

Christ-Centered Fellowship, Inc.

Articles of Faith

The Church accepts the Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired

2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21

The Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Section 2. The Trinity

Matthew 28:19, John 14:16-17, Luke 1:35, 1 Corinthians 1:24, Matthew 11:25-27,

Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 1:3-4

There is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

Section 3. God the Father

God the Father, and infinite, personal, spirit perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayers; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Section 4. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:23, Hebrews 7:26, 1 Corinthians 15:3, Acts 1:9

Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

Section 5. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, unrighteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is and abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

Section 6. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 1:8, Acts 10:44-45, John 7:37-39, 1 Cor. 12-14

Section 7. The Salvation of Man

Luke 24:47, John 3:3, Romans 10:9-10, Romans 10:13-15, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 2:11

All men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins, trust and remain in Jesus Christ as Savior are saved from eternal damnation.

Section 8. The Ordinances of the Church

Baptism in Water; Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47,48, Romans 6:4

Holy Communion; 2 Peter 1:4, 1 Corinthians 11:26

The universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the member of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Section 9. Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Section 10. Divine Healing

Isaiah 53:4,5, Matthew 8:16,17, James 5:14-16

Section 11. The Church.

Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven.

Section 12. Total Prosperity.

- (a) Spiritual. John 3:3, 11; II Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10.
- (b) Mental. II Tim. 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3.
- (c) Physical. Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:17; I Peter 2:24.
- (d) Financial. III John 1:2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Cor. 9:6-10; Deut. 28:1-14.
- (e) Social. Proverbs 3:4.

Section 11. Blessed Hope.

I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:16-17; and II Thess. 2:1

Jesus is coming again to gather all His Saints to Heaven

Section 12. The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:26, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8

Section 13. The Lake of Fire.

Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15

Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the Godhead. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Section 14. The New Heavens and the New Earth

2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21, Revelation 2

The personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal happiness of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Section 15. Christian Life; Scriptural Conduct.

(a) **Personal Ethics.** "I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but some of these things aren't good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I'll refuse to if I think they might get such a grip on me that I can't easily stop when I want to" (I Cor. 6:12 LB). "We can always 'prove' that we are right, but is the Lord convinced?" (Proverbs 16:2 LB) "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you" (I Thessalonians 5:12).

(b) **Obedience to Law.** "Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow" (Romans 13:1-2 LB). "Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you. Pay everyone whatever he ought to have; pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due. Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others - never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God's laws, fulfilling all his requirements. Another reason for right living in this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:5-8, 11).

(c) **Family; Household.** "Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you" (Exodus 20:12). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5) "Their wives must be thoughtful, not

heavy drinkers, not gossipers, but faithful in everything they do" (I Timothy 3:11 LB). "The men you choose must be well thought of for their good lives; they must have only one wife and their children must love the Lord and not have a reputation for being wild or disobedient to their parents. These elders must be men of blameless lives because they are God's ministers. They must not be proud or impatient; they must not be drunkards or fighters or greedy for money" (Titus 1:6-7 LB). "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:2-4). "You wives must submit to your husbands' leadership in the same way you submit to the Lord. For a husband is in charge of his wife in the same way Christ is in charge of his body the Church. (He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!) So you wives must willingly obey your husbands in everything, just as the Church obeys Christ. And you husbands, how the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word: so that he could give her to himself as a glorious Church without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault. That is how husbands should treat their wives, loving them as parts of themselves. For since a man and his wife are now one, a man is really doing himself a favor and loving himself when he loves his wife. No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body the Church, of which we are parts. (That the husband and wife are one body is proved by the Scripture which says, "A Man must leave his father and mother when he marries, so the two shall be one.") So again, I say, a man must love his wife as a part of himself: and the wife must see to it that she deeply respects her husband - obeying, praising and honoring him. Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you. Honor your father and mother. This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: that if you honor your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice" (Ephesians 5:22-31, 33-6:4 LB).

(d) **Control.** "...For a man is a slave to whatever controls him" (II Peter 2:19 LB). "Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for we must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others - of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord" (Romans 15:2-3 LB).

(e) **Adultery; Immorality.** "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). "...try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns" (II Peter 2:14 LB). "You shall not commit adultery. But I say: Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28 LB). "...Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom ..." (I Cor. 6:9 LB). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (I Cor. 5:11 LB).

(f) **Drunkenness; Drugs.** "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and won't obey; he is a worthless drunkard. Then the men of the city shall stone him to death. In this way you shall put away this evil from among you, and all the young men will hear about what happened and will be afraid" (Deuteronomy 21:20-21 LB). "...envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21 LB). "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:10 LB). "Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him" (Ephesians 5:18 LB). "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags" (Proverbs 23:21).

(g) **Smoking.** "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple are ye" (I Cor. 3:16-17). "Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that He lives within you? Your body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because He owns it" (I Cor. 6:19).

(h) **Homosexuality.** "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "...God let go of them and let them do all these evil things, so that even their women turned against God's natural plan for them and indulged in sex sin with each other. And the men, instead of having a normal sex relationship with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing shameful things with other men and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the penalty they so richly deserved. So it was that

when they have God up and would not even acknowledge him, God gave them up to doing everything their evil minds could think of. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness and sin" (Romans 1:26-29). "Don't you know that those doing such things have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshippers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom..." (I Cor. 6:9-10).

(i) ***Sexuality and Marriage***

Christ Centered Fellowship, Inc. believes in the sanctity of the marital union as described in Scripture:

- a. God created the first marriage as a sacred covenant relationship between one man and one woman for the purposes of procreation, companionship, and dominion over creation, in keeping with the covenant relationship God himself established with his own creation (Genesis 2:15-24; Romans 1:16-32); and
- b. Jesus blessed a marriage celebration between a man and a woman with his presence and his first public miracle, thereby affirming the traditional definition of marriage as a cornerstone of every culture and community (John 2:1-11); and further that he advised those who are for congenital or psychological reasons unable to enter into marriage (i.e. between a man and a woman) to remain single and therefore celibate (Matthew 19:4-12); and
- c. The church historically has embraced this traditional definition of marriage, eschewing all other unions as unnatural, inappropriate, and anti-social, and has advocated the family unit of husband and wife and their children as the chief building block of society (Leviticus 18:22- 30; Psalm 127:3-5; Romans 1:16-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Hebrews 13:4).

Christ Centered Fellowship, Inc. adheres to the belief that marriage is defined Biblically and theologically in God's own terms rather than man-made terms; and further this church intentionally adheres to the highest standards for marriage, namely Biblical standards, and that other legal definitions and court actions are secondary to Biblical mandate.

This Church affirms that all marriage ceremonies performed in the name of this church and any related celebrations or activities allowed in its facilities shall be for unions that meet the standards named in this church constitution, and further, that church ministers and staff engage only in marriage ceremonies in keeping with this church's adopted Biblical and theological definition of marriage.