

# Calvary Fellowship

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## Mission, Doctrine And Other Essential Convictions

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Our Mission, Doctrine and Other Essential Convictions

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Encouraging People to Discover  
the Joy and Satisfaction  
of a Life Devoted to Jesus Christ.

## Mission

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To encourage people to discover the joy and satisfaction of a life devoted to Jesus Christ

## Distinctives

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Many Christians who are aware of what is taking place in the church of America today understand that it is in great need of reform. The glory of God is at stake. Much of what has been labeled Christianity has a distorted, shallow understanding of the gospel and this has greatly affected the minds of people.

Now, there are many elements that make up a healthy church and certainly we make no claim to have a handle on all of them but we do hold to certain biblical truth that we believe is lacking and is needed desperately in the church today.

### **EXPOSITORY PREACHING**

Everything we do must start here. People must be fed the Word of God in order for it to have an effect on their mind, their heart, and their life. This comes through the event and the practice of preaching. Preaching should be the priority in the church and is to be held in high esteem. What God has to say to man is more important than anything else we do when we come together as a church. Furthermore, not just any approach to preaching will do. God's people need preaching that communicates His revealed truth. In expository preaching the preacher must give the people what the Lord has proclaimed and not his own opinions or preferences. Therefore when the preacher takes a congregation through books of the Bible, the congregation gets the text as it was written, has the purpose of the text explained to them, and they actually learn the Bible. This is also beneficial to the preacher because as he presents the text in an expository fashion he submits himself to God's Word and is forced to interact with the scripture text in ways that he might not otherwise and therefore he too learns from the text rather than trying to make the text say what he wants it to say.

## **DOCTRINES OF GRACE**

The doctrines of grace are the dividing point of theology. The truths found in the doctrines of grace however, bring God more glory than any other strand of theology. (Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Definite Atonement, Conquering Call of Grace, Preserving Grace)

Ligon Duncan has said this concerning the doctrines of grace and sovereignty of God “The doctrines of grace and sovereignty of God are joy giving, life changing, Christ exalting, God glorifying, missions motivating, evangelism encouraging and discipleship promoting truths.”

The doctrines of grace keep sinful man in his rightful place before a holy and sovereign God. An understanding of God’s sovereignty in the world and in our salvation, changes our view of self and of the world. These truths have been loved by many whom we respect from the past and God has graciously used them in the lives of countless saints to comfort them and bring glory to His name.

## **BIBLICAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

The New Testament pattern for church leadership is as follows 1) Pastors/Elders 2) Deacons 3) Congregation. The men who are to lead the church are pastors (pastor and elder are interchangeable terms) who meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3. But this doesn’t necessarily mean that they are all gifted in preaching (I Timothy 5:17). These men are given the responsibility of shepherding the flock of God. They are servants but they are overseeing servants.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY AND MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP**

We believe that membership in the local church should mean something. Membership in a biblical church is reserved for repentant sinners who have professed Christ as Savior and follow His command to be baptized. Those joining the church should be able to agree with the church’s doctrinal position. This is for the health of new members and established members of the church. Church members are to be accountable to one another. We are to give, we are to love, we are to learn and submit and we are to assemble on a regular basis. The members of a local church are accountable to one another and should be willing, if occasion requires, to rebuke in love and or submit to the discipline of the church. As a church we should pray that God would help us to have both the courage and love to hold one another accountable for our own good and God’s glory.

## **COMMITMENT TO MISSIONS & A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF EVANGELISM**

Christ commissioned the church to go to the ends of the earth with the gospel. The church should have a global view concerning the gospel and Christ’s kingdom. Therefore it should be involved in sending and supporting missionaries. Likewise, evangelism should overflow in the members daily lives. It should be a way of life. God is the One who must save, but we are the means that He uses to bring sinners to repentance. We understand that our responsibility is not to save souls but to give the saving message, knowing that God must grant repentance. Our Biblical

soteriology should in no way hinder our evangelism or dull a passion for it, knowing rather that Christ will gather His sheep to Himself and that around His throne will be those He redeemed from every tribe, language, people and nation. Our passion and confidence in evangelism should increase because we know missions is a plan that cannot fail.

## **GOD CENTERED GOSPEL AND WORSHIP**

We must never turn away from the message of the gospel to a message of self improvement and success. It is our conviction that the gospel shatters self esteem. The gospel pulls the rug of self reliance out from under our feet and causes us to cast ourselves upon the mercy of God. The cross was not designed to make much of man but to reveal man's corruption. To reconcile the world to Himself, God in love had to offer up His own Son and that does not show the worth of man but the depravity of man. As a consequence of the gospel being watered down worship has followed. If the gospel is man centered then worship will be as well. But, if God's people understand their own inability and radical hostility toward God, it will cause us to see our need of His grace and to better appreciate His love through the cross. We believe that worship is to be weighty and not centered around the sinner but the Savior. If the gospel remains God centered then He will be glorified, man will be abased and it will cause us to lose our reliance on self righteousness and cling wholly and only to the cross of Christ where our righteousness alone can be found.

## **LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF OUR MINDS**

Many believers today say that they are right about their beliefs but many cannot tell you why they are right. It is our desire that people know what they believe and why they believe it. We desire for church to be a time of serious contemplation over God's truth. Church is not to be entertaining or amusing but it is to be a place where our minds are engaged and centered around what is being seen, heard or felt. When we sing we should think about the meaning of the words. When we pray we should think about what we are saying. When we hear God's Word expounded we should carefully consider what is being said and compare it with what we know to be the whole of scripture. This will help us when false doctrine makes an attempt to infiltrate our lives. And it will help us to bring modern philosophies and heresies to a logical and biblical conclusion. Thinking Christians will not be quickly swept away by winds of false teaching and their minds will be fixed upon the solid ground of truth in a culture that is opposed to truth.

## **LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEARTS**

The Bible does not attempt to only reform our outward man. Our outer appearance can look the part of a Christian but at the same time our hearts can be full of evil, idolatry and lust. We believe that the scriptures, the apostles and the Lord Jesus Himself dealt with the heart. God is concerned about our motives. We desire therefore true Christianity in the inner man and not legalistic hypocritical Christianity that doesn't reach further than the outer appearance.

## **REPRODUCTION**

Our hope is to see people have a passion for God's glory and the souls of men. Therefore our desire is to make disciples who will be willing to forsake the temporal things of this world as

necessary to do kingdom work and proclaim the gospel to those who haven't heard it. In addition, we desire to see believers be consumed with a burden to see purity in the American church through church plants and in churches that are established. Furthermore we know that God has given us a promise that He will go with us as we carry the gospel and we pray that many will go for the glory of God.

## **THE FIVE SOLAS AND THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE**

In the 16th century God performed a work in Europe that changed the entire world. We refer to it today as the Protestant Reformation. While we admittedly do not hold to all of the teachings of the reformers there are two main headings of *reformed theology* that we firmly believe. Namely the Five Solas of the Reformation and the Doctrines of Grace.

### ***THE FIVE SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION***

*The Five Solas are a reference to five Latin phrases that describe the basic theological beliefs of the reformers. The Latin "Sola" means only or alone.*

#### ***Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)***

We believe that the Bible is God breathed and that it is our sole authority for faith and practice. Scriptures are not under the judgment of the church, or tradition, but the church is under the judgment of the scripture. Our doctrine is received only from God's completed revelation to man.

#### ***Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)***

We believe that salvation is all of grace. The only thing man contributes in his salvation is his sin. Salvation is of the Lord and it is by His unmerited favor that man is redeemed.

#### ***Solo Fide (Faith Alone)***

Man receives eternal life by grace but it is through faith alone and not by works. Faith is what links man to God's redemptive plan and it is through faith that man is declared just by God the Father.

#### ***Solo Christo (Christ Alone)***

Faith must have an object and the object of saving faith is Jesus Christ. To be saved a man's faith must be in Christ alone and in His finished work on the cross where He bore the wrath of God for our sins and in His victorious resurrection verified His work. Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man and His righteousness is the only righteousness God will accept. Faith must be in Christ alone.

## ***Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)***

We are created for God's glory and whatever we do, whether eating, drinking or whatever it may be, should be for the glory of God. In God's grace man has no room to boast. Salvation is of the Lord and because of this God alone gets the glory for delivering sinners from wrath.

## **THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE**

*The issue of God's sovereignty in salvation has been identified as the continental divide of theology. The Bible teaches with no question that God is the author of salvation and that God is the One who completes it from beginning to end. These precious truths have been systemized into five main headings.*

### ***Total Depravity***

Man, inheriting the guilt, sin and nature of Adam, are sinners alienated from God and spiritually dead. Man's entire being, mind, emotions and will, are corrupted by sin. Natural man has a flawed understanding of good and will not seek after the true God. Although man may be restrained by God's common grace and is not as bad as he could be, he is as bad off as he can be, because of his condition, and desperately needs God to intervene if he will be saved from wrath.

### ***Unconditional Election***

The Bible says that those who believe were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. The church is God's elect and this term is used of believers throughout the New Testament. God's choice was by sovereign grace and not based upon any foreseen merit or choice in man, making election unconditional.

### ***Definite Atonement***

We believe that when Christ died He purchased everything necessary for the salvation of those placed in Him before the creation of the world. The salvation of all who would believe was secured by the work of Christ. Therefore when we speak of what Christ actually did, the Bible speaks in definite terms. His death did not merely make salvation possible, but made it sure for those He intended to redeem, who will be around His throne from every tribe, kindred, language and nation.

### ***Conquering Call of Grace***

Those whom Christ redeemed, God calls to faith. This call goes beyond a general outward call but it is an inward call where God calls the sinner to believe in Christ. His work on the heart of man causes man to repent and believe the gospel. This call is effective upon all those given to Christ by the Father and conquers all resistance the

sinner has against a holy God. All who God calls with conquering grace come to faith in Christ.

***Preserving Grace***

Those who experience a true conversion are kept by the power of God through faith. God keeps them persevering in the faith and from ultimately falling away. Eternal life is given to them and no one has the power to take this away because it has been given graciously by God. God causes all things both good and bad to work for the good of those who are His own and will one day finish His work of conforming them to the image of Jesus Christ.

## **Integrity**

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### **Integrity in Ministry**

At Calvary Fellowship we recognize the manner in which we pursue our mission is as important as the mission itself. With that in mind it is our desire to glorify God through behavior that loves and respects people, as well as honors and exalts the Lord.

### **Personal Character**

Demonstrating the will to do what is right as defined by God, regardless of the personal cost.

### **Respect for Others**

Creating an atmosphere where each person is treated honorably, with respect and has an opportunity to contribute and thrive.

### **Excellence in Our Endeavors**

Reflecting the excellence of the Lord in all of our pursuits.

### **Accountability in Our Relationships**

Living a life that is characterized by truthfulness, honesty, vulnerability, integrity, and teachability.

### **Glory to God**

Recognizing that without faith it is impossible to please God we determine to live by faith trusting the Lord with our finances, abilities, and our future.



Encouraging People to Discover  
the Joy and Satisfaction  
of a Life Devoted to Jesus Christ.

## Statement of Faith

From the time of the Apostles to today, Christians have laid out doctrine (beliefs) in brief, definitive statements. As those who know God, we believe it necessary to set forth in a concise fashion the cornerstone truths of our church as guided by Scripture. Our Statement of Faith summarizes essential Christian beliefs, shows unity in Christ, and guards the church from error.

All who join Calvary Fellowship are required to affirm the Calvary Fellowship Statement of Faith, the New Hampshire Confession of Faith from 1833. Once we as members agree to the statement, we are responsible for believing and living in accordance with it.

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## We Declare

### Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction (1); that it has God for its author, salvation for its end (2), and truth without any mixture of error for its matter (3); that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us (4); and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union (5), and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (6).

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 3:21; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psa. 119:11; Rom. 3:1-2

2. 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39

3. Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 3:4

4. Rom. 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Cor. 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47-48

5. Phil. 3:16; Eph. 4:3-6; Phil. 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:11

6. 1 John 4:1; Isa. 8:20; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:6; Jude 3:5; Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:59-60; Phil. 1:9-11

## **Of the True God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth (7); inexpressibly glorious in holiness (8), and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love (9); that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (10); equal in every divine perfection (11), and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (12).

- 7. John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10
- 8. Exod. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8
- 9. Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13
- 10. Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7
- 11. John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6
- 12. Eph. 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5; comp. 2, 7

## **Of the Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker (13); but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state (14); in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners (15), not by constraint, but choice (16); being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin (17), without defense or excuse (18).

- 13. Gen. 1:27, 31; Eccl. 7:29; Acts 16:26; Gen. 2:16
- 14. Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12
- 15. Rom. 5:19; John 3:6; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7
- 16. Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18
- 17. Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18, 32; 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10; Matt. 20:15
- 18. Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; 3:19; Gal. 3:22

## **Of the Way of Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (19), through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God (20); who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin (21); honored the divine law by his personal obedience (22), and by his death made a full atonement for our sins (23); that having risen from the death, he is now enthroned in heaven (24); and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour (25).

- 19. Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11
- 20. John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24
- 21. Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14; 2 Cor. 5:21
- 22. Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21
- 23. Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15
- 24. Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4
- 25. Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psa. 89:19; Psa. 14

## **Of Justification**

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ (26) secures to such as believe in him is Justification (27); that Justification includes the pardon of sin (28), and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness (29); that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood (30); by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God (31); that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity (32).

26. John 1:16; Eph. 3:8

27. Acts 13:39; Isa. 3:11-12; Rom. 8:1

28. Rom. 5:9; Zech. 13:1; Matt. 9:6; Acts 10:43

29. Rom. 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Rom. 5:21

30. Rom. 4:4-5; 5:21; 6:28; Phil. 3:7-9

31. Rom. 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12

32. Rom. 5:1-3, 11; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 4:8

## **Of the Freeness of Salvation**

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel (33); that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith (34); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel (35); which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (36).

33. Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17

34. Rom. 16:26; Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:15-17

35. John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Prov. 1:24; Acts 13:46

36. John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thess. 1:8

## **Of Grace in Regeneration**

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again (37); that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind (38); that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth (39), so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel (40); and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life (41).

37. John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:14; Rev. 8:7-9; 21:27

38. 2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; 5:5; 1 John 4:7

39. John 3:8; 1:13; James 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 2:13

40. 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11

41. Eph. 5:9; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 John 5:4, 18

## Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God (42); whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ (43), we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy (44); at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour (45).

42. Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:1

43. John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-31

44. Luke 18:13; 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:11; Rom. 10:12-13; Psa. 51

45. Rom. 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 4:14; Psa. 2:6; Heb. 1:8; 8:25; 2 Tim. 1:12

## Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners (46); that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end (47); that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable (48); that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy (49); that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree (50); that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel (51); that it is the foundation of Christian assurance (52); and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence (53).

46. 2 Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:15; 1 John 4:19; Hos. 12:9

47. 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matt. 20:16; Acts 15:14

48. Exod. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:32-36

49. 1 Cor. 4:7; 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; 4:16; Col. 3:12; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:10; 1 Pet. 5:10; Acts 1:24; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:12

50. 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; 2 Pet. 1:10

51. 1 Thess. 1:4-10

52. Rom. 8:28-30; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29

53. 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11

## Of Sanctification

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness (54); that it is a progressive work (55); that it is begun in regeneration (56); and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means--especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer (57).

54. 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; 13:9; Eph. 1:4

55. Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 3:12-16

56. John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14

57. Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; 9:23; Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; 4:30

## **Of the Perseverance of Saints**

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end (58); that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors (59); that a special Providence watches over their welfare (60); and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (61).

58. John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18

59. 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9

60. Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12

61. Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4

## **Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel**

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government (62); that it is holy, just, and good (63); and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin (64); to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church (65).

62. Rom. 3:31; Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:20; 4:15

63. Rom. 7:12, 7, 14, 22; Gal. 3:21; Psa. 119

64. Rom. 8:7-8; Josh. 24:19; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44

65. Rom. 8:2, 4; 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20-21; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 12:28

## **Of a Gospel Church**

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers (66), associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel (67); observing the ordinances of Christ (68); governed by his laws (69), and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his Word (70); that its only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons (71), whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

66. 1 Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:31; 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:23; 3 John 9; 1 Tim. 3:5

67. Acts 2:41-42; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 5:12-13

68. 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:6; 2 Cor. 2:7; 1 Cor. 4:17

69. Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thess. 4:2; 2 John 6; Gal. 6:2; all the Epistles

70. Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 12:14

71. Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1

## **Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer (72), into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost (73); to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (74); that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation; and to the Lord's Supper (75), in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to

commemorate together the dying love of Christ (76); preceded always by solemn self-examination (77).

72. Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:32-34; 18:8  
73. Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:27-28  
74. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16  
75. Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts and Epistles  
76. 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20  
77. 1 Cor. 11:28; 5:1, 8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71

## **Of the Christian Sabbath**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath (78); and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes (79), by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations (80); by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private (81) and public (82); and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God (83).

78. Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 16:1-2  
79. Exod. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Psa. 118:24  
80. Isa. 58:13-14; 56:2-8  
81. Psa. 119:15  
82. Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Exod. 46:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2, 3; Psa. 26:8; 87:3  
83. Heb. 4:3-11

## **Of Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society (84); and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed (85); except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (86) who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth (87).

84. Rom. 13:1-7; Deut. 16:18; 1 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:23; Jer. 30:21  
85. Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-8  
86. Acts 5:29; Matt. 10:28; Dan. 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20  
87. Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Psa. 72:11; Psa. 2; Rom. 14:9-13

## **Of the Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (88); that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem (89); while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse (90); and this distinction holds among men both in and after death (91).

88. Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 6:16  
89. Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; 1 Cor. 11:32; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18  
90. 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa. 55:6-7  
91. Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Prov. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14

## Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching (92); that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven (93), and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution (94); that a solemn separation will then take place (95); that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy (96); and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness (97).

92. 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:3-13

93. Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11

94. Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42

95. Matt. 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33

96. Matt. 25:35-41; Rev. 22:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7; Phil. 3:19; Rom. 6:32; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Cor. 4:18

97. Rom. 3:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; Heb. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev. 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17

*In addition to the New Hampshire Confession of Faith, we declare the following about family and missions.*

## Of 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.

## **Of Missions**

Realizing that the cause of Christ extends beyond anyone local fellowship, we commit ourselves to an ongoing ministry of extending the call of Christ to make disciples around the world.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8