

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSONVILLE

MEMBERSHIP AT FIRST



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE



Greetings!

On behalf of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, I want to welcome you. I hope you know how glad we are to have you with us, and how excited we are that you are considering joining with us as a member.

Here at First Baptist we take church membership very seriously. The reason we do that is because the Bible talks about how important it is for Christians to live their lives together with other Christians. One of the most important things about you and me, is that God did not make us to live isolated lives. Instead, God calls us to live life in the context of community. Christian community helps us fight sin, grow in grace, deal with suffering and discouragement, grow in our ability to serve, worship, and a million other things.

Our church is a family, and we are excited to have you be a part of it. We are glad you are here, and eager to see the good things the Lord will do in our lives together as we commit to live it with one another.

Rich blessings to you in Christ,

Pastor Heath.

First Baptist Church Jacksonville

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

- 1** COMPLETE MEMBERSHIP FORM
- 2** ATTEND MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- 3** PASTORAL MEETING
- 4** CONGREGATIONAL VOTE
- 5** PRESENTATION TO THE CHURCH

MISSION & VALUES

What we do:

Reaching all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life.

Who we are:

- Real love for Jesus
- Total commitment to the Bible
 - Genuine care for people
 - Serious joy in worship
- Multigenerational pursuit of godliness
 - Bold passion for our city
- Radical ambition for the nations

What we cultivate:

People who

Grow

Serve

Worship

Share

Give

Lesson 1

FOUNDATIONS

Our church is a group of people who: (1) believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, (2) commit to one another in membership, (3) gather together regularly to hear God's Word and be reminded of the gospel through Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

At First Baptist we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are four elements to this gospel:

- **God** is our Holy Creator.
 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
 - Because God is our Creator, he has the right to tell his creation how to live.
 - Because God his holy, his will for his creation is righteous, good, and kind.
- **Man** has sinned.
 - "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
 - Mankind was created to worship and glorify God, but instead disobeyed him.
 - All people are sinners – at war with God and judged by him.
- **Christ** is the Savior.
 - "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, died on the cross to take our judgment, and rose from the dead as the victorious Savior of sinners.
- **Respond** by Faith and Repentance.
 - "...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:14-15).
 - Repentance is confessing our sin to God and forsaking it in our daily life.
 - Faith is trusting that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection pays for our sin and guarantees our righteousness before God.

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

DISCUSSION:

What do you think of when you hear the word "church"?

- The church is the group of people all across the world and through all of time who have trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

- Our church a First Baptist is a local manifestation of that group committed to believing in Jesus and gathering together.

- Commitment happens through membership.
 - We commit to meeting as the church.
 - "not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25).
 - We commit to the leadership of the church.
 - "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).
 - We commit to the protection of the church.
 - At our church, we are committed to protecting one another from the destructive forces of sin
 - "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end" (Hebrews 3:12-14).

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN FIRST BAPTIST?

DISCUSSION:

What has sparked your interest in joining First Baptist?

You should join our church as a member if you want to adopt the mission of our church for your life.

- Reaching all of Jacksonville...
 - Our church is focused on reaching every corner of the city of Jacksonville with the saving message of Jesus Christ by boldly proclaiming the gospel.
 - One of the ways we do this is through planting campuses. To learn more about our multi-site ministry, see appendix 10 on our multi-site strategy.
- ...with all of Jesus...
 - We believe that Jesus Christ is the only hope for our city, and are committed to connecting every sermon, every class, every outreach event, and every relationship to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ...for all of life.
 - Our aim is to not simply add more people to our church; our aim is to make disciples of Jesus Christ from every age, background, ethnicity, culture, and vocation. And we seek to apply God's Word to every area of our own lives – our marriages, our families, our work, and every other place in our lives.

ASSIGNMENT:

Write your understanding of the gospel in your own words in appendix 7 at the back of the book.

Write out your own story of faith in appendix 8 at the back of the book.

Lesson 2

WHO WE ARE

Our values are the commitments that drive our mission and define who we are and what we do. They are the commitments that will remain unchanged even as everything changes around us.

At First Baptist Church of Jacksonville we have seven core values that make up our DNA as a church. In this session, we will briefly look at all seven.



REAL LOVE FOR JESUS

First Baptist Church is defined by a real love for Jesus.

- The identity of our church is rooted in our real love for Jesus – we exist to please him.
- Our real love for Jesus is expressed in our mission – to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life.
- “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).



TOTAL COMMITMENT TO THE BIBLE

First Baptist Church is defined by a total commitment to the Bible.

- We believe the Bible is God’s perfect and sufficient authority for our lives. God’s Word never fails and never makes a mistake. Through it, God makes us wise for salvation. And in it, he provides us everything that we need for life and godliness.
- The Bible takes center stage at our church through our commitment to expositional preaching.
- “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



GENUINE CARE FOR PEOPLE

First Baptist Church is defined by a genuine care for people.

- Because God has loved us so lavishly in Christ, we strive to share that same love with one another.
- We express our genuine care for people through ministries like biblical counseling, pastoral care, small groups, Sunday School and Life Groups.
- “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:9-13).



MULTIGENERATIONAL PURSUIT OF GODLINESS

First Baptist Church is defined by a multigenerational pursuit of godliness.

- At First Baptist you will find a diversity of generations engaged in a unified pursuit: growing in the knowledge and likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We pursue this great goal together through multigenerational worship, Sunday School, small groups, and discipleship.
- “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).



SERIOUS JOY IN WORSHIP

First Baptist Church is defined by serious joy in worship.

- Our whole church gathers together weekly to pursue serious joy in worship through our congregational worship services.
 - “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” (Colossians 3:16-17).
- Our individual members continue to pursue serious joy in worship throughout the week in every area of their personal lives
 - “Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2).



BOLD PASSION FOR OUR CITY

First Baptist Church is defined by a bold passion for our city.

- We have a bold passion to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life because of the great things that Christ has done for us.
 - “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet 2:9).
- We have a bold passion to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life because of the great need that Jacksonville has for the gospel
 - “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’ ” (Romans 10:14-15).



RADICAL AMBITION FOR THE NATIONS

First Baptist Church is defined by a radical ambition for the nations.

- We have a radical ambition to launch from the city of Jacksonville to the ends of the earth with the good news of the gospel
- We carry out this radical ambition by organizing and offering mission trips and sending and supporting missionaries.
- “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’ ” (Matthew 28:18-20).

DISCUSSION:

Which of our seven core values excites you the most? Why?

ASSIGNMENT:

Read “Our Story” in appendix 1 at the back of the book.

Read the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 in appendix 2.

Lesson 3

WHAT WE CULTIVATE

What makes the church the church is its members. The way our church will reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life is when our members are growing in love for God and one another in the context of our local church. But how will we know when that is happening? How do you measure growth?

1. PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP

The Bible teaches two ways that Christians worship God:

Corporate worship

- “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13).
- “Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Corporate worship is essential for Christians because it encourages us in our faith, protects us from sin, and strengthens our unity with other Christians.
- Corporate worship happens when God’s people gather around God’s Word. We do this by:
 - Reading God’s Word (1 Timothy 4:13).
Our services always feature God’s Word being read to the congregation.
 - Preaching God’s Word (2 Timothy 4:2).
In every worship service, we express our total commitment to the Bible by preaching sermons that explore the meaning of a Bible passage and how it impacts our lives.
 - Praying God’s Word (Acts 2:42).
We spend time in prayer each week, letting God’s Word inform our requests.
 - Singing God’s Word (Colossians 3:16).
We seek to sing songs that match the language and teaching of God’s Word.
 - Seeing God’s Word (Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).
We regularly take part in the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper and we “see” the truth of the gospel displayed in these symbolic ordinances.

All-of-life worship

- “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2).
- Our mission is to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life. This means we want each member of our church growing in their desire to glorify God in the details of their daily life.
- The Bible envisions our entire lives being lived as worship – our jobs (Colossians 3:23-24), our families (Ephesians 5:25-6:4), even our food (1 Corinthians 10:31)!

2. PEOPLE WHO GROW

The reason Christians have been saved by God is so that they would grow to look more like Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10). But how do you do that? The Bible teaches us to seek growth in two specific ways:

...through our knowledge of God and his Word.

- “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire” (2 Peter 1:3-4).
- This is not accumulating facts about God, it is transformation through personal knowledge of God.

...through Christ-centered relationships.

- “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

These are intentional relationships that are centered on God’s Word through prayer, bearing burdens, reminding each other of God’s Word, and reaching out to our neighbors together.

We want every member of our church to be growing through one of our groups.

Sunday School

- Our Sunday School classes are committed to growing together as they study the Bible and apply it to the most relevant issues of life.

Small Group Gatherings

- Across the life of our church, small groups gather together to grow in community through fellowship, Bible study, sermon discussion, accountability, and evangelism.

3. PEOPLE WHO SHARE

We believe that it is the responsibility of every Christian to be sharing the gospel of Christ with everyone they know. At First Baptist, this means we want every one of our members to:

Understand and explain the gospel.

- “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’ So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:14-15, 17).
- The only way people come to know Christ is through hearing the word of Christ through people who share it. We want every member to be confident in their ability to boldly share the gospel with their neighbors, friends, and family.
- This is why we prioritize having our members share their explanation of the gospel in our pastoral meeting in the membership process – we want you to grow in your ability to share the gospel!
- Commit to your “one.”
- “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4).
- We train our members to share the gospel through their everyday relationships. Through this training, we ask them to select their “one” who they will focus on sharing their faith with during the year.

The 7 Relational Steps

1	PRAY
2	GREET
3	KNOW
4	SERVE
5	SOCIAL INVITE
6	CHURCH INVITE
7	GOSPEL CONVERSATION

4. PEOPLE WHO GIVE

Jesus is Lord over all of life, and it is our goal to see every member of our church worshiping God with all of their life. One of the clearest ways we can demonstrate Jesus' lordship over our lives is in how we use our money because Jesus teaches that our hearts belong to whatever we treasure (Luke 6:45). How do we demonstrate that our money belongs to Jesus?

...by being faithful stewards.

- "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:21).

...by being generous.

- "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

First Baptist applies these same marks of faithfulness to money in the way money is handled at our church. We follow strict financial procedures to ensure that the money of the church is stewarded with care and generosity. This happens through:

- The approval of our budget by our members.
- The oversight of our budget by our trustees.
- The communication of our budget by monthly financial statements.
- The accountability of our budget by annual independent audits.
- The contribution of our budget to the cooperative program.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

THE CHURCH BUDGET INVESTING IN GOD'S KINGDOM

- Annual budget voted by members
- Monthly oversight by trustees
- Monthly financial statements to the church
- Annual independent audit
- Receipts accounted for weekly by member-led committee
- FBC contributes to The Cooperative Program



YOU

Give yourself first to God (II Cor. 8:5). Next, out of gratitude and obedience to God for what He has done for you, you commit to give back to Him, through your church, a portion of what He provides.



LOCAL CHURCH

The local church decides the next step. Every year your church prayerfully decides how much of its undesignated gifts will be committed to reaching people in your state and around the world through The Cooperative Program. This amount is then forwarded to your State Baptist Convention.

FLORIDA

26,445 BAPTISMS REPORTED BY FLORIDA BAPTIST CHURCHES IN 2017

DISASTER RELIEF

2 MAJOR RESPONSES 2017 • IRMA • HARVEY

3,000+
HOME ASSISTS

575,000
MEALS PREPARED

4,199
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY

MOBILE DENTAL PROJECTS | **2,198** PATIENTS TREATED
HUNGER OUTREACH | **112** CHURCHES RECEIVED HUNGER FUNDS
HEALTH CARE MINISTRIES | **29** CLINICS ACROSS FLORIDA
CHAPLAINS | **900** CHAPLAINS SERVING

NEXT GEN

24,707
COLLEGIANS IMPACTED

18
COLLEGES WITH BCM

92
PROFESSIONS OF FAITH



THE WORLD

MISSIONS & GLOBAL EVANGELISM, U.S. CHURCH PLANTING, AND MORE

NAMB

5,097 MISSIONARIES, INCLUDING CHURCH PLANTERS

280,773 BAPTISMS IN SBC

IMB

3,551 IMB MISSIONARIES

3,203 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

6 SEMINARIES

SOUTHERN, SOUTHEASTERN, MIDWESTERN,
SOUTHWESTERN, GATEWAY, AND NEW ORLEANS

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

FUNDED BY THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

SBC.NET/CP

5. PEOPLE WHO SERVE

Our assumption is that every single member of our church will serve Jesus in our local church. But that's not because we just need people to fill volunteer slots. It's because the Bible teaches that serving is one of the main ways God intends to use us in this world. We see this in two ways in the New Testament:

God's people are marked by serving.

- "It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

God's people are gifted for serving.

- "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:10-11).

DISCUSSION:

What are ways you've seen people serving at First Baptist?

There are two ways we encourage all of our members to serve at First Baptist:

Serve in our ministries.

- We need every member of our church serving in the ministries of our church.
- Examples: Nursery, children's ministry, guest services, worship and media.

Serve in your relationships.

- Every Sunday there are countless needs that only you can identify in Sunday School classes, Life Groups, and in the seat right next to you on a Sunday morning.
- We want our church members to be growing in the grace of serving one another in daily life.

What's Next?

Gather on Sunday.

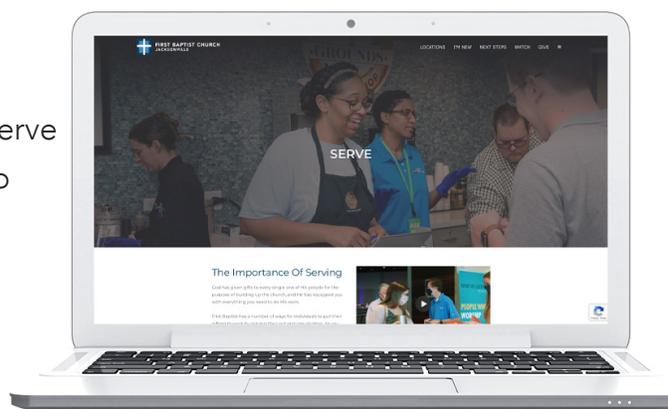
- Commit to being present in worship with the body of Christ on Sunday mornings.

Grow in a group.

- Visit the following pages on our website to explore the various groups you can connect with at our church.
 - fbcjax.com/sundayschool
 - fbcjax.com/nocatee

Get on a team.

We want every member of our church to serve the church. Explore our teams by going to www.fbcjax.com/serve (appendix 6).



ASSIGNMENT:

Visit www.fbcjax.com/serve to explore our teams and Ministry Partnerships.

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE

Make a one-time or recurring gift using our online giving form with a credit or debit card by visiting fbcjax.com/give

BY MAIL

Mail or deliver your gift to the church office at the following address:
First Baptist Church
125 W. Ashley Street
Jacksonville, FL, 32202

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Our STORY

Since our founding in 1838, First Baptist Church has existed to reach the city of Jacksonville with good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remarkably, our church's nearly two-hundred year history has been marked by an unwavering commitment to this great mission and the unchanging faithfulness of God to preserve our ability to fulfill it.

In 1902, our church's commitment to our mission was put to the test when our church's property burned to the ground by the "Great Fire" of Jacksonville. Yet the members of First Baptist Church quickly rose to the challenge, and God showed them his great faithfulness. They quickly got to work rebuilding and the cornerstone for the new sanctuary was laid in 1903. Within a year, the Hobson Auditorium was complete and to this day it remains a monument to God's mercy and favor on our church.

First Baptist Church continued to live out its mission in the city of Jacksonville until 1940, when major financial trouble fell upon it. The church had accumulated the largest debt of any church in the Southern Baptist Convention and was in serious danger of having to close its doors. But once again the members of First Baptist took a stand of faith and were met by the faithfulness of God. Led by its new pastor Dr. Homer Lindsay, Sr., the church accomplished its "debt free in 43" campaign and gained new momentum in its mission to reach the city of Jacksonville with the gospel.

This momentum continued throughout the second half of the 20th century. Under the leadership of Dr. Lindsay, Sr. and his son Homer Lindsay, Jr., First Baptist grew exponentially in attendance and in its commitment to reach the city of Jacksonville. The church developed and implemented an outreach program called Operation Andrew, which mobilized thousands upon thousands of church members to share the gospel in various

neighborhoods and regions of Jacksonville. Just in the decade between 1975 and 1985, over 11,000 people were baptized at our church upon their profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The church continued to be marked by the faithful preaching of the gospel in the first two decades of the 21st century under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Vines and Dr. Mac Brunson.

In September of 2017, First Baptist called Dr. Heath Lambert to the role of Senior Pastor after two years of serving as Associate Pastor. Under his leadership, our church has renewed its commitment to reach the city of Jacksonville with the gospel. We have expressed this commitment with a renewed relational evangelism strategy called REACH and new mission statement: “Reaching all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life.”

The nearly two-hundred-year story of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville is the story of generations of church members who are passionate about reaching the city of Jacksonville with the gospel of Jesus Christ and who have experienced God’s faithfulness time and time again along the way. This story continues today as our church strives to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life.



THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000

Find more information about the Baptist Faith and Message 2000
at <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>

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; Isaiah 53:1-12; 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 Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; 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 inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the

creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 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 Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

Genesis 3:15; 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 Saviour, 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 undergirded 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; 1Corinthians 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.

Statement from
OUR BYLAWS

Section 1 – This congregation of believers affirms the following statement of faith concerning salvation:

- a . All have sinned and stand condemned before Holy God. Romans 3:23.
- b . Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, atoned for sin through His sacrificial death on the cross and is the only means of soul salvation. John 14:6.
- c . Repentance from sin and confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the biblical requirement for one’s salvation. Matthew 4:17; Romans 10:9-13.
- d . Evidence of one’s salvation shall be obedience to Christ’s commands in Holy Scripture, including baptism by immersion following one’s confession of faith. John 14:23-24; Matthew 3:13 -17; Acts 2:41

Section 2 – Additionally, this Church affirms those statements of faith contained in the “Baptist Faith and Message”, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000 and by reference includes them in these Bylaws holding them to be true and right interpretations of scripture for guidance, teaching and practice of the Church regarding the matters they address.

Section 3 – It shall be the duty of each and every member of this Church to honor, esteem and love the Senior Pastor, to pray for him constantly, and to manifest a tender regard for his reputation.

Section 4 – It shall be the duty of each and every member of this Church to:

- (a) attend its regular meetings appointed by its authority;
- (b) cultivate personal holiness and practice family devotion;
- (c) sustain the public worship of Almighty God and the ordinances of the Gospel;
- (d) contribute to the necessary expenditures of the Church, the spread of the Gospel to all nations, and to the relief of the poor;
- (e) watch over and counsel one another in a spirit of brotherly love;
- (f) pray for each other;
- (g) aid each other in sickness and distress;
- (h) strive for the growth of the whole body of Christ in Christian knowledge and holiness; and
- (i) govern his or her actions, conversations and hearts by the precepts of The Holy Bible.

Section 5 – It shall be the duty of each and every member moving from Jacksonville, Florida, or its vicinity, to unite with another church of like faith and order.

APPENDIX 4

Our PASTORS



HEATH LAMBERT
Senior Pastor



RICHARD LUCAS
Pastor of Education



JOHN BLOUNT
*Associate Pastor
at Nocatee*



SEAN PERRON
Associate Pastor



JOHN SULLIVAN
Senior Adults Pastor



ANDREW MORRELL
*Nocatee Campus
Pastor of Discipleship*



COTY HOSKINS
Executive Pastor



TREVOR KOMATSU
Young Adults Pastor



QUANG NGUYEN
Vietnamese Pastor



SCOTT CONNELL
*Pastor of Worship
and Music*



AKIYA JOHNSON
Student Pastor



RYAN TRZECIAK
*Pastor of Counseling
and Discipleship*



SPENCER HARMON
Nocatee Campus Pastor



SETH SINGLETON
*Student Worship
Pastor*



AUSTIN COLLINS
Serve Pastor



ERNIE BAKER
*Pastor of Counseling
and Discipleship*



STEVE CLIFTON
*Pastor of Care and
Discipleship*

APPENDIX 5

Our GROUPS

At First Baptist Church we have a variety of groups that you can be involved in, from Sunday School classes to Grow Groups to Life Groups. Connecting with a group is one of the primary ways that you can grow in your relationship with Jesus and in community with others.

Go to
www.fbcjax.com/downtown
www.fbcjax.com/nocatee
to begin exploring our groups.

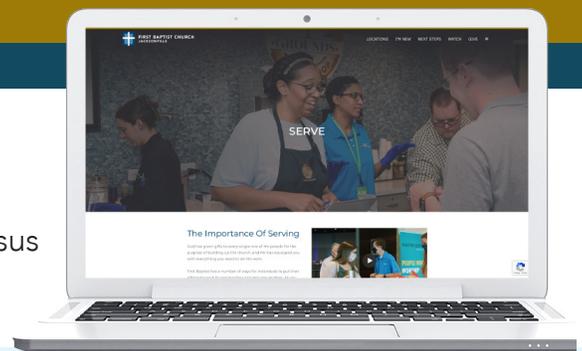


APPENDIX 6

Our TEAMS

One of the main ways we want to help our members grow is by helping them become people who serve. There are a host of opportunities for you to serve Jesus and others at our church.

Go to www.fbcjax.com/serve to begin exploring options for you to serve.



Who you were before Christ:

How you came to know Christ:

How you have changed since you trusted Christ:

In a large church, we want every member to feel welcome and known by a pastor on staff. We can't wait to meet you!

Prepare for your Pastoral Meeting by taking the following steps:

- Review the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (*Appendix 2*) and write down your questions, if any.
- Review the First Baptist Church Covenant (*Appendix 3*) and write down your questions, if any.
- Review your explanation of the gospel (*Appendix 7*)
- Review your story of faith (*Appendix 8*)
- Explore a group to connect with (*Appendix 5*)
- Find a team to serve on (*Appendix 6*)
- Write down any questions you have.

APPENDIX 10

What does it mean that **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** *is a multi-site church?*

One of the most exciting and important things for you to know about our church is that we are a multi-site church. We have provided this appendix because we want our members to fully understand what it means to be a member of a church that does multi-site ministry.

What is a multi-site church?

A multi-site church is one church that meets in different locations around the city.

We are unified in vision, philosophy, convictions, and resources, but we are seeking to reach specific areas of the city through our multiple sites.

Why a multi-site church?

We believe in going to where the people in our city are, rather than asking the people in our city to come to us. In the past, our church thrived under a model of ministry where we expected the people of Jacksonville to drive long distances to come to our large Downtown Campus. Now, it is imperative that we take the ministry of First Baptist Church to the pockets of people who live spread out across the sprawling Jacksonville area. We believe that multi-site ministry presents the best model to accomplish this mission.

We also believe we can do more with our shared resources than separately. Each of our campuses has the blessing of employing the unified resources of our church as a whole, enabling us to do more ministry in more places.

How does First Baptist Church Operate as a Multi-Site Church?

First Baptist Church Jacksonville: Reaching all of Jacksonville...

- First Baptist Church is committed to reaching all of Jacksonville through establishing campuses throughout the 904-area code.
- First Baptist Church currently has two campuses: Downtown + Nocatee.
- First Baptist Church plans to start an additional 1-2 new campuses by 2025.

First Baptist Church Jacksonville: One Church

- One church in doctrine.
 - Each campus holds to the same doctrinal convictions in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.
- One church in mission & values.
 - Our ministry staff are committed to the same biblical mission and seek to embody the same values across our campuses.
 - All our ministry is evaluated through this mission and these values.
- One church in preaching.
 - All Sunday preachers preach the same passage of Scripture with the same burden for the church, and applied to their specific campus.
- One church in constitution & bylaws.
 - Every campus operates by the same set of bylaws and standards for leadership, membership, and church business.
- One church in leadership structure.
 - Our church is led by our senior pastor and the senior staff of the church.
- One church in resources.
 - Our campuses share one budget, and other key administrative resources and staff.
- One in membership.
 - All our members go through the same membership process, and make the same commitments regardless of what campus they attend.

First Baptist Church Jacksonville: Different Locations

- Different locations.
 - We prayerfully strategize about the location of our campuses to reach people in specific areas where our members already live.
 - We select seek to establish churches where we believe there is a need for a strong, gospel-centered, and Bible-preaching church.
- Different staff teams.
 - Each campus has a specific campus pastor that oversees and leads a particular campus through vision, preaching, shepherding, and leading staff.
 - Each campus has a specific staff team dedicated to accomplishing our mission in each campus's particular context.
- Different styles.
 - Although each campus is unified in mission and values, it seeks to accomplish that mission and embody those values in a way that matches the context of its ministry.
 - Buildings, music style, and outreach strategy will vary by campus all while committed to the same mission, values, and convictions.
- Different service opportunities.
 - The ministries of each campus reflect the needs of each campus and the community it is seeking to reach.
 - One campus might have opportunities to serve in a sports ministry, while another campus operates a clothing closet, while another campus hosts an ESL ministry.

The Ongoing Reality of Sin

Christians do not claim to be sinless. In fact, true faith is one that recognizes imperfection by asking forgiveness and repenting of sin. As Christians, we should fight to become more holy (1 John 3:3), but we understand that we will continue to sin until we see Christ (1 John 3:2). We are not marked by our perfection, but our repentance. Until we see Jesus, sin will be an ongoing reality in our lives.

The Need to Help One Another

This is where the church comes in. One reason Jesus founded the church is to help Christians fight against sin together. The Christian life is one long walk on the narrow road, headed toward the golden shore. The church is here so that we can help one another stay on the path and avoid the paths that lead to destruction.

The Ways We Protect One Another

There are two ways that the church protects itself against sin.

Formative Protection

The first is called formative protection. This comes through the teaching and preaching ministry of the church, which aims to “present everyone mature in Christ” through biblical teaching and warning (Colossians 1:28). Parents protect their children from harm by warning them of danger and teaching them what is wise and unwise. Similarly, this kind of formative protection trains Christians so that they might glorify God with their lives.

Restorative Protection

The other is restorative protection. Jesus gave instructions for how this works in Matthew 18:15–20, where he outlined a three-step process. You’ll notice that the first step is something that happens between Christians all the time:

1. Jesus said, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” This is simply a conversation between two people, where one helps the other to see his sin, trying to protect him from sin’s effects, and the relationship is restored. If the one who has sinned refuses to acknowledge his sin, though, Jesus says there’s another way to handle it:

2. "If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses." Again, the hope is that the brother in sin will respond in repentance and be restored to his brother. If he still refuses to repent, Jesus gives a final step in the process:

3. "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." In a case where someone refuses to acknowledge his sin, the church is to protect itself from sin by removing that person from their midst (1 Corinthians 5:2, 12–13).

4. One reason Jesus gave these instructions is because it is important for the church to be a true reflection of what it is: the pure bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25–27) and a holy people (1 Peter 2:9–10). Allowing blatant and unrepentant sin to remain doesn't represent what Christ intends for the church. The Apostle Paul also warned against the effects of letting this kind of sin remain when he said, "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" (Galatians 5:9).

Christians do not claim to be sinless. In fact, true faith is one that recognizes imperfection by asking forgiveness and repenting of sin.



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At First Baptist Church we are committed to the Word of God and to helping people who struggle with counseling problems.

That is why we are committed to biblical counseling. The Grace Center for Biblical Counseling exists to do this important work. We want to help struggling people know how to implement Christ's solutions for life's problems.

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