



STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION

By God's grace it is our goal to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. We endeavor to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness.

<p>1.) We recognize Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation.</p>	<p><i>Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.</i> <i>John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.</i></p>
<p>2.) We accept the Bible as the authoritative Word of God for our faith and practice, and believe that all Scripture is given by direct inspiration of God, inerrant and completely sufficient for victorious Christian living.</p>	<p><i>2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.</i> <i>2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.</i> <i>1 Thes 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.</i></p>
<p>3.) We believe that cultivating a personal devotional life by regular prayer and meditation on God through the Word is essential in spiritual growth.</p>	<p><i>Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.</i> <i>Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.</i></p>
<p>4.) We will take seriously Jesus' great commission by our daily words and actions. We will, individually and corporately, endeavor to use our resources to evangelize and disciple all people. We will witness to those around us of God's saving and empowering grace.</p>	<p><i>Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.</i> <i>Act 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."</i></p>
<p>5.) We desire to live according to Jesus' teaching of love, peace, and reconciliation in all our relationships. We purpose to give only good reports about others. If a good report cannot be given, we will follow Matt. 18 in the spirit of restoring, rather than exposing. When offenses or disputes arise within the brotherhood, we will seek to resolve them through mediation and arbitration within the brotherhood.</p>	<p><i>John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.</i> <i>Rom 12:9-10 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;</i> <i>Matt 18:15-17 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.</i> <i>Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,</i> <i>See also: 1 Cor 6:1-8, Col 3:12-16</i></p>

<p>6.) We recognize the need for fellowship and accountability; therefore we will faithfully support our congregational life by participating in our worship services and ministry opportunities.</p>	<p><i>Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.</i></p>
<p>7.) We recognize the things we possess (time, gifts, finances, etc.) are a trust from God committed to us as His stewards. Therefore, we will use them responsibly by contributing to the needs of our congregation and furthering the Kingdom of God.</p>	<p><i>2 Cor. 9:6-8 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.</i></p>
<p>8.) We believe that marriage, both Christian and non-Christian, is a lifetime covenant between one man and one woman, and is recognized by God as a permanent, sacred bond terminated only by death. Remarriage according to the Word of God, while the companion is still living, is adultery.</p>	<p><i>Luke 16:18 "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery." Mal 2:16 "For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."</i></p>
<p>9.) We believe that any sexual relationship outside the marriage bond is a sin. Anyone involved in fornication, adultery, or homosexuality needs to repent of their sin to maintain fellowship with the body of Christ.</p>	<p><i>Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 1 Cor 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.</i></p>
<p>10.) We believe that the husband should diligently fulfill his role as a leader in the home, following the example of Christ in all relationships, loving his wife, and providing for the needs of his family by God's grace. We believe the wife should also fulfill her Biblical role toward her husband.</p>	<p><i>Col 3:18-19 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. See also: Ephesians 5:22-33</i></p>
<p>11.) We believe that God created men and women in His image, equal in value, yet with distinct roles in the church family. Men have been given a primary leadership role; women are especially fitted for nurture and service. This order was established by God at the time of Creation. Leadership positions such as pastoral and leadership teams, worship leaders, and teaching positions in adult mixed classes would be reserved for men.</p>	<p><i>1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1Tim 2:8-12 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.</i></p>

<p>We believe in God's order of headship and accept its' symbols as valid for our day. Christian men are to have short hair and not have their heads covered when praying or</p> <p>12.) prophesying. Christian women are to have their hair long and heads covered when praying or prophesying. For the sake of consistency, we believe that each of us are responsible to practice these symbols daily.</p>	<p><i>1 Corinthians 11:1-16</i></p>
<p>We believe it is the will of God for His children to demonstrate Christ's love that holds all human life sacred. Therefore, participation in the military, euthanasia, abortion, retaliation, revenge, and prejudice are forbidden for the believers.</p> <p>13.)</p>	<p><i>Psalms 139:13-16 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.</i></p> <p><i>Rom 12:17-21 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.</i></p> <p><i>See also: James 2:8-9</i></p>
<p>We desire that our outward appearance not hinder our testimony for Jesus, and that it give a reflection of what is in our hearts. Our goal in our choices of dress is to reflect modesty and godliness. We endeavor to bring glory to God, and will be intentional about not allowing our dress to deter from that. We believe this principle applies to both men and women. We discourage the wearing of jewelry other than a wedding band.</p> <p>14.)</p>	<p><i>1 Peter 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.</i></p> <p><i>1 Tim 2:9-10 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.</i></p> <p><i>Deut 22:5 A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.</i></p>
<p>We believe that as Christians our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We will seek to honor Him in activities that build a wholesome body, character, and thought life. We will avoid activities and habits that hinder our relationship with Christ and testimony for Him.</p> <p>15.)</p>	<p><i>1 Cor 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.</i></p> <p><i>1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.</i></p> <p><i>Psalms 101:3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.</i></p> <p><i>1 Thess 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.</i></p> <p><i>See also: Romans 13:11-14, Gal 5:19-23a, Col 3:17</i></p>