)   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall of Man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adam and Eve ○ 1st human sin (rebellion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gen 3:1-7; 15⁴ ○ Death (Gen 2:17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical and Spiritual • God's Commandments (Beatitudes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ex 20:1-10; Mt 5 & 6; Mk 12:29-31 • You are a sinner⁵ (guilty before God) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rom 3:10,19, 23; 5:8,12,18 • The wages of sin is death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rom 5:12, 6:23a; Eph 2:1 • God's wrath abides on you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jn 3:36; Rom 1:18; Eph 2:3 • Unbelievers go to hell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mt 10:28, 25:41; Rom 2:8-9; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Rev 21:8 • You must be born-again <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jn 3:3,5; 1 Peter 1:23   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mt 16:16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sent from the Father as the only way to God (Mt 3:17; Jn 3:16, 8:16, 14:6; Acts 4:12) ○ Born of a virgin (Mt 1:23) ○ God Incarnate (1 Jn 4:2-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All God & Man (Jn 1:1,14) • The Gospel (Christ died for you⁶) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christ knew no sin⁷ (2 Cor 5:21) ○ Christ died for our sins⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jn 19:23; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3; ▪ 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jn 2:2 ○ Christ was buried (Mt 27:60) ○ Christ rose again (1 Cor 15:4) • More Good News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Gospel is a promise⁹ of salvation from God (Rom 1:2; Tit 1:2; 1 Jn 2:25) ○ Christ is presently interceding for you (Advocate) (1 Jn 2:1) ○ Christ is coming again (Acts 1:11)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repentance¹⁰ (turn) toward God and Faith¹¹ (trust or belief) alone in the gospel are inseparable experiences of grace (gifts) and are what one must do to be saved.¹² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark 1:15 & Luke 13:3,5 ○ Jn 1:12; 3:16,36; 20:31 ○ Acts 3:19; 8:37;11:18; 15:11,19; 16:31; 17:30; 20:21 ○ Rom 1:1-2, 16; 6:23b; 10:9-10 ○ Eph 2:8-9 & 1 Jn 5:1 • By God's grace salvation¹³ results in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eternal Life (Jn 3:16) ○ Conversion (Acts 3:19) ○ Justification (Rom 1:17, 5:1, 8:1) ○ Adoption (Rom 8:15) ○ Being sealed with the Spirit (Eph 1:13) ○ Being given spiritual gifts (Rom 12:4-6) ○ Discipleship; Sanctification¹⁴ ○ Preservation (Jude 1:1, 24-25) ○ Glorification (Rom 8:30)

God of the Bible

- **Triune God¹ (Mt 3:16-17)**
 - God the Father
 - The Son of God
 - God the Holy Spirit
- **Creator God (Gen 1:1; Rom 1:25)**
 - “Uncaused Cause”² (Rom 4:17b)
 - God made mankind “in our Image” (Gen 1:1,26-27)
- **The Sovereign (1 Tim 6:15)**
 - Law-Giver³ (Gen 2:16-17)
 - Omnipotent (Rev 19:6)
 - Omniscient (Is 46:10)
- **God is Holy (Is 6:3)**
 - Just (De 32:4)
 - Judge (Gen 18:25)
 - Righteous (Psalm 11:7)
 - Merciful (Ex 34:6-7; Eph 2:4)
 - Love (Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8; 1 Jn 4:8)
 - Angry (Ps 7:11)





**Before We Talk About the
Gospel—the Message of the
Person and Work of Christ—we
Need to Talk About Sin**

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Man the Sinner (Bad News)

- **Fall of Man**

- Adam and Eve
- 1st human sin (rebellion)
 - Gen 3:1-7; 15⁴
- Death (Gen 2:17)
 - Physical and Spiritual



- **God's Commandments (Beatitudes)**

- Ex 20:1-10; Mt 5 & 6; Mk 12:29-31

- **You are a sinner⁵ (guilty before God)**

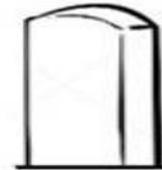
- Rom 3:10,19, 23; 5:8,12,18

- **The wages of sin is death**

- Rom 5:12, 6:23a; Eph 2:1

- **God's wrath abides on you**

- Jn 3:36; Rom 1:18; Eph 2:3



- **Unbelievers go to hell**

- Mt 10:28, 25:41; Rom 2:8-9; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Rev 21:8

- **You must be born-again**

- Jn 3:3,5; 1 Peter 1:23





WHY JESUS CAME



- **Luke 19:10**
 - **For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Why did man need to
be saved?



DISOBEDIENCE



- **Genesis 3:1-7**
 - Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered the world
 - **The perfect friendship with God was compromised by sin**
 - The entire world became dead to God and godly things

SIN AND SINNERS



- 1 John 3:4

- Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

- Romans 3:23

- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;





DEAD—ABSOLUTE INABILITY



- Ephesians 2:1
 - And you *hath* he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- John 3:7
 - Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.



TO SAVE SINNERS FROM WHAT?



- **The Wrath of God**
 - God-ordained destruction
 - Being eternally separated from God in Hell

- **John 3:36**
 - He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Christ the Savior (Good News)



- **Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mt 16:16)**

- Sent from the Father as the only way to God (Mt 3:17; Jn 3:16, 8:16, 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- Born of a virgin (Mt 1:23)
- God Incarnate (1 Jn 4:2-3)
 - All God & Man (Jn 1:1,14)



- **The Gospel (Christ died for you⁶)**

- Christ knew no sin⁷ (2 Cor 5:21)
- Christ died for our sins⁸
 - Jn 19:23; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3;
 - 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jn 2:2
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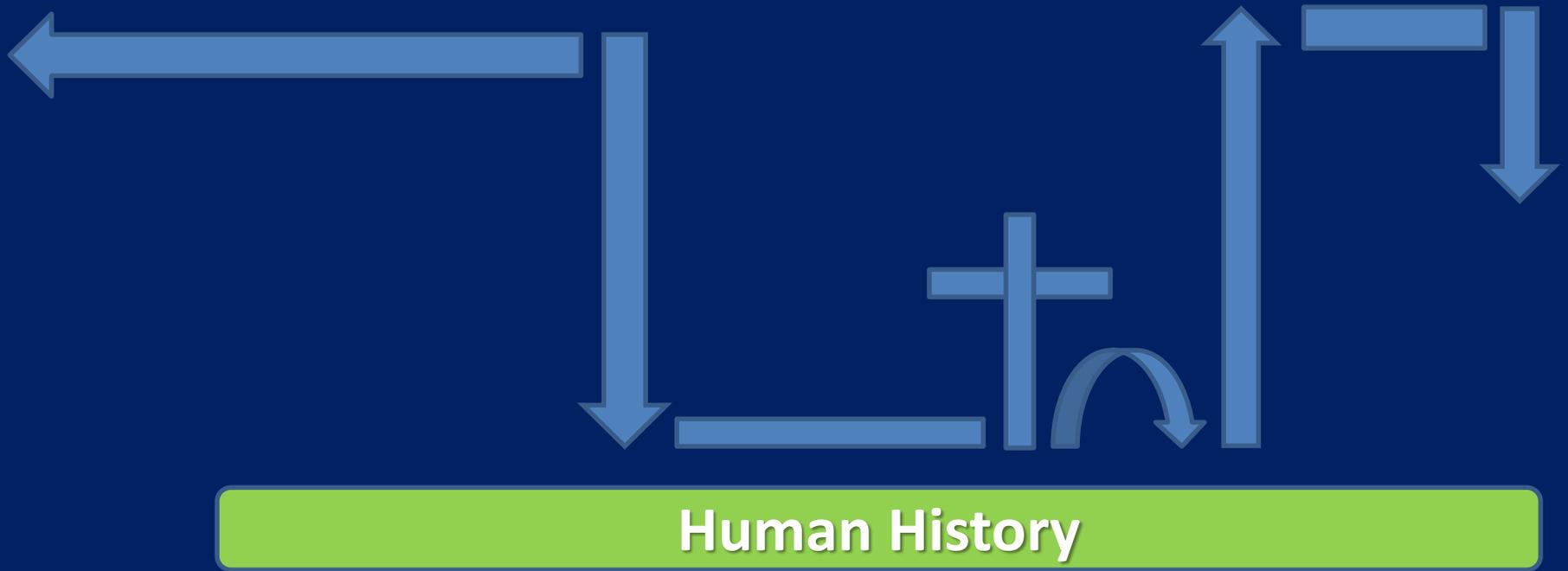


- **More Good News**

- The Gospel is a promise⁹ of salvation from God (Rom 1:2; Tit 1:2; 1 Jn 2:25)
- Christ is presently interceding for you (Advocate) (1 Jn 2:1)
- Christ is coming again (Acts 1:11)



GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION



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GOSPEL CALL



1. Presentation of the person and work of Christ and the way of salvation
2. An invitation to repent and believe the truth
3. A promise of forgiveness and salvation to those who repent and believe

Verbal Communication

Work of the Holy Spirit



Man's Response (& Results)

- Repentance¹⁰ (turn) toward God and Faith¹¹ (trust or belief) alone in the gospel are inseparable experiences of grace (gifts) and are what one must do to be saved.¹²
 - Mark 1:15 & Luke 13:3,5
 - Jn 1:12; 3:16,36; 20:31
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 - Rom 1:1-2, 16; 6:23b; 10:9-10
 - Eph 2:8-9 & 1 Jn 5:1
- By God's grace salvation¹³ results in:
 - Eternal Life (Jn 3:16)
 - Conversion (Acts 3:19)
 - Justification (Rom 1:17, 5:1, 8:1)
 - Adoption (Rom 8:15)
 - Being sealed with the Spirit (Eph 1:13)
 - Being given spiritual gifts (Rom 12:4-6)
 - Discipleship; Sanctification¹⁴
 - Preservation (Jude 1:1, 24-25)
 - Glorification (Rom 8:30)



REPENTANCE



- **Luke 13:3,5**
 - I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
 - I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.



King Jesus



REPENTANCE



- Repentance may be defined as the conscious turning of the regenerate person away from sin toward God resulting in a complete change of the lifestyle revealing itself in a new way of thinking, feeling, and willing.



FAITH—BELIEVE



- **John 20:31**
 - But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.
- Faith is an intellectual assent to known facts concerning the person and work of Christ, and a trusting or leaning upon these facts to the exclusion of everything else.



CONVERSION



- **Repentance and Faith (Turn and Trust)**
- **Acts 20:21**
 - Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.



Man's Response (& Results)

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A SAVED PERSON



- Has Repented
- Has their Faith in Christ
- Has been justified
- Is adopted into the family of God
- Has been and is being sanctified
- Will persevere in the faith
- Is going to be glorified

Resulting in Conversion/
New Birth



THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



- **Titus 3:5**
 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- **John 6:63**
 - It is the [Holy] Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.



EVIDENCE OF NEW BIRTH



- **Union with Christ**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
 - **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**



JUSTIFICATION



- **1 Peter 3:18**
 - For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
- **Romans 3:28**
 - Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.



ADOPTION



- Paul teaches that the gift of justification brings with it the legal status of sonship by adoption; when God justifies a believer He places them in the family of God as a “son”.
- **John 1:12**
 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even to them that believe on his name:*



SANCTIFICATION



- Paul teaches that the gift of sanctification brings the “justified believer” into Christ-likeness in both perspective and character.
- **Romans 8:29-30**
 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren...them He justifieth.



GLORIFICATION



- Paul teaches that the gift of glorification brings the “justified, sanctified believer” into a sinless, eternal glory with God and His Son.
- **Romans 8:30**
 - Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.



PERSEVERANCE *OF TRUE* BELIEVERS



- **Eternity Security**
 - What about “once saved; always saved?”
- **John 10:28**
 - And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man pluck them out of my hand.*



What's the difference between?

Member and Attender

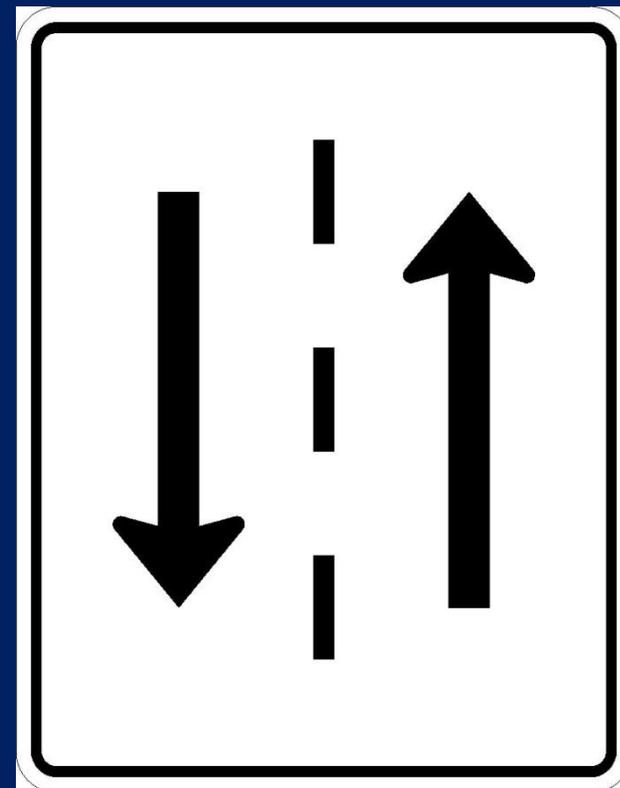
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EXPECTATIONS



- What are your expectations of the church for you and your family?





What is a Covenant?

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COVENANT



- **A formal, solemn, and binding agreement**
- **Written agreement or promise usu. under seal between two or more parties**
 - esp. for the performance of some action

Webster



COVENANT



- **Noahic**
 - 1st Covenant Established in Bible
 - God and Noah
- **Abrahamic**
- **Mosaic**
- **Davidic**
- **New Covenant**

God and
Man
Covenants



NEW COVENANT



- **Hebrews 12:24**
 - And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*.
- All members of the body of Christ—the universal church—are in the New Covenant with Jesus as the mediator



COVENANT



- **Ezra 10:3**
 - Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away.....

This is a biblical example of man initiating a covenant with God.



CHURCH COVENANT



“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.”

Baptist Faith and Message

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CHURCH COVENANT



A church covenant is a summary of how we agree to live. While our articles of faith outline what we believe, our church covenant is a summary of how we agree to live – more importantly, it is a summary of how God would have us live. It does not include every explicit command regarding obedience, but it does give a general summary of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ in Berean Baptist Church.

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ETHICAL STATEMENT



- **A church covenant is an ethical statement.**
- **Historian Charles W. DeWeese writes,**
 - **“A church covenant is a series of written pledges based on the Bible which church members voluntarily make to God and to one another regarding their basic moral and spiritual commitments and the practice of their faith”**

Baptist Church Covenants

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BIBLICAL STANDARD



- **A church covenant is a biblical standard.**
- **A church covenant is helpful in a church that is practicing Biblical church discipline.**
- **As members of a church, we exhort one another to live holy lives, and we challenge brothers and sisters persisting in sin.**

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What would be the most important thing to you about a church covenant?

It must be biblical!

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ONE ANOTHER



- **Church is a community of Believers**
 - A City within the City
- **John 15:12**
 - This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- **The covenant articulates how we do this**



Covenant



As a bond of unity among us, Berean Baptist Church accepts for its members the following covenant:



COVENANT



¶ #1 Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and upon our profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.



COVENANT



¶ #1 Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and upon our profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

BAPTISM



- **Baptism by immersion after salvation is a requirement for membership:**
 - We reject the validity of any form of infant baptism
 - We reject the validity of any form of sprinkling, pouring or anything other than immersion
 - Only converts of Christ should be baptized





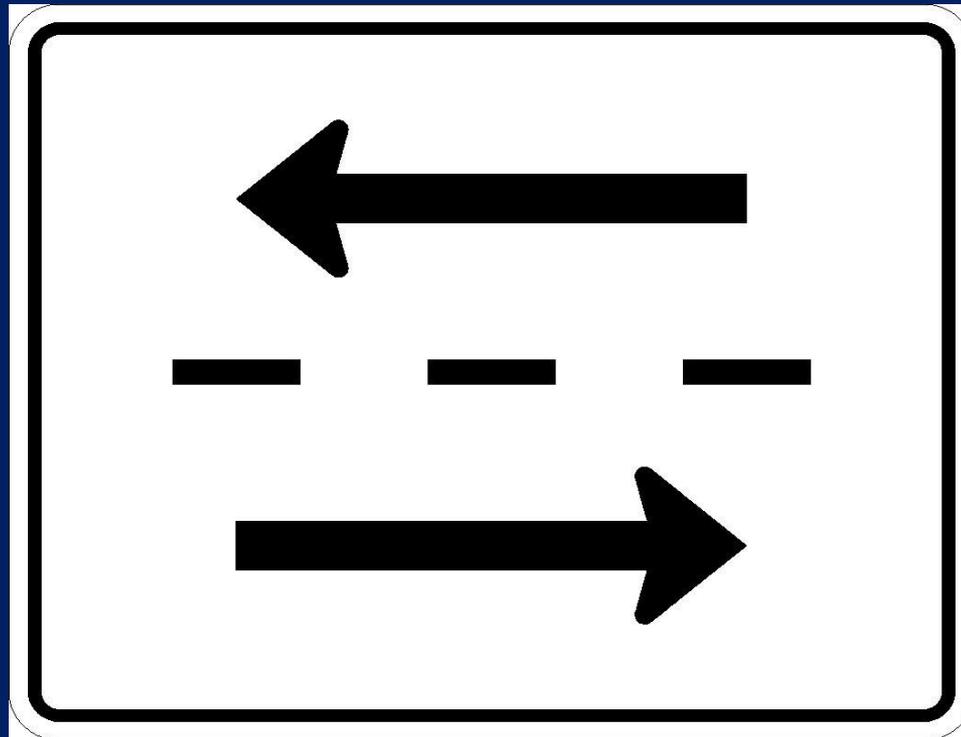
OUR STRENGTH



- ¶ #2 We fully realize that the strength to uphold this covenant comes from
- the grace of God our Father,
 - the shed blood of God the Son, and
 - the power of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.



PROMISES = EXPECTATIONS



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OUR PROMISES



- ¶ #3 We promise to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith; and to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.



OUR PROMISES



- Walk together in Christian Love
- Forgive One Another is Implied

– Read Matthew 18:21-22

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OUR PROMISES



- to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity
 - Read Proverbs 6:16-19

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BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH



- Is Independent, Fundamental, Baptist
 - **Independent**
 - not affiliated with a larger controlling unit
 - **Fundamental**
 - one of the minimum constituents without which a thing or a system would not be what it is
 - **Baptist**
 - A denomination with specific characteristics

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Doctrine Matters

Read

Acts 2:42

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OUR PROMISES (RECAP)



¶ #3 We promise to actively pursue personal holiness; walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; **to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith**; and to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.



DOCTRINE



2 Timothy 3.16-17

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.



DOCTRINE



- **1 Timothy 1:3**

– As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may **charge some that they teach no other doctrine,**



DOCTRINE



a body of beliefs about God, humankind, Christ, the church, and other related concepts considered authoritative and thus worthy of acceptance by all members of the community of faith.



DOCTRINE



- Doctrine is what we believe to be true based on our understanding and interpretation of the Bible
- **We always try to interpret from a contextual, literal perspective first**
- One and only one interpretation:
 - Multiple applications

- **Christianity**
 - **Protestant**
 - **Triune God**
 - **Deity of Christ**
 - **Bible**





DOCTRINE



- **Evangelical**
 - Verbal Inspiration of Scripture
 - Virgin Birth; Sinless Life
 - Christ as the Only Mediator
 - Vicarious Substitutionary Atonement
 - Bodily Resurrection
 - Salvation by Grace through Faith



DOCTRINE



- **Evangelicals**
 - Christ is the only way to the Father
 - Real Satan—as the primary enemy of God
 - Great Commission to seek and save the Lost



DOCTRINE



- **Fundamentalist Baptists**

- Total Depravity of Man/no spark of Divine life
- End of the Sign Gifts was with the Apostles
- Eternal Security of the Believer
- Justified by the shed blood
- Real Hell/Eternal Separation/No purgatory
- Reject Evolution



WHY BAPTIST?



B – Bible

A – Autonomy

P – Priesthood

T – Two Offices

I – Individual Soul Liberty

S – Saved Church Membership

T – Two Ordinances

S - Separation

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B - BIBLE



Baptists believe that the Bible is:

- **The inspired Word of God**
- **The supreme and sole basis for faith and practice in the Christian life and church**
- Confessions, church councils, creeds, and traditions may be used to articulate distinctives, but are never presented equal to the Bible
- **Berean does not subscribe to a particular confession of faith.**
- **Berean has its own covenant and articles of faith**



A - AUTONOMY



Baptists...

- Believe in the autonomy of the local church.
- May have para-church organizations or assisting associations, but these do not rule over the local church.
- Govern themselves from within the church.
- Reject the idea that a presbytery is Biblical.

Berean owns its own property and governs itself



P - PRIESTHOOD



Baptists...

- Believe in the individual priesthood of each believer in Jesus Christ.
- Confess sin one to another and before their Savior—not before a priest.
- Insist that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. Because of this, Baptists insist upon true congregational government under the leadership of pastors/elders



T - TWO OFFICES



Baptists...

- Believe that the two offices in the local church: the pastor and deacon.
- Do not see a distinction in the office of elder, pastor, or bishop (overseer).
- Do not believe that the office of apostle, pope, cardinal, etc. exists for the post-apostolic church age.

Berean insists that those in the office of pastor and deacon be males.



I - INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY



Baptists...

- **Respect the differences individuals may have on issues, preferences, standards, and convictions**
- **Extend liberty to each other to disagree on political, theological, and other non-essential matters**
- **Believe that there is no higher law than a God-given conscience**



S - SAVED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



- Baptists insist upon regenerate (converted or born again) church membership.
- **Members must publically profess faith in Christ and be baptized by immersion after salvation before they will be admitted into membership.**
- Those who were baptized as infants must be baptized again.



T - TWO ORDINANCES



Baptists...

- Believe that the church should have only two ordinances:
 - Baptism by full immersion in water for believers in Christ only and
 - The memorial observance of the Lord's Supper.
- Reject the view that either ordinance is efficacious in a salvific way



S - SEPARATION



Baptists...

- **Insist upon the separation of the church and state.**
- **Believe the authority of the State should never be used to force conversion, baptism, attendance, or compliance with church ordinances.**
- **Believe that Christ is the Lord of the church and reject any suggestion that an earthly king has authority in the church.**
- **Do not believe this separation prevents church members from involving themselves in the affairs of the state or serving in the defense of their Nation.**



Our Behavior

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BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



- **1 Peter 1:16**
 - Be ye holy; for I am holy.
-

III. “We promise to actively pursue personal holiness”

- Actively pursue
- Personal
- Holiness



BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



- What constitutes faithful attendance?

IV. “We further promise to faithfully attend the church’s worship services”

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but *exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* (Hebrews 10.25)



BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



IV. Maintain personal spiritual disciplines

A spiritual discipline is, when practiced faithfully and regularly, a habit or regular pattern in your life that repeatedly brings you back to God and opens you up to what God is saying to you.

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BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



- “To teach our children the Word of God”
- Should parents teach their children their faith?
- Is it biblical to encourage one’s children to grow in the Christian faith?



Let's Read
Deuteronomy
6:4-7

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BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



IV. to be just in our dealings,

Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.



BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



IV. faithful in our engagements;

1 Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.



Just & Faithful

Why is it critical that the members of BBC be just and faithful?

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BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



- ...and to avoid all gossip.

Prov 6:19 (Among the things God hates) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren



GOSSIP



- **Gossips (ESV, NASB)**
 - **Romans 1:29**—whisperers (KJV, NKJV)
 - a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts about others
 - rumor or report of an intimate nature
 - a chatty talk



BEHAVIOR: COVENANT



From Paragraph #5

- We promise to endeavor to obey the commandments of our Lord Jesus
- and to abstain from anything that would cause our fellow brother or sister in Christ to stumble
- or that will bring reproach to the name of Jesus Christ.



Commandments of Christ

Let's Read

Mark 12:28-31

How many more commandments are there?

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STUMBLING BLOCK



- 1 Corinthians 8:8-9

- But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.
- But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.



STUMBLING BLOCK



- What did Paul mean by becoming a stumbling block to them that are weak?
- My concern is for other Christians or potential Christians.



“STUMBLING BLOCK”



- **Rom 14:21**
 - It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.



“REPROACH”



- **1 Tim 3:7**
 - Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- **Reproach**
 - cause or occasion of blame, discredit, or disgrace



LEADERSHIP



- **1 Timothy 3:2**
 - A bishop [leader] then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- **Bottom line**
 - Positions of oversight and responsibility require a higher standard of conduct



BEHAVIOR: ARTICLES OF FAITH



- **Homosexuality is an Abomination**
- **No premarital sex**
- **Biblical Separation/ Holy Living**
- **No civil lawsuits within the body of Christ**
- **Abortion is Murder**
- **Marriage for Lifetime**
- **Saved to Worship and Serve**

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The Church, Your Time and Talents, and the Holy Spirit

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Let's Look at Our

Articles of Faith

&

Covenant

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BBC ARTICLES OF FAITH



Article 4: [The Responsibility of the Church to Equip]

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal **of spiritual gifts to every believer**. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly...

...in order that they can do the work of the ministry.

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- **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** Phrase regularly used to translate two Greek words, *charismata* and *pneumatika* (the plural forms of *charisma* and *pneumatikon*). Both words are almost exclusively Pauline within the biblical writings; elsewhere in the NT, they appear only in 1 Peter 2:5 and 4:10. Other writers, of course, mention phenomena that fall within Paul's definition of "spiritual gifts," but for specific teaching on the subject, one must depend on Paul first and foremost.

– Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort,
Tyndale Bible Dictionary



COVENANT



Paragraph #3:

We promise to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith; and to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.



Baptists Believe in the Holy Spirit and the Reception of Spiritual Gifts from the Holy Spirit

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Spiritual Gift

A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

Wayne Grudem

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:1



Paul writes:

- Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.



ROMANS 1:11



- For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some **spiritual gift**, to the end ye may be established;



1 CORINTHIANS 14:26



- How is it then, brethren?
- when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation.
- **Let all things be done unto edifying.**

Spiritual Gifts are for the edification of believers in the church (Corinth)!



1 CORINTHIANS 14:12



- Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts,
- **seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.**



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EPH 4:11-12



- And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- For the perfecting [**equipping**] of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

P 21



Let's Look @ Romans 12:3-8

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Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor. 12:28

Eph. 4:11

Rom. 12:6-8

1 Pet. 4:11

apostle

apostle

prophecy

speaking gifts

prophet

prophet

serving

service gifts

teacher

evangelist

teaching

1 Cor. 12:8-10

miracles

Pastor-teacher

encouraging

wisdom

healing

contributing

faith

helps

1 Cor 7:7

leadership*

healing

administration*

marriage

mercy

miracles

tongues

celibacy

prophecy

tongues

And there may be more gifts than what is listed here....

interpretation of tongues

word of knowledge

distinguishing between spirits

Spiritual Gifts

Sign Gifts	Serving Gifts		Servant Gifts (from Christ to the church)
miracles	leadership/ administration	wisdom	Apostle
healing	marriage	encouraging	Prophet
tongues	celibacy	contributing	Evangelist
prophecy	mercy	service gifts	Pastor-Teacher
interpretation of tongues	faith	speaking gifts	
distinguishing between spirits	helps	serving	
word of knowledge			



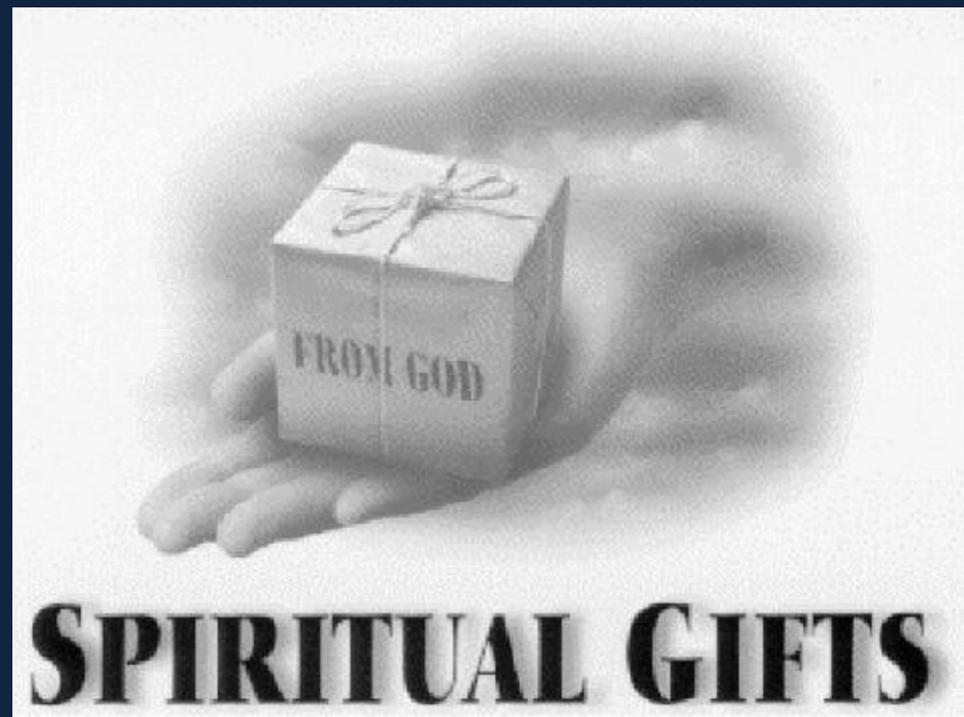
1 CORINTHIANS 12:11



- But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
- **All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.**

Question

Do you know
what your
spiritual
gift(s) is
(are)?





Talents

In the covenant we use the word “talent” for both natural abilities and spiritual gifts

- It has been said that spiritual gifts must not be confused with natural talents, and surely we must agree. But we must also insist that spiritual gifts not be divorced from natural talents and abilities. In Psalm 139, we are reminded that it was God who fashioned us in the womb. Whatever our capabilities or weaknesses, they were given to us by the omniscient God who designed us not only in the matter of spiritual gifts, but also in the matter of talents and abilities to carry out a certain task. Human abilities alone will never produce eternal fruit, but our abilities when empowered by the Holy Spirit can bring about spiritual fruit. It is no accident that Billy Graham is a gifted speaker in the human sense. But there are countless gifted speakers who have never seen a soul won to Christ. <http://bible.org/seriespage/spiritual-gifts-1-corinthians-121-11>



GIFT



- a notable capacity, talent, or endowment

Merriam-Webster

God endows
believers
with spiritual
gifts at their
conversion

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The Person of Christ

The example of the perfect reconciliation of natural abilities and spiritual gifts is found in Christ who is the God-Man (spirit) – (natural).

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NATURAL ABILITIES



- Music
- Teach
- Tile Work
- Drama
- Construction/Finish Carpentry
- Information Tech/Computer
- Mechanics
- Accounting



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The best way to discover whether you have natural music abilities is to try to learn how to play an instrument.

Likewise, the best way to see what spiritual gifts God has given you is to start serving in the local church. In time, God and His people will make it clear what your gifts are and are not.

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COVENANT



- **“To give cheerfully of your time”**
 - **Sometimes our service to the church has nothing to do with our “talents”**

Lot's of things that are needed to be done in the church do not require a spiritual gift.



All Christians Must Be Open

To working both in and out of their gifting. For example, manual labor...or getting out of a comfort zone.

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The church doesn't need anyone else sitting in the stands watching the game.





Time

**Why does the local church
need the time and talents of
it members?**

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Time



- Usher
- Greeter
- Nursery Worker
- Cleanup/Setup
- Duplication/Media
- Choir/Orchestra
- Sound Operator
- Assistant _____
- Driver
- Awana
- Children's Ministry
- Power Hour
- Media
- Camera Operator



Spiritual Gifts

www.churchgrowth.org/analysis

Caution: these surveys are man-made tools; only God and His church confirm the presence of spiritual gifts.

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Giving

Tithes and Offerings

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Tithe & Offerings

What is a tithe?

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Scriptural Support



- Gen. 14:20
- Prov. 3:9-10
- Mal 3:6-12
- Luke 6:38
- Acts 4:34-37
- 2 Cor. 9:6-7
- Gal. 6:6
- Eph. 4:28
- 1 Tim. 5:17-18
- 1 John 3:17



GIVING



Luke 6:38 (ESV)

- give, and it will be given to you.
- Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.
- For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”



AS GOD ENABLES



- **1 Corinthians 16:2**
 - Upon the first *day of the week* let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.
- Type of 21st Century General Fund



PROVERBS 3:9-10



- Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
- So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

How do I honor the LORD with my substance?



THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION ON MISSIONS



Article II ~ Purpose

2. The Church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the Church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.



ARTICLES OF FAITH ON MISSIONS



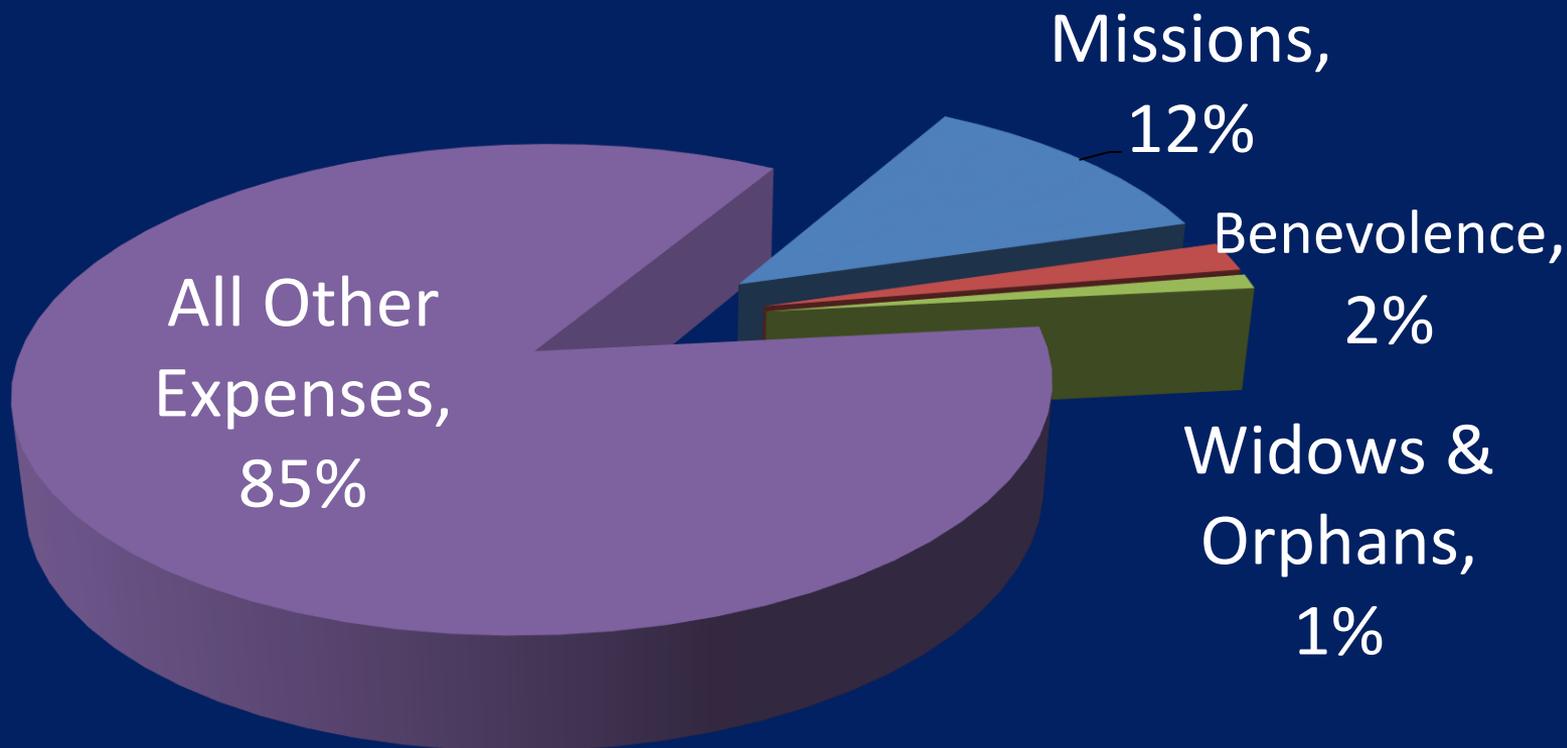
Article 8b:

We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

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MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE



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FROM THE COVENANT



Paragraph #3:

We promise to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith; and **to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.**



FROM THE ARTICLES OF FAITH



Article 8f:

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

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From the Constitution



2. DUTIES OF A MEMBER:

On becoming a member of BBC, in addition to the Church Covenant, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastors, to pray for them and to recognize their authority in the spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the Church; to support the Church in prayer, prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and, in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a life-style affirming the beliefs and practices of the Church.



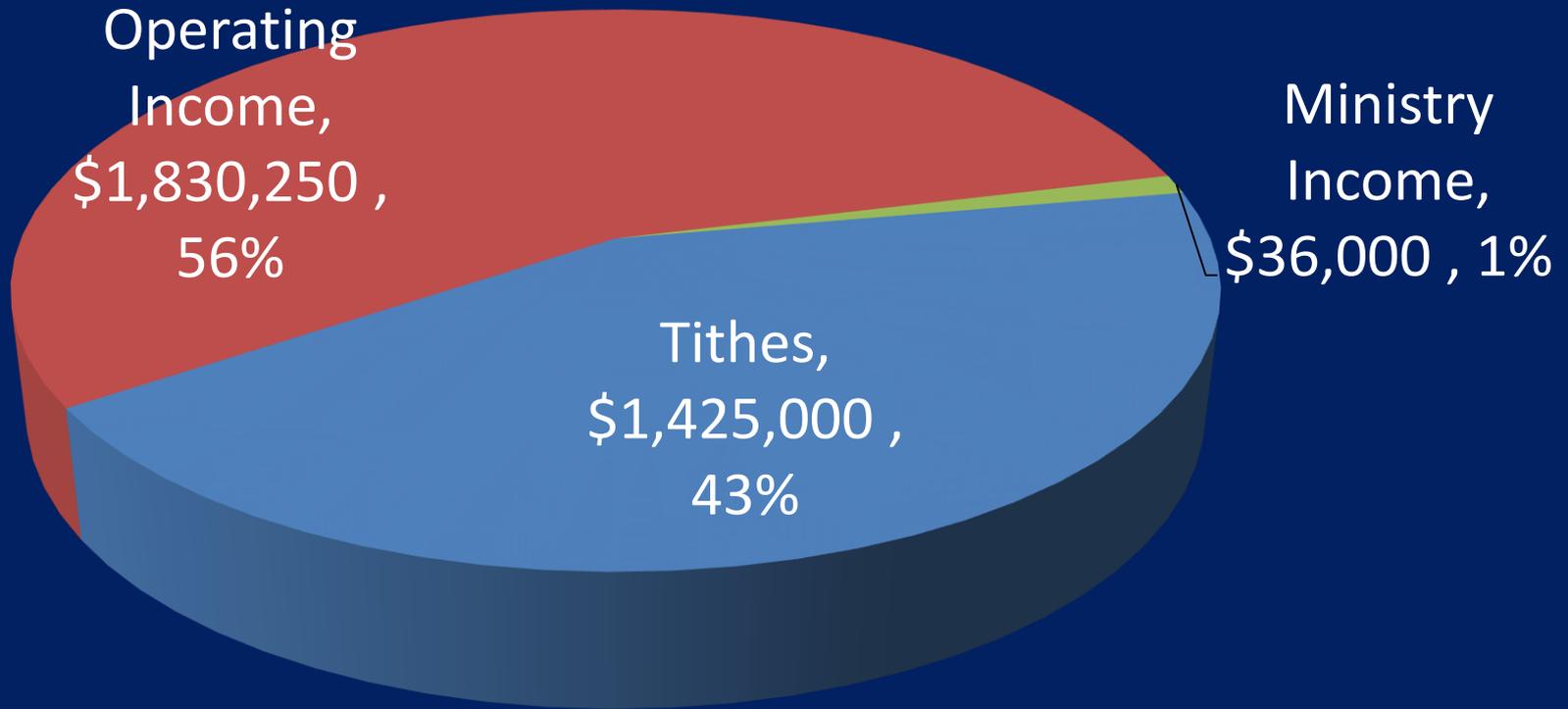
GROUP QUESTION



Why must a church mention giving in our Covenant, Articles of Faith, and our Constitution in the duties of a member?



Income Breakdown





MATTHEW 6:21



For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Jesus

What is the point of this statement?



Church Discipline

1ST Corinthians 5:1-13

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AUTHORITY & THE CHURCH



- **Question:**

- Does the local church have authority in the lives of its members?



CHURCH LEADERS



- **Hebrews 13:17**
 - Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls**, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is unprofitable for you.*
- **Spiritual Leadership: Elders/Pastors**



CHURCH LEADERS



- **Hebrews 13:17**
 - Obey them that **have the rule over you**, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is unprofitable for you*.
- What leadership style did Jesus model?



SERVANT-LEADERSHIP



- **Church Leaders**

- Only one leadership style is biblical for church leaders
- Mark 10:44

- **Fact**

- Church leaders are still sinners saved by grace



SERVANT-LEADERSHIP



- **Mark 10:44**

- And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.



HEBREWS 13:17



- Obey them that have the rule over you, **and submit yourselves**: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is unprofitable for you*.
- Question: What is your gut reaction to the word “submit?”



“Submit Yourself”

In what areas should a church member be willing to submit to the leadership of a God-ordained Pastor?

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SUBMISSION CRITERIA



- The left and right limit of submitting to a God-ordained authority is the first and last page of the Bible provided it is properly interpreted within the historically grammatically correct understanding of the passage.

No personal preferences/individual convictions permitted.



A VERY IMPORTANT BALANCE



- Acts 5:29
 - Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Hebrews 13:17

Acts 5:29



FOR EXAMPLE:



- **Question 1:** As a pastor, can I present an air tight case that the consumption of 4 oz. of wine is a sin?
- **Question 2:** As a pastor, can I present an air tight case that drunkenness is a sin?



GRAY AREAS



- Gray areas are addressed in extra-biblical documents:
 - Covenant
 - Article of Faith
 - Expectation Statements
 - Constitution

- Pastors
- Leaders
- Teachers
- Directors
- Employees
- Supervisors



THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH



- **BBC exists to glorify God by accurately reflecting His glorious character**
 - Jesus reflected God's glorious character when he was on the earth;
 - Israel attempted to do it before Jesus
 - After Jesus, local NT churches attempt to do it





ARTICLE 8A:



- [The members of the church] should seek to live a holy life by separating themselves from and forsaking all that might dishonor God, cast discredit on His cause, or weaken their testimony.



WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
OBSTACLE TO THE
CHURCH REFLECTING
GOD'S GLORIOUS
CHARACTER?

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Dealing with Sin!

How does the church
discipline it's members?
What model should we
follow?

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THE FATHER'S PLAN



- **Hebrews 12:6-7**

- For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?



Church Discipline

What are the alternatives
to disciplining church
member?

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Church Discipline

The church disciplines its members in two ways:

I. Formative Discipline

II. Corrective Discipline

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FORMATIVE DISCIPLINE



Galatians 4:19

- My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,
- Formative Discipline includes every effort the church makes to develop fully devoted followers of Christ—preaching, teaching, counseling, encouragement, etc.



FORMATIVE DISCIPLINE



Colossians 3:16

- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The goal of formative discipline is to eliminate the need for corrective discipline.



The Covenant

How is the covenant a
written example of formative
discipline?

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Do you agree w/ this statement?

“The more the church is shaped by formative discipline, the less it will need corrective discipline.”

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THE DELIBERATE CHURCH



In the book *The Deliberate Church*, Mark Dever and Paul Alexander describe the relationship between these two types of discipline like this: "If we were to compare discipline in the body of Christ to discipline in a physical body, then formative discipline would be like eating right and exercising, whereas corrective discipline would be like surgery.

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CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE



- **Two Types of Corrective Discipline**
 - Informal
 - Formal
- Both are addressed in the covenant



DISCIPLINE FROM THE COVENANT



Article VI.

We further realize that if we should fail to live up to the promises we have made, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST WILL ALWAYS STRIVE FOR OUR RECONCILIATION AND SPIRITUAL RESTORATION. However, if we partake in a sustained and unrepentant violation of an Article of Faith, we will be brought under church discipline in accordance with the Church Constitution.

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RESTORATION



- **Galatians 6:1**

- Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.



INFORMAL CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE



- “Hey Tom I thought you were a little hot-headed in the deacon’s meeting when we were discussing the pastor’s ideas for fixing the parking problem.”
- “Yea, I think you’re right, I probably need to go and apologize.”
- “Tom, I appreciate your spirit about this...”



What do we do with disagreements?

The church is the final authority—
however, in some areas of question
an interpretation is already spelled
out in a extra-Biblical document like
an article of faith or constitution.

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From our Lord Jesus:

Matthew 18:15-17

“we get steps”

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CHURCH DISCIPLINE



- **Formative**
 - Preventive

- **Corrective (guided by Matthew 18)**
 - Informal
 - Formal

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MATTHEW 18:15-17



- Where do you see the break in the text from informal to formal corrective church discipline?
- What is your understanding of “neglect to hear the church?”
 - 1 Corinthians 5:4



THE CHURCH



- **1 Corinthians 5:4**
 - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together.....

- **21st Century**
 - Member's Meeting

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THE CHURCH VOTES



- **1 Corinthians 5:12-13**
 - do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.
- **21st Century**
 - If needed judge and vote him out



VOTE HIM OUT



- **Matthew 18:17**

– And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him **be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**



Why vote them out?

Why would you ever vote someone out of the church? I thought we want as many as possible to attend.

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WHY VOTE SOMEONE OUT?



- Love, love and more love
- **Hebrews 12:6**
 - For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,
and scourgeth every son whom he
receiveth.



WHY VOTE SOMEONE OUT?



- **Soul versus Body**

- 1 Corinthians 5:5

- To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **that** the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.



What are the alternatives?

**A. Fix the problem before
it goes to the church.**

**B. Resign church
membership.**

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HEBREWS 13:17



- Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, **that they may do it with joy**, and not with grief: for that *is unprofitable for you.*
- What kind of a church member will you be?



THE STEPS



- **Formative/Preventive Disciple**
 - Preaching and teaching Ministry
- **Informal Corrective Disciple**
 - One Christian to Another
- **Semi-formal Corrective Disciple**
 - Two or three Christians to Another
- **Formal Corrective Disciple**
 - Last resort the matter goes before the church



MEMBERSHIP



- Salvation & Believer's Baptism By Immersion
- **Complete Membership Questionnaire**
- Present Yourselves Before the Congregation
- **Membership Interview**
- Complete the Membership Class Requirements
- **Turn in all your Paperwork**
- Your Name is Presented at a Member's Meeting

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Five Benefits to Church Discipline

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BENEFITS TO CHURCH DISCIPLINE



- First, corrective discipline is for the good of the person disciplined.
- Some people object to the idea of discipline on the grounds that it is somehow unloving. But the truth is that discipline warns a person of the danger of sin and calls him to repentance.



BENEFITS TO CHURCH DISCIPLINE



- Second, corrective discipline is good for other Christians. As the church speaks and acts against sin, the whole congregation sees the serious nature of sin and its consequences.
- 1 Timothy 5



BENEFITS TO CHURCH DISCIPLINE



- Third, corrective discipline is good for the church as a whole. Church discipline keeps the local body pure by protecting it from moral decay. Furthermore, it addresses sin that would otherwise lead to strife and conflict in the church.



BENEFITS TO CHURCH DISCIPLINE



- Fourth, corrective discipline is good for the corporate witness of the church and, therefore, non-Christians. It powerfully protects our corporate witness in evangelism, because people notice when there is a whole community of believers whose lives are different from the world.



BENEFITS OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE



- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, **corrective discipline is for the glory of God**. Christians are called to be **conspicuously holy**, not for our own reputation but for God's. Our lives are the store-front display of God's character in the world, and we want Christ to shine in the eyes of the world.