

# CONSTITUTION OF PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## **Preamble:**

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual member of the Church
3. Ensure freedom of action and independence from any religious body or organization
4. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing Church members

## **ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Article I: Name and Principal Office**

The name of this association of Christian believers is Piney Grove Baptist Church. This association will be further referred to in the Constitution and Bylaws as the "Church."

The principal office of the Church for the transaction of its Mission shall be in the County of Tuscaloosa at the following address:

**12123 Sellers Lane  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406**

### **Article II: Mission**

In obedience to God, as Christ-centered bodies of believers, we, commit to disciple, enable, and encourage one another to love, worship, and serve our Savior, Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we commit to share the Good News and ourselves with our neighbors in the surrounding communities and throughout the world.

### **Article III: Purpose**

The purpose of this Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This purpose is further defined and includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. EVANGELISM/MISSIONS - "To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world."  
(*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4*)

2. DISCIPLESHIP/EDUCATION - "To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, and spiritual growth through discipleship and Bible teaching."  
(*Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 18:20; 2 Timothy 2:2*)

3. WORSHIP - "To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions." (John 4:24)

4. MINISTRY/SERVICE - "To serve unselfishly in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, our community, and the world."  
(*1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:34-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13*)

5. FELLOWSHIP - "To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together."  
(*1 John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5, 7; John 13:34-35*)

The Church seeks to benefit the people of the surrounding communities by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social development. (Luke 2:52)

#### **Article IV: Statement of Faith**

These are the core beliefs of the membership of Piney Grove Baptist Church. We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs. Although it is not binding, this Church accepts the 2000 version of "The Baptist Faith and Message," (see Appendix II) an affirmation of basic Christian beliefs, as a general statement of our faith.

#### **ABOUT GOD:**

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*Genesis 1:1; 26- 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

#### **ABOUT JESUS CHRIST:**

We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, and that He (Jesus) is totally true God and totally man. He died on the cross for our sins. He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords to redeem His bride, the church.

(*Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13*)

#### **ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He provides every Christian with spiritual gifts for service at the moment of salvation. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

(*2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:25*)

#### **ABOUT THE BIBLE:**

We believe the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God, without any error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.

(*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5*)

#### **ABOUT MANKIND:**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." By one man, Adam, sin entered into the world, and death passed upon all people, for that all have sinned. This separates people from God and causes spiritual death along with many problems in life.

(*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; 51:1-8; Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12; Isaiah 59:1, 2*)

**ABOUT SALVATION:**

We believe that eternal salvation is the free gift of God, entirely apart from our own works, and is possessed by any and all who have faith in and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Salvation is by grace through faith, but we must accept it.

We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his or her life by faith.

*(Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)*

**ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY:**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Once born again, we cannot lose our salvation. Salvation is sustained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian.

*(John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 10:14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)*

**ABOUT ETERNITY:**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is Eternal Life. Heaven is a literal place where God will wipe away every tear and there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. Believers will live forever in God's presence.

We also, believe in a literal hell, which is a place of physical and spiritual torment, experienced as a result of eternal separation from God. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

*(John 3:16; John 14:7; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

**ABOUT THE CHURCH:**

We believe that the true church is composed of all who have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ. We also believe members of the true Church, which is the bride of Christ, are eligible for membership in the local Church. God primarily ministers on earth through the local church. Christ is the head of the Church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe that the local Church should be independent, self-governing, and free from any denominational control.

*(Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Hebrews 10:25; Colossians 1:18)*

**ABOUT MARRIAGE:**

The Bible clearly declares that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely between one man and one woman who have been united in marriage. Hence, sexual relations outside marriage or between individuals of the same sex violate Biblical standards. Piney Grove Baptist Church is in doctrinal agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message which states in Article XV and Article XVIII respectively, that, "In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose...all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography." "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."

A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the Church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in these Articles and Bylaws.

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender, bestiality, incest, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

Accordingly, the Church, its Pastor(s), staff and members will not participate in or perform same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor shall its' property or resources be used for such purposes.

*(Genesis 2:18, 24; Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:12-16; Romans 1:26, 1:32; 1Corinthians 6:9, 18)*

#### **ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN HOME:**

We believe that God has given parents the responsibility to bring their children up in the nurture and discipline of the Lord. We believe that it is the parent's responsibility to educate and disciple their children in the truth of God. We believe that the church must work to compliment the parent's efforts and facilitate Godly living within the home.

*(Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Joshua 24:15)*

#### **ABOUT BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER:**

Jesus instructed His disciples to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the Church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. While we respect all acts of spiritual obedience, the Bible teaches that Baptism is to be done by immersion, following salvation, as a one-time act of obedience and identification with Jesus Christ as Lord. The Lord's Supper is an ongoing symbol remembering our Lord's death, burial, resurrection and promised return. These are ordinances to be observed by the church in its present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means for a person's salvation since the death of Christ on the cross is sufficient.

*(Matthew 28:18-20, 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Colossians 2:12)*

#### **ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:**

We believe that God calls us - with a holy calling - to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. God wants us to live in the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit, so we will not fulfill the lusts of our physical bodies. We believe that the fallen, Adamic nature of the flesh cannot be eradicated in this life. Therefore, keeping ourselves constantly in subjection to Christ, we must allow God's Holy Spirit to live through us in a daily "walk" of faith. Otherwise, the flesh will certainly demonstrate a destructive presence in our lives, to the Lord's dishonor. It is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to proclaim the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ and to seek to make growing disciples.

*(Leviticus 26:30; Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 3:15; Galatians 5:16)*

#### **In essential beliefs - we have unity:**

*"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in the hope of your calling, One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:4-6*

#### **In non-essential beliefs - we have liberty:**

*"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean." Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22.*

#### **In all our beliefs - we show love:**

*"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:2*

## Article V: Membership Covenant

"Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Piney Grove Baptist Church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Piney Grove Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### **I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH:**

#### **a. ...By acting in love toward other members**

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

*Romans 14:19*

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus."

*Romans 15:5*

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently;" *1 Peter 1:22*

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

#### **b. ...By refusing to gossip**

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of the edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." *Ephesians 4:29*

#### **c. ...By following the leaders**

"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."

*Hebrews 13:17*

### **I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH:**

#### **a. ...By praying for its growth**

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers." *1 Thessalonians 1:2*

#### **b. ...By inviting the "unchurched" to attend**

"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." *Luke 14:23*

#### **c. ...By warmly welcoming those who visit**

"Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." *Romans 15:7*

### **I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH:**

#### **a. ...By discovering and using my gifts and talents**

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." *1 Peter 4:10*

#### **b. ...By seeking to be equipped by my pastor to serve**

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work, of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

#### **c. ...By developing a servant's heart**

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” But (Christ) made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” *Philippians 2:3-4, 7*

**I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH:**

**a. ...By attending faithfully**

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.” *Hebrews 10:25*

**b. ...By living a Godly life**

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ. “ *Philippians 1:27 (Ph)*

**c. ...By giving regularly**

“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.” *1 Corinthians 16:2*

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord.” *Leviticus 27:30*

**Article VI: Polity and Relationships**

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. All internal groups created by and empowered by the Church shall report to and be held accountable to the Church membership.

**Article VII: Affiliation**

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world mission, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its national, state, and local organizations. Fundamental to this affiliation is the understanding that the Southern Baptist Convention is a fellowship of autonomous, biblically sound churches that choose to work together to further God’s Kingdom. Voluntary contributions to local, state, national, and international mission projects maintain this affiliation.

(Acts 15:2, 21:17-18; 3 John 10; Philippians 4:15, 18; 1 John 1:3; Ephesians 4:3-6)

**Article VIII: Dissolution**

The properties, assets, and obligations of this nonprofit religious Church are irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings, properties, or assets of this Church, on dissolution, shall inure to the benefit of any private business or individual, or any member, trustee, or pastor of this Church.

On liquidation or dissolution, all properties and assets and obligations shall be distributed progressively and paid over first to the Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association and if refused, followed by the Alabama State Board of Missions and finally to the Southern Baptist Convention or their successors in interest.

**Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution**

A new Constitution may be adopted or this Constitution may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the qualified voters represented at a meeting of the members held for this purpose. Notice to approve, amend, or repeal the Constitution of Piney Grove Baptist Church must be advertised in the Church Bulletin two (2) weeks in advance of the special meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot.

**Article X: Affirmation**

Every Pastor, Staff member, and Church member, by virtue of their membership, affirms their agreement with this Constitution and agrees to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with them.

**Certificate of the Church Clerk:**

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the Clerk of the association of Christian believers known as Piney Grove Baptist Church. This document represents the Constitution and Bylaws of this Church as adopted and executed at Tuscaloosa, Alabama this Fifteenth day of February, 2015.

Mary E. Wallace  
MARY E. WALLACE, Church Clerk

# BYLAWS OF PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## Article I: Ministry Structure

The purpose behind this ministry structure is to have a flexible, yet accountable system, to provide for maximum effectiveness of ministry, to allow more people to be involved in ministry, and yet be faithful to a biblical model.

### **Section 1: The Church**

Piney Grove Baptist Church operates according to a congregational form of government. In this form of church government, ultimate authority for governing the church resides in the members of Piney Grove Baptist Church. This authority comes from Christ who is the head of the body. However, we also accept the New Testament plan for Church Officers, consisting of the Pastor and Deacons to assist and serve the Church. Ministry Teams are also a vital part of fulfilling the purpose of Piney Grove Baptist Church.

The structure of Piney Grove Baptist congregational government is supported by a number of New Testament principles:

**Priesthood of All Believers** - *1 Peter 2:5, 9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 10:19; Matthew 28:19-20*

**Spiritual Gifts in the Body** - *1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, 12, 21-27; Romans 12:4-5*

**Election of Officers** - *Acts 1, 6:3*

**Sending Missionaries** - *1 Corinthians 16:4; Acts 14:27, 18:22-23*

**Doctrinal Disputes** - *1 Corinthians 6:2-3, 14:29*

**Church Discipline** - *Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5; 2 Corinthians 2:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15.*

Scripture makes it clear that the Church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is always the authority as the body of Christ, and not a “board” of Pastor(s), Deacons, or any other body. The Church is the final authority to call Pastors, Deacons, Ministry Team Leaders, and other elected officers yet paradoxically, should willingly submit to their leadership and care. Ultimately, however, even the leadership submits to the Church’s authority. This means that the Church should study the Scriptures as they discern the will of the Lord in important congregational matters.

### **Section 2: Ministry Defined**

To fulfill the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) - We are to Love God and Love People.

In this ministry structure, the roles of all leaders are clearly defined. The Pastor is an under-shepherd leader, a teacher, and an equipper. The Pastor is to be a student of the Word, studying and teaching the Scriptures in order to help the church become mature in Christ. The Pastor is the main communicator, the lead teacher, and the example for the church to follow in Christian conduct. Open communication, along with a true love for one another in Christ, allows a church to be open to the Pastor’s leadership as he leads and teaches according to the Word of God.

The role of the Deacon is that of a servant leader. The Deacons are to be servants of the church, caring for the individual family concerns, ministering to benevolence and bereavement needs, and sharing needs and spiritual concerns of people within the church with the Pastor.

Elected officers and committee members are also a vital part of the church’s ministry. Each elected officer and committee member is a steward leader and is responsible to fulfill the duties of the office to which he or she has been elected by practicing open communication, clear planning, and commitment to the Scriptures.

With the shepherding leadership of the Pastor, the servant leadership of the Deacons, and the steward leadership of all elected officers and committee members, the membership of Piney Grove Baptist Church can successfully respond to ministry needs and thus fulfill the vision of the Church. With a heart for God, obedience to Christ, and guidance by the Spirit, Piney Grove Baptist Church will see the Great Commission realized and the Great Commandment practiced - ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

## **Article II: Membership**

### **SECTION I: Qualifications for Membership**

The basic and general qualifications for membership shall consist of all the following:

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation or by letter of faith from a sister Church.
3. Completion of the Church's membership class. For candidates 13 years of age and older, completion of church membership class. For candidates 12 years of age and younger, parental consent will be obtained by the Pastor or a Deacon.
4. A commitment to abide by the membership covenant.

### **SECTION II: Member Responsibilities**

In order to be a responsible member of Piney Grove Baptist Church, members must:

1. Be in absolute agreement with the Church's statement of faith and purpose.
2. Be diligent to live according to the statements of the Church covenant.
3. Be faithful in attendance to worship services and Bible study.
4. Discover, develop, and deploy their spiritual gifts in the ministries of the Church.
5. Encourage scriptural stewardship of time, talents, tithes, and offerings.

### **Section III: Rights of Membership**

Every active member in good standing shall have the right to participate in the following matters:

1. The approval of the annual budget of the Church,
2. the election of the Trustees, Deacons and Officers,
3. the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness,
4. the amending of the Bylaws of the Church,
5. the calling or removal of a Pastor,
6. the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, and
7. the merger or dissolution of the Church.

### **Section IV: Membership Status**

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership, listed above in Article II, Section I, and are listed on the membership roll. For the purpose of defining, a member's status shall be determined as follows:

**1. Active Members:** All individuals who regularly attend worship services and consistently support the ministry of the Church.

**2. Non-active Members:** A non-active member is defined as a member who has not attended the Church in six (6) months with exceptions to those members who are homebound due to medical reasons or age, members of the military or extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Deacons.

### **Section V: Termination of Membership**

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

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of the member.

4. Dismissal by the Congregation according to the following:
  - a. Reason: The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Statement of Faith or Church Covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry and/or influence of the Church in the community.
  - b. Procedure: Procedures for dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17 and Titus 3:10-11 and overseen by the Pastor(s) and Deacons.

#### **Section VI: Restoration of Members**

Members dismissed by the Church shall be restored only after an evaluation of all relevant facts have been completed by the Deacons, in concert with the Pastor, and a unanimous agreement reached and then approved by the membership according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8.

#### **Article III: Meetings of Members**

Business Meetings of the members shall be generally conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and held in the times, manner, and purpose set forth below:

1. Annual Business Meeting: An annual business meeting will be conducted on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Wednesday of September for the primary purpose of receiving and adopting the Church Budget, Church Calendar, and to elect Church Sunday School Teachers, General Officers, and various Committee Members. The Nominating Committee will develop recommendations to the Church for voluntary positions. The Budget/Financial Committee will develop the annual budget recommendations for the coming Church year.
2. Quarterly Business Meetings shall be held the second Wednesday evening of each December, March and June to review the business of the Church. At each of these quarterly business meetings, the Church should receive the following:
  - a. Reading of the minutes from the previous quarterly regularly scheduled business meeting and any special called business meetings held during that quarter (if any) by the Church Clerk;
  - b. A full and thorough financial report with printed copies to be distributed to the members present and to include all transactions occurring in the previous quarter,
  - c. Any reports from any Church organizations that hold separate accounts from the Church's general funds but bear the name or represent a ministry of the church by the Church Financial Secretary,
  - d. Request for letters from another church,
  - e. Departmental reports on attendance and ministry, and
  - f. A report from the Deacon body on the spiritual well-being of the Church.
  - g. An opportunity to bring to the floor new items of business from the floor and
  - h. A follow-up on previously presented (old) items of business shall be addressed at each meeting.
3. A Special Business Meeting of the Church may be called at any time by:
  - a. The Pastor, or
  - b. A two-thirds vote of the Deacons.
4. The active membership of the Church shall be notified of the intent to hold a Special Called Business Meeting by public announcement by the Pastor or Deacons at no less than two regularly scheduled services of the Church.
5. A quorum shall consist of no less than 10 active adult members with at least two being active deacons present and voting. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

#### **Article IV: Records and Reports**

The Church will maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct records of all Church financial accounts, contractual agreements, insurance coverage and real property holdings
2. The minutes of all official proceedings held by the Members, Trustees, and Deacons
3. A record of all members, active and inactive, listing their names and addresses
4. The contribution record of each member and nonmember
5. Reports of all official Church actions
6. All such reports should be readily accessible to all active members in good standing.

## **Article V: Church Officers**

### **Section I: Pastor**

The Pastor is responsible for leading the Church to function as a New Testament Church. The Pastor's primary tasks grow out of the instructions in *Ephesians 4* to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, and *Acts 20:28*, to be the overseer and shepherd of the Church. As such, he works with the Church staff, Deacons, elected officers, and committees to: (1) lead the church in performing its tasks; (2) lead the Church to engage in Evangelism/Missions, Education, Worship, Ministry/Service, and Fellowship; (3) proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; and (4) care for the Church members and other persons in the community.

Selection of the Pastor shall be conducted as outlined in Article VII of these Bylaws using the qualifications listed in **Appendix I**. The Pastor will lead all Church Members, Officers, and Volunteers strictly following the ministry beliefs and objectives set forth in the Church Constitution and Article I of these Bylaws. This purposeful leadership is provided through preaching, teaching, directing, guiding the membership of the Church, and through counseling with persons and groups in the Church. The Pastor will serve as the Moderator of the Church. In the Pastor's absence, the Deacons will select an appropriate interim Moderator. The Pastor will participate in the disciplining and dismissal process for all Church Officers and volunteers as outlined in these Bylaws.

### **Section II: Deacons**

As New Testament officers of the Church, the Deacons are responsible before God to serve the membership of the Church. The qualifications, and/or functioning of the Deacons, shall be in accordance with the following scriptures:

*Acts 6:1-15; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15*. Based upon scriptural doctrine, only males may hold this position.

Deacons are to be zealous to guard the unity of the Spirit within the Church in the bonds of peace. They shall be men of prayer, striving continually to understand and apply more fully the scriptures through Bible study. They shall serve as a

council of advice and confer with the Pastor(s) and Church officers in matters pertaining to the welfare, work, and purpose of the Church by fulfilling the Great Commandment (*Matthew 22:36-40*) and the Great Commission (*Matthew*

*28:18-20*). They shall assist the Pastor in the ordinances of Baptism and Lord's Supper. They are to seek to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the members, and to serve the whole Church in relieving, encouraging and developing all who are in need. In council with the Pastor, and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teachings, they are to have oversight of discipline within the Church.

**Nomination/Selection Procedures:** Nominations for the candidacy of an individual(s) to serve in the Office of Deacon may only be brought to the Church by unanimous recommendation from the current Pastor and Deacon body. Candidates nominated in such a manner shall then be voted upon by the Church membership to be placed under the “watch care” of the church for approximately 6-months. After completion of the watch care period, the Church shall then move forward to ordain the candidate. Those who are ordained by the Church are called and ordained to serve permanently or until they voluntarily resign or are removed for just cause. A Deacon may voluntarily step down from his position at any time he so chooses. The Deacon should prayerfully reflect on his decision and seek counsel from the Deacon body and the Pastor before making a final decision. Involuntary dismissal of a Deacon shall be in accordance with the procedures for Church discipline. If the situation is such that it necessitates dismissal from office, the Deacon body may suggest voluntary resignation by the person involved. If he refuses, the Deacon body may remove him from office, but only after the principles for Church discipline have been prayerfully considered and followed. The position will remain vacant until the Pastor and Deacon Body nominates and elects a replacement. The Deacons will participate in the disciplining or dismissal of any Church member, Officer, or volunteer in concert with the Pastor.

### **Section III: Officers and Committee Members**

Church Officers and Committee Members are responsible for directing certain programs of the Church, i.e. Evangelism/Missions, Education, Worship, Ministry/Service, Student Ministries, Fellowship, and Stewardship Ministries.

As steward leaders, officers and committee members must meet the qualifications as outlined in **Appendix I** and will be asked to adhere to the ministry objectives outlined in **Article I, Section II** of these Bylaws. Any officer or committee member may be dismissed for failure to effectively carry out the duties to which they were elected upon the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacon body and by majority vote of the membership of the Church.

### **Section IV: Trustees**

Four (4) Trustees will hold in trust the Church property and perform such administrative duties as requested by the Church membership to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Church. Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such action. It shall be the function of the Trustees to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale of, mortgage of, purchase of, or rental of property, or other legal documents where the signatures of Trustees are required.

Trustees shall be elected to serve permanently but their status is to be confirmed annually by the membership of the Church to ensure their willingness to continue to serve. If a Trustee is no longer able or willing to serve in this capacity or is lost to death or disablement, the Deacon body of the Church will nominate and present a candidate to replace him. Confirmation and election of that candidate will be by majority of vote of the Church’s active members in good standing.

### **Section V: Church Treasurer (Financial Secretary)**

The Church treasurer will oversee and cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct books and records of accounts of the Church. This person shall also oversee the reception and disbursement of all funds. The Church treasurer will be elected by majority vote of the active membership of the Church at the annual business meeting. The receipt of all tithes, offerings, and any special offerings will be counted and noted by the Church Treasurer, the Church Clerk and one (1) Church Usher or a designated substitute in their absence.

## **Section VI: Church Clerk**

The Church Clerk will serve as the Secretary of the Church. The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of all Business Meetings of the Church and for filing a copy in the Church Office. The permanent record will be kept in a separate location apart from the Church. The Clerk shall maintain a complete roll of active, non-active, and former Church members, showing dates of admission and termination; request and forward letters of membership transfer and render membership reports to the Church as needed. The Clerk shall prepare the Annual Church Profile, and sign all official documents certifying action taken by the Church. The Church clerk shall be elected by majority vote of the active Church membership at the annual business meeting. In the Clerk's absence, a temporary clerk may be appointed by the Deacon body to record actions taken by the Church.

## **Article VI: Ministry Volunteers**

In order to perform the Church's ministry needs and objectives Volunteers must be retained. These include, but are not limited to the following: Minister of Music/Worship, Worship Instrumentalists, Youth Ministry Directors, VBS Directors, Sunday School Director, Children's Ministry Director, Nursery Coordinator, Custodian/Groundskeeper, Sound System, Men's Ministry Leader, Women's Ministry Leader, Executive/Nominating Committee Members, Baptismal Committee, Outreach/Calendar Committee, Budget/Financial Committee, Sign Committee, Youth Committee, Usher Committee, Trustees, Executive Board Members, Messengers/Delegates to the Annual Associational Meeting, Vision Committee.

The qualifications and responsibilities of individuals elected to the positions listed above will be addressed in **Appendix I**. The Church shall determine the duties associated with each new ministry position created. The specific duties shall be based on the ministry needs of the Church, the desires and qualifications of the candidate, and other related factors. A Church officer's duties may be changed during their time of service if mutually agreeable to the officer and the Church. Nominees to these positions will be elected by majority vote of the active membership of the Church at the annual Business Meeting.

## **Article VII: Ministry Committees**

In order to meet all-of-the various spiritual, physical and administrative needs and objectives of a Church's ministry specific committees must be seated. These include but are not limited to the following: Nominating Committee, Budget/Finance Committee, Building/Grounds Committee, Outreach/Calendar Committee Hostess/Social Committee, Children/Youth Committee, Senior Social, Nursery Committee, and Vision Committee.

The qualifications and responsibilities of individuals elected to the committees listed above will be addressed in **Appendix I**. The Church shall determine the duties associated with each new ministry committee created. The specific duties shall be based on the ministry needs of the Church. A Church Committees' duties may be changed during their

time of service if mutually agreeable to the committee members and the Church. Nominees to these committees will be elected by majority vote of the active membership of the Church during the Annual Business Meeting.

## **Article VIII: Pastor Search Committee**

When it is necessary to select a new Pastor, the Deacons will recommend that a Pastor Search Committee be elected by the Church. The Pastor Search Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members. The Deacons will seek nominations from the church body for consideration to serve on the Pastor Search Committee. Those nominated, male/female, must be current active members. No less than one member shall be an active member of the Deacon body. Names collected will be recommended by the Deacon Chairman and will be voted on by the Church membership and those receiving the most votes will be selected to serve. The elected team will choose a Chairman (usually a Deacon) and a Recording-Secretary. The Pastor Search Committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one candidate at a time.

When the Pastor Search Committee finds a suitable Pastoral candidate, he will be asked to preach two (2) services at the Church (convenient time for both Church and Pastoral candidate). Once feedback has been received by Church membership, the Pastoral candidate will be presented to the Deacon body to discuss his duties and compensation. If all are in agreement to move forward with a call, a recommendation for selection will be made by the Pastor Search Chairman to the Church membership for action. The affirmation of the Pastoral candidate by the Church shall be at a duly called meeting in accordance with **Article II** of these Bylaws.

Selection shall be by secret ballot with an affirmative vote of a minimum of seventy-five (75%) percent of those active members present being necessary for a call. After obtaining such an affirmative vote, the Pastor Search Committee shall proceed with the call of the newly selected Pastor. The Pastor, thus selected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated at either his request or the Church's dismissal. Once this process has been completed the Pastor Search Committee will be dissolved.

As this process is being undertaken, those Deacons not serving on the Pastor Search Committee shall move forward to secure a Pulpit Supply candidate. The Pulpit Supply candidate selection will be designated to the Deacon Chairperson and an additional Deacon for backup. Pulpit Supply will be on a weekly or monthly basis until such time as the Pastor Search Committee brings a Pastoral Candidate forward. If the process is lengthy, a process for electing an Interim Pastor shall be the same as the process outlined for selecting a Pastor. A candidate for Interim Pastor should not be a candidate being considered to serve permanently as Pastor. This process should begin immediately upon the resignation of the previous Pastor.

#### **Article IX: Licensing and Ordaining Persons into the Gospel Ministry**

Persons, presenting themselves as having been called by God to the work of the ministry will be examined by the Pastor, Deacons, and any other ordained members of the Church to receive evidence of his calling after which this council will present to the Church a recommendation to issue or deny a Certificate of License.

In the event that the Church is asked to ordain a person into the Gospel ministry, an Examining Council will be formed by the Pastor. This council shall consist only of ordained ministers and deacons. After satisfactory examination, the Council will recommend to the Church that the Ordination Service proceed.

#### **Article X: Wedding Policy**

It is the desire of the membership of Piney Grove Baptist Church that anyone using these facilities for a wedding know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior as He is the only foundation for permanence in marriage. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Furthermore, the Bible makes it clear that a Christian should not marry a non-Christian because of the incompatibility of their spiritual lives. If either member of the couple is not a Christian, we respectfully ask that they speak with our Pastor prior to proceeding with marriage plans. All weddings, which take place on the premises of Piney Grove Baptist Church, must meet the criteria outlined in **Article III** of the Constitution.

**Requirements:**

A couple (one man/one woman) must together reserve the Church's facility by making a formal request to the Pastor or a member of the Deacon body including specific dates and times for events associated with the wedding. This request should be made at least three months prior to the date of the wedding. This allows the Church Clerk time to review the Church calendar for conflicts and advise the wedding party. Whomever the request is made of will communicate to the Church the couple's desires and ensure that there is no conflict with any previously scheduled Church function. No Weddings will be scheduled for Sundays.

If the Pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church is not performing the ceremony, he must be allowed to communicate with the guest minister who is officiating the wedding to inform him personally of the Church's marriage and wedding policy. It is preferred that the guest minister be of like faith and practice.

The prospective bride and groom must agree to meet with the Pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church for a premarital counseling/interview or produce proof that they have attended premarital counseling with a minister of like faith and practice.

A wedding ceremony is intended to be a Worship Service, thereby; the music chosen for use in the ceremony should reflect the sacred nature of the event. Music that is not sacred in nature or designed specifically for use in the Church should affirm the lifelong commitment required of marriage. Non-sacred music should be presented to the Church's Minister of Music for approval. The Minister of Music should also be consulted concerning use of the Church's sound system equipment. It shall be the responsibility of the wedding party to prepare the facilities for all events associated with the wedding, clean, and restore the Church to its previous condition. The name, address, and telephone number of at least one member of the wedding party must be presented to the Pastor or a member of the Deacon body prior to any wedding events being held. Care shall be exercised to protect the Church's furnishings and all furniture must be returned to its customary place following the ceremony. The wedding party shall remove all decorations following the ceremony and extreme care must be taken to prevent candles from dripping onto the carpet and furniture. The wedding party shall be held responsible for any damages to the Church property and furnishings. Usage fees may be required of non-members and/or non-attendees of Piney Grove Baptist Church. This does not apply to Church members and regular attendees of Piney Grove Baptist Church.

**Restrictions:**

No alcoholic beverage shall be brought onto or used on the premises of Piney Grove Baptist Church. No tobacco products shall be permitted inside of the facilities of Piney Grove Baptist Church. Rice is not to be used to shower the bride and groom; however, bubbles and birdseed are acceptable. No pets other than service dogs are allowed inside the facilities of Piney Grove Baptist Church. No food or drink is permitted in the sanctuary other than

items needed to partake of the Lord's Supper. To avoid embarrassment, these prohibitions must be called to the attention of all members of the wedding party.

**Article XI: Amending Procedures**

Any adult active member may propose that these Bylaws be amended by submitting a written request to the Pastor or Deacon Body of the Church. Such a request should outline the suggested alteration and provide any necessary justification and documentation. In concert with the Pastor, the proposed change shall be reviewed by the Deacons of the Church. If all are in agreement, the appropriate changes will be prepared and submitted to the Church membership for approval. If adopted, the proposed changes will be officially incorporated into these Bylaws.

**Article XII: Audits**

Once each calendar year an audit shall be conducted of select Church procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and adherence to the provisions of these Bylaws. This may include, but not be limited to, an examination of records retention, financial controls and fund disbursement practices. Such an audit will be completed jointly by the Pastor, Deacons, Church Treasurer, and Church Clerk. Once adopted, the audit report's contents will be revealed to the membership at the annual business meeting for discussion and final approval.

### Article XIII: Affirmation

Every Pastor, Staff member, and Church member, by virtue of their membership, affirms their agreement with the Bylaws as stated above and agrees to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with them.

## **APPENDIX I**

### LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### **I. PASTOR**

A. The pastor shall be a duly licensed and ordained minister of the Southern Baptist denomination. In his personal and private life he shall be, in all sobriety and godliness, an example to the flock and shall maintain membership in the Church for the tenure his pastorate.

B. His call to the pastorate shall be for an indefinite period of time: and can be terminated by the acceptance of his resignation by the Church, or by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the church, present and voting at a special meeting called specifically for the purpose of considering such action. A quorum as defined in these Bylaws must be met for such a meeting.

C. He shall preach and teach the Word: Reproving, rebuking, and exhorting with all long suffering and doctrine. The pulpit of the Church shall be under his supervision and control during the tenure of his pastorate. It shall be his privilege to select the evangelists who shall assist in special revival services, and other ministers who shall preach on other stated occasions, with considerations to the Church's recommendations.

D. He shall serve as Moderator at all business meetings, but in his absence shall appoint the Chairman of Deacons to serve in his place.

E. The Pastor shall be ex-officio member of all Church bodies and committees and as such may call the Church together for special business meetings.

F. The Pastor shall meet the qualifications for a bishop/overseer as described in I *Timothy* 3:2-7 and *Titus* 1:6-9.-

G. He shall devote his time and energies to the interests of the Church and the spiritual well-being of its membership. He shall visit the sick, console the grieving, and encourage the downtrodden while constantly seeking to expand the Kingdom of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### **II. DEACONS**

A. The active Deacons of the Church will be men of good report who meet the following qualifications, and shall number as the Church determines and elects.

B. He must be an active member of the Church at least 21 years of age.

C. Upon his election, he must have been a member of the Church for at least one year if he transferred membership from another Church of like faith and order and was ordained as a Deacon before transferring such membership.

D. He must live a dedicated and consecrated Christian life each day in such a way as not to bring reproach upon Christ or His Church.

E. He must be cooperative with the Pastor and his Church in its spiritual program and in the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

F. He must be one who refrains from destructive criticism of his pastor and church and seeks to settle all difficulties in a quiet and Christ-like manner without hurting the cause of Christ and the Church.

G. He must be faithful in attendance to include Sunday morning and Sunday evening worship, Mid-week prayer service, Sunday School, and Discipleship Training unless providentially hindered.

H. He should tithe his income to God through the Church.

I. He must meet the qualifications for the office of Deacon as described in *1 Timothy 3:8-12*.

J. The Deacons shall have the responsibility of caring for the benevolent needs of the membership and the dispensing of funds as determined by the Church to meet such needs. They shall see that the members receive due Christian visitation and ensure that new members are properly integrated into the Church family and engaged in Christian effort. The Deacons shall elect a Chairman who shall serve in that capacity for a period of one year. As Chairman of the Deacons, he shall also serve as Vice-Moderator of the Church and will conduct Church meetings in the absence of the Pastor.

### III. COMMITTEES

A. Nominating Committee:- The nominating committee shall consist of the Officers of the Church which includes: Pastor, Chairman of the Deacon body, Church Treasurer, Church Clerk/ Secretary, WMU Director, Brotherhood Director, Children's and Youth Directors, Music Director, VBS Director. They will be confirmed by a majority vote of the membership during the annual Church's business meeting. The Nominating Committee shall remain seated for one year and shall be responsible for filling any vacancies that may occur throughout the Church calendar year as well as bringing nominations and/or recommendation for officers, teachers, and committee members to the Church for the next year. The sitting nominating committee will be dissolved upon the election of a new nominating committee at the Church's annual Business meeting.

B. Budget/ Financial Committee:- The budget and financial committee shall be made up of at least one (1) Deacon Member and two (2) elected church members and the Church Treasurer. The budget and financial committee shall prepare and submit to the Church at the annual business meeting, which will include an inclusive budget, indicating by line item all expected financial needs for the upcoming Church year. The Committee should communicate with the leadership of all other church committees and departments and receive their input on expected financial needs prior to formulating the proposed budget. The budget must then be approved by a majority vote of the membership. Any expenses occurring during the year that were not included in the approved budget must be reviewed by the budget and finance committee and presented to the Church for approval by majority vote.

**Exceptions:** The Deacons, at their discretion, may disburse approved budgeted Community Missions funds up to \$500 per family as determined by need with a report to the church membership at the next scheduled business meeting. The Building and Grounds Committee may make expenditures up to the budget limit for emergency repairs.

C. **Buildings and Grounds Committee:**- The building and grounds committee shall be composed of all active men of the church recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the membership at the annual business meeting. This committee shall work in cooperation with the Deacons, Treasurer and the budget and financial committee. As stated above, the building and grounds committee may make expenditures up to the budget limit for emergency repairs.

D. **Church Social/Hostess Committee:**- The Church Social/Hostess Committee shall be composed of all active women of the Church recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the majority vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. The Church Social/Hostess Committee shall work in conjunction with the Church Outreach/Calendar Committee in planning and preparing for schedule and special events to be held at the Church. It shall be their responsibility to promote and inform the membership of upcoming fellowship events, plan and delegate food preparation for fellowships meals, and ensure that needed paper and plastic consumables are available. This committee should also be responsible for planning bridal and baby showers/tea for members of the Church family as well as planning meals for Church families during times of sickness and bereavement.

E. **Church Outreach/Calendar Committee:**- The Church Outreach/Calendar Committee shall be composed of elected members. The make-up should consist of at least one (1) Deacon Member, with representative from each of the following: Church Treasurer, Church Clerk/Secretary, Church Social/Hostess Committee, Music Ministry, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, and Youth/Children Ministry. This committee shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the majority vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. The outreach/calendar committee should prepare and submit a tentative church calendar for the upcoming Church year by quarters to be reviewed and approved by the Pastor and the Deacon Body so that events are planned timely. The Church Clerk/Secretary will prepared and distribute monthly calendars in a timely fashion. Calendars should include but not be limited to: church-wide fellowships, holiday celebrations, Vacation Bible School, Revivals, scheduled business meetings, Children's church and Nursery assignments, Association events, and special emphasis Sundays. It should be understood that recommendations are tentative and can be adjusted by this committee as needed.

F. **Children/Youth Committees:**- The Children/Youth committees shall be composed of all elected teachers and leaders of any and all children and/or youth classes or groups. This committee shall be responsible for recommending, planning, promoting, and conducting all events for the children and youth of the Church. The Children/Youth Committees should inform the Outreach/Calendar Committee and the Church Clerk so that information may be distributed to all membership and placed on the monthly Church Calendar or in the Church bulletins as needed. It should be understood that recommendations are tentative and can be adjusted by this committee as needed.

G. **Personnel Committee:** The Deacon Body will serve as the Personnel Committee for staff positions, other than the Pastor, within the Church. The Deacons will be responsible for developing position descriptions, interviewing any potential hires, handling disciplinary issues, and will bring recommendations for hiring or dismissal to the Church membership at the next business meeting.

## Appendix II:

### **Baptist Faith and Message, A statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000.**

#### **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; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

#### **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; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff; 20:1ff; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

##### **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.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

### **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 Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

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

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

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

### **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 Savior.

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; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

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

## **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; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## **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; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21;11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

### **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; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

### **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; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

### **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; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.*

### **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 under girded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

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

### **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 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

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

### **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; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.*

### **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; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

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

#### **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; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*

#### **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; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*