



# **FAMILY LIFE**

## **CHURCHES & MISSIONS**

### **Statement of Faith & Beliefs**

**We believe:**

**The Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God.**

**We believe**

**There is one eternal, almighty and perfect God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**We believe**

**In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.**

**We believe**

that for the salvation of humanity, the lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential.

We believe In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe

In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of death and condemnation.

We believe

In the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ and our call as believers to make disciples of Jesus with all our time, talents, and treasure until we meet him face to face by death or upon His return

#### **Believe/ Statements of Faith**

( Not needed to be posted online but in our bylaws )We believe

God created marriage. It is a covenant made between one man and one woman that makes them one (Gen 2: 22, 24; Matt 19: 5-6).

We believe

Divine healing. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is the privilege of all believers (Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17; Mark 16:18; John 5:14).

We believe

In loving thy neighbor. Loving our neighbor, does not constitute the changing of scripture of its definition of love, but we aim to always love those Christ loves.

#### **Bylaws**

##### **Preamble Declaration:**

United by the grace of God in Christian experience and doctrinal belief, the members of this local church recognize Jesus Christ as Lord, Lawgiver, and the only savior of our faith. The Bible is the inspired word of God, and we agree to accept it as our rule of faith and practice. We believe that nothing should be added or subtracted from the Bible as it is the infallible word of God.

We declare that it is Christ who builds His church. We declare we are a resource for people to encounter Jesus, reflect His love, submit to His Lordship, follow in his ways,

and to answer the call to make disciples. We as a church commit to encouraging others to become members of Christ universal family, to be involved in the local church, and encourage continual

Christ-like maturity that result into being conformed into the image of Christ and displaying His victory. We commit to equipping the saints for the work of the ministry to glorify God, and to help accomplish their personal ministry in both the local church and their life through their sphere of influence as they are on mission in the world. We hereby establish and adopt this document as our Constitution and Bylaws.

The Constitution section describes a picture of the church, its appearance, including its mission, statement of faith, affiliations and leadership methodology. The Bylaws section describes an operational guide for the church, its governance, including its structure, operating principles, membership, leadership, manner of acting, and processes and procedures by which the church ensures the best possible environment in which to accomplish its God-given mission and biblical Mandate. The liberties of each church member and principles of our faith will be preserved. We will be governed in an orderly manner. Our freedom of action in relation to other churches will be recognized. The Constitution and Bylaws become effective as of the date of adoption by this church.

#### **Scriptural Basis:**

**Matthew 28:18-20 ESV**

**18 And Jesus came and said to them,**

**“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**Acts 2:36-47 ESV**

**36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[d] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And**

they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

#### **Ephesians 1:21-23 ESV**

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

#### **Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV**

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds[c] and teachers,[d] 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,[e] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 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.

#### **1 Peter 3:8 ESV**

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

#### **Revelations 22:18-19 ESV**

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

#### **1 Corinthians 12: 12, 25-17 ESV**

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it

### **Ephesians 3:8-12 ESV**

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[b] God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

### **Matthew 16:18 ESV**

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock[b] I will build my church, and the gates of hell[c] shall not prevail against it.

### **Ephesians 3:25-17 ESV**

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.[a]

## **SECTION ONE**

### **Constitution:**

### **Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV**

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,[d] but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by[e] the Spirit.

## **NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The name of the corporation is Family Life Churches & Missions, Inc. However, as a means of eliminating obstacles that prevent people from exploring the claims of Christ through a local church, it will have the option to operate publicly under the name “Family Life or FamLife or Family Life Church or Family Life Churches. ” This corporate organism will be further referred to in this document as “Family Life. ” Family Life Churches and Missions maintains its principal and founding office in Austin,TX

## **MISSION & VISION STATEMENT**

**Mission:** We are a diverse people who find life in Christ

**We accomplish our mission by executing our vision statement.**

**Vision Statement: “The city needs what you have.”**

**Actively proclaiming the gospel in our community to those who do not believe and by actively pursuing the ongoing renovation of our own lives by the grace of God found in the gospel not in the non profit and profit sectors. We help people find life in Christ in such a way that they find themselves:**

**Worshipping Christ – Honoring God both corporately in large and small gatherings and privately alone with God.**

**Living by Christ Word and Ways – Understanding the Bible as the ultimate authority for daily living and involved in corporate, small group, and private Bible study.**

**Contributing to Christ Work– Using spiritual gifts, time, abilities, and finances for God’s glory, our good, and the city’s gain through Missional discipleship and social responsibility. Connecting with Christ people – Growing in relationship with one another in various sectors of life and influence.**

**Standards:**

**The following are the standards which are essentially the values that will define our relationship**

**to a mission within Family Life. Our standards more importantly help us continually find life in**

**Christ, which is our mission.**

**1. We value obedience. What God says, we do. Obedience is a reflection of our love and worship to Christ.**

**2. We value faith. We take risk in Christ. It is our faith that pleases God.**

**3. We value discipleship. If it does not make disciples, it does not make sense. It is Christ's job to build the church but it is our job to make disciples.**

**4. We value love. We aim to love people unconditionally, even if they never follow Jesus or choose to love us.**

**5. We value generosity. We give whatever we have for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom in the culture we live in. This means we give our time, our talents, our resources, and even our flaws. Our generosity is a representation of us being on mission to the world.**

**6. We value excellence. Being excellent in all we do is our goal, not perfection. Excellence looks like setting the example first for others to follow. Excellence is a byproduct of the character and integrity we look to uphold to those around us.**

**7. We value reconciliation. We talk it out and work it out at all cost. We do not gossip it out. Reconciliation brings unity and where there is unity, God commands a blessing.**

**8. We value family. We desire continual growth both in Christ and with other believers.**

**9. We value joy. We work hard but we enjoy Christ gift of life together. We serve from joy not for joy.**

**10. We value honor. We aim to think the highest of each other at all times and display that mindset to others.**

**These standards are experienced through our Culture Codes as a church family. Those Culture Codes are:**

**1. Grace**

**2. Excitement**

**3. Optimism**

**4. Collaboration**

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We recognize that the unity of the universal church is based solely on the person and work of**

**Jesus and not on absolute agreement of other doctrines outside the atoning work of Jesus.**

**While we as a local fellowship of believers understand that some believers do not agree with all**

**of the following doctrinal beliefs, we ask that all incoming members agree with the following**

**statement of faith:**

**GOD IS TRIUNE – There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the godhead there are three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity. One God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is the foundation of Christian faith and life.**

**GOD THE FATHER** – God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth. By His word and for His glory, He freely and supernaturally created the world from nothing. Through the same Word He daily sustains all His creatures. He rules over all and is the only Sovereign God. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love Him and for the purpose of His glory. His unfathomable grace gave His Son Jesus Christ for mankind's redemption. He made man for fellowship with Himself, because of his love, and He intended that all creation should live to the praise of His glory.

**JESUS CHRIST** – Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is perfect in nature, teaching and obedience. He is fully God and was fully man. He was always with God and is God. Through Him, all things came into being and were created. He was before all things and in Him all things hold together by the word of His power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation and in Him dwells the fullness of the godhead bodily. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world having shed His blood and died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. By His death in our place, He revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, the third day He rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness and for a period of forty days appeared to over 500 witnesses performing many convincing proofs of His resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all. He is the Head of His body, the church, and should be adored, loved, served, and obeyed by all. All at some point, will confess that He is Lord.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** – The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel, He convicts and persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit, a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son who in turn came to glorify the Father. He will lead the church into a right understanding as He acts as a counselor to the saints of God and provides rich application of the truth of God's Word. He also empowers us with spiritual gifts through his present ministry to believers to help advance the Gospel and His ultimate plan of redemption. He is to be respected, honored and worshipped as God the Third Person of the Trinity.

**THE SCRIPTURES** – We accept the Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament, as the written Word of God. The Bible is an essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Being given by God, the Scriptures are both fully and verbally inspired by God.

Therefore, as originally given, the Bible is free of error in all it teaches. Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord



who speaks through it in living power. All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives. The Scriptures are the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice and doctrine. They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded, subtracted from, or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession, or theology must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture.

**MAN** – God made man – male and female – in His own image, as the crown of creation, good in every way, that man might have fellowship with Him. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy spirit are one yet in relationship with one another, so shall man be in a unified in relationship with God and in unity with mankind. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. Being estranged from his Maker, yet responsible to Him, he became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone.

**THE GOSPEL** – Jesus Christ is the gospel. The good news is revealed in His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel, His resurrection is the power of the gospel and His ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases His holy wrath that is deserved to mankind. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men must be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have of glorifying God is because of what He has accomplished. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches and ministries to proceed from and be related to the cross.

**MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL** – Man's response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. It is also true that the message of the gospel is only effectual to those who genuinely repent of their sins and by God's grace put saving faith in Christ. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple.

**MAN'S INHERITANCE THROUGH THE GOSPEL** – Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and looking to Christ and His substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as

a free gift. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin, an individual is reconciled to God as Father and becomes His child. The believer is forgiven the debt of his sin and via the miracle of regeneration liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Spirit.

**SANCTIFICATION** – The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce His fruit in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though indwelling sin remains a reality, as we are led by the Spirit, we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping His commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. By His grace, He saves us from ourselves. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship, and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve His people until the end, which is most certain.

**EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT** – The Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness and service. The promise of the Father is freely available to all who believe in Jesus Christ, thereby enabling them to exercise the powers of the age to come in ministry and mission. The Holy Spirit desires to continually fill each believer with power to witness, and imparts His supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and the work of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first-century are available today and are to be earnestly desired and practiced. They are essential in the mission of the church in the world today.

**THE CHURCH** – God by His Word and Spirit creates the church, calling sinful men out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ's Body. By the same Word and Spirit, He guides and preserves that new redeemed humanity. The church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, the church universal is made up of those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ and have personally appropriated the gospel. The church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It also exists to serve Him by faithfully doing His will in the earth. This involves a commitment to see the gospel preached and churches planted in the entire world for a testimony. The ultimate mission of the church is the making of disciples through the preaching of the gospel. God builds His church while we are called to make disciples. When God transforms human nature, this then becomes the chief means of society's transformation. Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church in which they devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and prayer. All members of the church universal are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. In this context, they are called to walk out the New Covenant as the people of God and demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God. The ascended Christ has given gift ministries to the church (including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) for the equipping of Christ's body that it might mature and grow. Through the

gift ministries, all members of the church are to be nurtured and equipped for the work of the ministry. In the context of the local church, God's people receive pastoral care and leadership, and the opportunity to employ their God-given gifts in His service in relation to one another and to the world.

**SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH** – Water baptism is only intended for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become His disciple. Therefore, in obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to God, the church, oneself and the world, a believer should be immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death and vividly depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin. As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body.

**THE CONSUMMATION** – The consummation of all things includes the visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the consummation, Satan with his hosts and all those outside Christ are finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment (which too is a real place), but the righteous, in glorious bodies, shall live and reign with Him forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise and glory. Then shall the eager expectation of creation be fulfilled and the whole earth shall be restored and proclaim the glory of God Who makes all things new.

## **POLITY**

### **Colossians 1:15-20 ESV**

15 He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by[f] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the true source of all the church is and does. His glory is to be the object of every act, function and motive of the body both individually and corporately. It is before Him

that all other leadership must bow. He communicates his will for the church through his Word, the Bible. He also gives guidance by the leading of the Holy Spirit who dwells in the heart of each believer. He calls out leaders for the church to whom He has given specific spiritual gifts. These leaders are given the ultimate responsibility for the oversight of the church body and the shepherding of its members. The government of this church is vested in leaders. (Refer to Article VI. Plurality of Leadership.) All internal groups formed and empowered by the church shall exist to further the purpose of the church. These groups shall be accountable to the designated leaders of the church.

**Family Life Churches & Missions, Inc. | Austin, TX 78701**

## **ORDINANCES**

Jesus instructed his disciples to remember his death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols called “ordinances” as reminders of his death. The two ordinances are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Neither of these acts of obedience to Jesus is a means of obtaining salvation. (Refer to Statement of Faith)

## **ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATIONS**

Family Life Churches and Missions is also subject to the general supervision of the Family Life Churches.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to this Constitution shall be made in the same manner as amendments to the following Bylaws. Extended Doctrines of Family Life Churches and Missions, Inc.

(Subject to added to or changed)

Family Life Churches & Missions, Inc. embraces the following statements concerning the truth.

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths

is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing; I

Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it

covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines. We do not presume to say the phraseology employed in this Statement of Fundamental Truths is inspired or that it is the final work on Bible truth. However, we are persuaded it is proper and consistent with

the Holy Scriptures to “set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us” (Luke 1:1).

### **Abortion and Continual Life Care**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child in a mother's womb is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. We reject teachings that the abortions of pregnancies is an acceptable and godly practice. (Deuteronomy 18:9; Ecclesiastes 5:18; Psalms 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5; Exodus 21:22; Hebrews 13:8) We also stand firmly that we are called to help preserve life after the womb. We stand to take care of the widow, orphan, oppressed, poor, and disenfranchised based on biblical scripture and principles both in the womb and outside of the womb. We also recognize in rare health situations that are beyond control that threaten the life of the child or mother that are to be walked through according to scripture and wisdom by those involved.

### **Alcohol and Drug Use**

The Scriptures speak often of the destructive power of the overconsumption of alcohol. Noah's drunkenness brought shame to his family (Gen. 9:20-27). Lot's drunkenness resulted in an incestuous relationship with his two daughters (Gen. 19:30-38). An inebriated Xerxes sought to humiliate Queen Vashti publicly (Est. 1:9-22). The consumption of illicit drug use is against the will of God and causes impairment dependency on the drugs than God. The excessive consumption of alcohol impairs judgment, inflames passions, and invites violence (Lev. 10:8-11; Prov. 20:1, 23:29-35, 31:4,5). We recognize a person's decision to consume alcohol or not is not on the basis of salvation or righteousness but should be done or not done under the conviction of the Lord and what is best beneficial to the kingdom of God.

### **Angels and Demons**

God created the angels to be His servants and messengers (Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 148:2; Hebrews 1:14). Satan is a fallen angel who led a group of angels in rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-15). He is the great enemy of God and man, and the demons are his servants in evil. He and his demons will be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

### **Anointing Oil is Administered for Healing**

The anointing oil is administered for both physical and spiritual restoration with the laying on of hands when required (Mark 16:18; James 5:14). If sins have been committed against Christ or His Body they are to be confessed.

### **Assurance of Salvation**

**Assurance means that you, a believer in Jesus Christ, have confidence that you are in the family of God and therefore have eternal life. Assurance looks at our eternal salvation from man's viewpoint. The central passage is 1 John 5:13. Each clear verse about eternal salvation, such as John 3:16, stresses the basis for assurance because God keeps His Word. There is nothing we can do to earn this status and it is a unchanging status.**

## **Baptism**

**We believe the New Testament teaches at least three baptisms. First, there is the baptism whereby the repentant sinner, upon trusting Jesus Christ as his Savior, is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). Secondly, there is water baptism by immersion for believers only. This we believe to be an ordinance of the church, whereby the believer experiences the reality of co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-6). Thirdly, there is the filling, immersion, or baptism in the Holy Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ, which may occur at or subsequent to conversion. We believe that speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance is the normative (one of many different but not just one) manifestations and evidence of this baptism. Further, we believe that by the believer's continued submission to the Holy Spirit, his very weakness is transformed into strength to witness for Jesus Christ in power, and to live according to the will of God (Acts 1:5-6; 10:46; 11:28; 19:6).**

## **Baptism - Ordinance**

**Baptism by immersion shall be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have repented of their sins and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Baptism is a physical manifestation of an eternal inner work. Those who have become partakers of Christ by faith in His shed blood are commanded to be water baptized (by immersion) into Christ. In this act of faith we participate in Christ's burial and resurrection and receive a circumcision of the heart (Genesis 17:1-4; John 3:1-6; Romans 2:28-29; I Peter 3:18-22; I John 5:8). We do not believe in child baptism or any baptism as a way of salvation.**

## **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

**The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a vital experience for every believer. One of its evidence and manifestation is by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. Those who seek the fullness of the Spirit shall receive prayer for the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15-17; 19:2-6). Another manifestation of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is in spirit filled living and other spiritual gifts found in scripture. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not subjected to only the speaking of tongues.**

## **Blessed Hope**

**The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and the**

blessed hope of the church (I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51). Until the resurrection, those who are believers will be with Lord.

### **Carnality**

Carnality comes from the word for flesh, *sarkikos*, and by extension often refers to man living apart from God's power and Word, whether a believer or unbeliever. When one lives by his own power, he is living by his human fallen nature, which works through the flesh or body. The believer who lives by his human nature instead of by the Holy Spirit is said to be carnal and until regenerate, are dead in their trespasses spiritually. The central passage is 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 where believers are living like unbelievers and are called carnal. Galatians 5:16-21 states the conflict between the flesh and the Holy Spirit, and gives some works of the flesh that are sins. Carnality is opposite to spirituality. Confession of sin to God restores the believer to walking in the light, to fellowship (1 John 1), and to walking by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5).

### **Christian Service**

Christian service is serving God and believers through the power of the Holy Spirit, mainly in at least the area of one's spiritual gift, through godly love, when abiding in Christ, and to God's glory. This is the application and expression of the Christian life (John 15:1-5; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Corinthians 10:31). These gifts are to be guarded, developed, and used actively for the glory of God and advancement of His kingdom.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation is administered by the affirming public and privately, and the laying on of hands of the presbytery to confirm the believer in the faith and service of Christ. This is done after the believer has been instructed and established in the doctrines of Christ (John 7:17; II John 9; Acts 8:17; 14:21-23; 15:32, 41; 19:6, Galatians 2:9, I Timothy 5:24).

### **Creation**

1. Of the World: God spoke into existence the world and all things that it contains, for His own pleasure, and the enjoyment of His creatures (Revelation 4:11; I Timothy 6:17).
2. Of Man: God created man in His image according to Genesis 1:26 as a triune being consisting of spirit, soul (which is made of the mind, will, and emotions), and a body.

### **Death**

As a result of original sin, all mankind is subject to the death of the body. The soul does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery according to the character here possessed either by rejection or acceptance of the Savior (Romans 5:12; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Philippians 1:23).

## **Dedication of Children**

The dedication of children is the presentation of a child to God, and therefore establishes a covenant between God, parents, or those who are their legal guardians. God promises blessing and protection to the child whose parents are faithful to rear him/her in the services of the Lord. Such a child is made holy and is part of the covenant family of God by the faith of his parents until he/she reaches the age of accountability, whereupon he/she becomes responsible as an individual before God and is commanded to repent (Psalms 34:11; Isaiah 54:13; Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16; I Corinthians 7:14).

## **Deliverance**

The need for deliverance is manifested by an inability to be free from bondage of oppression (only possession if not saved): Bondage includes : e.g. mental (emotional), physical, or spiritual normally associated with demon activity. It is God's desire to bring deliverance to His people (Job 5:19; Psalms 91:3; II Timothy 4:18; Hebrews 2:15; II Peter 2:9). We have been granted the authority in the name of Jesus to bring deliverance to others (Mark 16:17; John 14:12; I Corinthians 12:8-11). We must understand that our warfare is with the forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12), our weapon is the Word of God, our authority and power are from Jesus Himself (Mark 16:17; Acts 1:8) and that the battlefield is in the spiritual realms (Ephesians 6: 10-18; II Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:22-23).

## **Divine Healing**

Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers. The ministration of the laying on of hands accompanied with the anointing of oil for the healing of the sick shall be granted as request is made and the need may require (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; James 5:14-15; Matthew 6:9-10; Psalm 27:13).

## **Dress Code**

The obedience of a child of God is not measured by what clothing we wear or not wear but by our walk in the Spirit. All are welcome to come to church services/events and receive Jesus despite any dress code. If dress becomes a distraction to others or children according, we as a church will help assist them in receiving acceptable dress code to attend anything put on by the church. A believer is to strive to dress modestly according to their cultural context they live in. The Christian is not to indulge of pride in dress or behavior (Proverbs 29:23; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; James 4:6; 1 Peter 3:3-4; 1 John 2:15-17; Galatians 5:16).

## **Economics**



**Biblical economics is a free enterprise system with the ownership of private property, the right to accumulate wealth, and proper taxation (Leviticus 27:30-33; Proverbs 3:9; Proverbs 6:6-11; Proverbs 10:5; Proverbs 10:11, 26; Proverbs 13:22; Proverbs 22:22; Proverbs 24:30-34; Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; Matthew 22:17-22.) We will help those within our church family and those outside it to help to obtain wealth in a biblical way through our setting forth as a church body.**

## **Education**

**As Christians, one of our responsibilities is to make sure that our children and we are educated in the godliest manner possible while also using our education to provide for our families, expand the kingdom of God, and seeking the welfare of the city. God has entrusted us with children and He will require an accounting of what we did with them (2 Chr. 17:9; Psalm 78:1; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 1:20; Eph. 6:4; John 1:17).**

## **Eternal Covenant**

**The Eternal Covenant leads to the Covenant of Grace. Whereas the Eternal Covenant was made between the Father and the Son, the Covenant of Grace is made between God and man. This latter covenant is where God promises eternal salvation to man based upon Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The manifestation of that covenant occurs in our world in a sequence of additional covenants that God made with individuals: Adam (Gen. 2:15-17), Noah (Gen. 9:12-16), Abraham (Gen. 17), the Israelites at Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28), and believers in the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-37).**

## **Eternal Security**

**Eternal security means that when a person believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, he can never lose his eternal life. The Bible clearly teaches that once we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, our eternal destiny is fixed and secure. Security looks at our eternal salvation from God's viewpoint (Ephesians 1:13-14; John 10:27-30).**

## **Evangelism**

**Evangelism, the communication of the gospel message, includes a warning, an explanation, and a call. Evangelism is not a ministry but a mission and call of God to every believer as a means of discipleship. Evangelism includes warning people about sin and the consequences of sin (John 16:8; Acts 24:25; Revelation 20:11-15). It includes an explanation of God's remedy for sin—the gospel (Acts 8:29-35; Romans 3:21-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21), and it includes the clear call to repent (to turn from sin and to turn toward God) and believe the gospel, by faith (Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:29-31; Romans 1:17; Romans 10:9-13). Evangelism should be contextually minded as well.**

## **Fasting**

**Believers are called to fast (Matthew 6:16; when, not if). Believers may fast as long as our motive and attitude is right before God: humility, recognition and expression of our dependence and need for God in our lives, intercessory prayer for others and ourselves, and focusing ourselves on God's will and our ministry for Him.**

**a. To show genuine humility, repentance, confession of sin, and need of the Lord (1Samuel 7:6; Jeremiah 36:9; Ezra 10:6; Nehemiah 9:1-2; Joel 2:12; Daniel 9:2-20; 10:2-3).**

**b. To pray for others, especially those ill (Psalm 35:13; 2 Samuel 12:15-23).**

**c. To pray for guidance and safety (Esther 4:3, 16; Ezra 8:21-31).**

**d. At the hour of one's death (Judges 20:26; 1 Samuel 31:13; 2 Samuel 1:12; 3:35).**

**e. To concentrate on service for the Lord (Acts 13:1-4; 14:23).f. Deliverance/ Breakthrough (Matthew 17:14-21)**

## **Family**

**The family is the first and most important classroom and training ground for society. The family provides the security, the heritage, and the perpetuation of morality without which no society can survive (Genesis 4:1-2; Ephesians 6:1-4). We believe in both the health and expansion of our natural and spiritual family**

## **Fellowship with God**

**Fellowship with God emphasizes the friendship relationship with God the Father and the Son. Sin breaks the fellowship; confession of sin restores the fellowship. When in fellowship with God, believers partner with God in service and enjoy a close friendship. The central passages are 1 John 1 and John 13. Since one is no longer walking in darkness (sin), the Holy Spirit also leads and controls the believer as Galatians 5 teaches. John 15:1-9 uses the term "abide" which also refers to fellowship with Jesus Christ.**

## **Fellowship with man or other believers**

**A bi-product of redemption with Christ is reconciliation with mankind. God has mandated us as believers to live peaceably with all men as possible and to live out the ministry of reconciliation. We strive in our missional efforts to help redeem society, destroy any work of injustice by the devil, and restores relationships with people to live out the fullness of the gospel. ( Romans 12:18, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21)**

## **Final Judgment and Eternal State**

We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body, when Jesus Christ comes for His own. Whereupon soul and body reunited shall be with Him forever in glory; but the spirits and souls of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (Luke 16:19-26; 23:42; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Jude 6, 7; Revelation 20:11-15).

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

### **Five-Fold Ministry**

The church is to be taught and led by the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the purpose of every believer seeing and exercising his/her priestly and kingly ministry as outlined in I Peter 2:5,9 and Revelation 16. The five-fold ministry is to teach and train its people to do the work of the ministry with maturity and unity in mind. Working with these ministries will be elders, deacons, and the gifted men and women of the church (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:11-13; I Timothy 3:2-12; Titus 2:1-15).

### **Gifts of the Spirit**

The nine gifts of the Spirit set forth in I Corinthians 12 should be and must be operative in the church to enjoy the fullness of God. These gifts are imparted by the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit and only work or are operated by this one and the self-same Spirit. We are also called to earnestly desire these higher gifts. (I Corinthians 12:11).

### **Giving**

Biblical giving is the giving of self and wealth to God and His work, and doing so voluntarily and out of love for God and His work. Central passages of Scripture for giving: Matthew 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 6:6-8; Philippians 4:10-19, 1 Timothy 5:8, 17-18; 3 John 5-8.

### **Godly Love or Christian Love**

This is God's kind of love in us for others, especially for believers. John 3:16 and Romans 5:8 demonstrate that God's love is sacrificial and unconditional. Since this is true, godly love—Christian love—is also sacrificial. The Holy Spirit produces it in a

believer who is controlled by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 5:5). Christian love is not dependent on the person who is loved. It depends on the source. Godly love pleases God (2 John 5-6). The basic idea in godly love is sacrifice for others—thinking of others first and doing for them that which is in accordance with God’s will and God’s good, and that which is needed. Furthermore, it includes responsibility, which is being accountable to God, to doctrinal principles, and to one’s level of spiritual growth; protection of others by way of verbal protection (what we say), mental protection (our thoughts), and physical protection; self control which relates to sacrifice, responsibility, and protection; and thankfulness. First Corinthians 13:4-7 personifies love by saying what it is and does, and what it is not and does not do. Godly love contrasts with friendship love which is for certain people.

#### **Help of the Poor, Refugee, Orphan, Widow, and Disenfranchised**

We believe that it is the intent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be socially responsible and seek the welfare of our city (Jerimiah 29). Examples include feeding the hungry (Matthew 25:34-40; Isaiah 58:7-8); to care for the poor (Matthew 19:21; Psalm 112:9; II Corinthians 9:6-9); and to care for the widows and orphans (James 1:27) and the refugee (Matt 25:36, Leviticus 19:34). We further believe that such ministry should be toward His name to both saints and unbelievers. Our goal is to help restore them back into society as a functional citizen and that they would walk in the ways of the Lord as well. (Hebrews 6:10).

#### **Same Sex Attraction ( LBGTQIA+)**

This organization is opposed to same sex attraction as an alternative lifestyle or any alternative lifestyle associated with the LBGTQIA movement(or any additions made to it). Additionally, this organization holds that a LBGTQIA lifestyle is contrary to God’s Word and purpose for humanity (I Timothy 1:10). The Bible instructs that it is a sin that leads to death. Moreover, this organization is instructed to love those living such lifestyles, while abhorring the continual or outright practice of this sin. Those in this lifestyle choice are not excommunicated from worshiping with us unless a threat determined by the leadership is established like any other person. Those in the lifestyle choice and struggle are also allowed to serve with us a church under the discretion of leadership and determined where to serve. We do not adhere to having a temptation to this lifestyle is a sin. 1 Cor. 6:9 says the following: “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders. ” All living a LBGTQIA lifestyle are welcome to church services or church events. Gender specific events are reserved to those due of the specific gender the event is geared towards. If any specific need or circumstance arises, the potential attendees attendance of the event will be determined by leadership in the church ( This includes children ministry events as well). Finally, any other lifestyle differing from God’s original mandate for marriage between one man and woman, is against the beliefs of Family Life Churches and Missions, Inc.

## **Bathroom Usage Policy**

**Purpose**The purpose of this policy is to ensure that this church's beliefs regarding gender identity and bathroom usage are consistently upheld, providing clear guidelines for all members, staff, and visitors.

### **Policy Statement**

Our church believes that God created humans as distinctly male and female. We affirm that gender is determined by biological sex, as established by chromosomes: males are identified by XY chromosomes and females by XX chromosomes. This belief is rooted in our understanding of Scripture and the natural order established by God.

### **Biblical Foundation**

This policy is supported by the following Scriptures from the New King James Version (NKJV):

#### **1. Genesis 1:27 -**

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

#### **2. Matthew 19:4 -**

"And He answered and said to them,  
them at the beginning made them male and female,  
""Have you not read that He who made

#### **3. Genesis 5:2 -**

"He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created."

### **Policy Guidelines**

#### **Gender-Specific Facilities**

- The church shall maintain separate bathroom facilities for males and females.
- Individuals are required to use the bathroom that corresponds with their biological sex as determined by their chromosomes (male by XY chromosomes and female by XX chromosomes).

### **Enforcement**

- The church leadership is responsible for ensuring that bathroom facilities are used in accordance with this policy.

- Any concerns or violations should be reported to the church leadership for appropriate action.

- Young Children: In cases of young children or individuals with special circumstances, parents or guardians may bring the child into the bathroom that is consistent with the parent's sex. Unisex Facilities: Bathrooms designated for single-person use may be unisex unless the child

they are the parent or guardian of.

#### **Communication**

- This policy shall be clearly communicated to all church members, staff, and visitors.

- Notices will be posted at bathroom entrances and other prominent locations within the church

premises.

- A copy of this policy shall be made available to all members upon request.

#### **Review and Amendment**

#### **Policy Changes**

- The Board of Directors may review and amend this policy from time to time as deemed necessary.

- Any changes to this policy must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

#### **Consistency with Bylaws**

In the case of any inconsistency between this policy and the church's bylaws, the bylaws article

shall prevail.

By adopting this policy, the church aims to uphold its biblical beliefs while ensuring clarity and

consistency in the usage of bathroom facilities.

#### **Infallible Word of God**

We believe that the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, were written by holy men inspired by the Holy Spirit and are God's revealed word to man. They are the sufficient, infallible rule and guide to salvation and all Christian worship and service (II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13). The Bible is the inspired Word of God, equally in all parts and in the whole; it is totally inerrant in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme revelation from God and of God, superior to conscience and reason, though not contrary to them; and it is therefore our infallible rule in all manners. All the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ and hence, no portion is properly read nor understood until it leads to Him. Nothing is to be added or subtracted from the word of God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man Jesus was born miraculously of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1: 23; Luke 1:31, 35). He lived a sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22). He came into the world to save men from the guilt and condemnation of sin (John 3:16), offering His blood as atonement (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21) and making it available to all who exercise faith in Him. He resurrected from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4). He is exalted to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3). His divinity is proved from His titles, His attributes, and His works (John 1:14; Luke 1:26-35; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31). He is presently seated at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for His redeemed. We also acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord over all things in Heaven, and in Earth, and under the Earth (John 1:12-14; I Timothy 3:16; Acts 7:37-38; Philippians 2:9-10; Hebrews 7:25).

### **Justification**

Justification is the legal act whereby God declares the sinner to be innocent of his or her sins. It is not that the sinner is now sinless, but that he/she is "declared" sinless. This declaration of righteousness means the person is justified before God. This justification is based on the shed blood of Jesus, "...having now been justified by His blood..." (Rom. 5:9) where Jesus was crucified, died, buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-4). God imputed (reckoned to our account) the righteousness of Christ at the same time our sins were imputed to Christ when He was on the cross. That is why it says in 1 Pet. 2:24, "And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" Also, 2 Cor. 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. " Additionally, we are justified by faith (Rom. 5:1) apart from works of the Law (Rom. 3:28).

### **Kingdom Citizenship**

Sovereign God rules all creation, but He favors those that are in faith relationship with Him. He puts them in His kingdom by grace through faith (1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalms 2: Jeremiah 50:17-20; Daniel 4:17, 25, 32; Haggai 2:21-22; Luke 8:22-36). All believers are citizens of God's kingdom and commanded to be patriotic toward His Kingdom (Philippians 1:27; 3:20). Laying on of Hands. We adhere to a simple belief that power or anointing of any other necessary quality can be transmitted from one person touching another. The Levitical priesthood first practiced this (Numbers 8:10-11, 27:22-23). Jesus

practiced it as a blessing, (Mark 10:13-16) and He, as well as others, used it for healing (Mark 5:22-23; 16:18; Acts 14:3; 19:11-12; 28:8; Luke 4:40), conferring office (Acts 8:16-18), receiving anointing (I Timothy 4:14) and for ordination (I Timothy 4:14).

We believe in the doctrine of the laying on of hands for:

1. The confirming of believers to commitment and ministry unto God first and then to the local church.
2. The confirming of one's call by God to special ministry in the local church (Acts 13:1-3).
3. The imparting of spiritual gifts (I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6).
4. The experiencing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17-18).
5. The ministry of healing of the sick through the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16).
6. The blessing and dedicating of children to the Lord (Mark 10:16).

We further believe that, in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, we should lay hands on no man suddenly, but that the laying on of hands confirms a ministry, which is already observable and has been proven (I Timothy 5:22).

### **Law and the Gospel**

The Law is the do's and don'ts of moral behavior. God gave the Law so that people would have a guide to live by and a standard by which they might recognize God's purity and their sinfulness. There are 613 commandments in the Old Testament. They oversee moral, judicial, and religious behavior. The Law is a reflection of the character of God, because the Law comes forth from the very heart of God. Since it is not possible for us to keep the Law and therefore earn our position with God, we then need the holiness of God given to us -because there simply isn't any way for us to attain to the standard of God. Therefore, "...The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith," (Gal. 3:24).

### **Liberty or Freedom**

Liberty or freedom includes privacy and personal responsibility, and is the direct application of God's sovereignty and human volition. The Bible teaches both spiritual freedom and human freedom (John 8:31-36). God created man in His image and man therefore received moral freedom and volition, with the result that he was created to live in freedom—to live with freechoice or freedom (Genesis 1:26-31). The exercise of freedom requires free people to grant freedom and privacy to others. Personal responsibility, therefore, goes hand in hand with freedom. Tyranny and slavery often occurred due to the sin nature of man, but God willed for human freedom to predominate.



For example, when an Israelite was enslaved, "Every Israelite (man or woman) who had become a slave might not only be redeemed at any time by his relatives but, if this did not take place, was bound to receive his freedom without payment in the seventh year, with a present of cattle and fruits (Exodus 21:2; Deuteronomy 15:12–15). Indeed all slaves of Hebrew descent, with their children, obtained freedom without ransom in the Jubilee year (Leviticus 25:39–41). " (The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, 1988. 444) The very fact of volition and authority argue for human freedom. The Law of Moses outlines human freedom for Israel, God's priest nation (Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 146:7; 119:45; Isaiah 61:1; 1 Peter 2:16).

### **Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the covenant made with God through the blood of Christ. It is a continuation of the Passover Feast, which God commanded His covenant people to observe. Those who have made covenant with God through the blood of Christ and have been water baptized are instructed to participate. The church participates in the Lord's Supper as a body or family, with each covenant partner in fellowship adding to the blessedness of the experience (Exodus 11, 12; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26).

### **Marriage**

God created marriage (Gen. 2:22). It is a covenant made between a man and a woman that makes them one (Gen 2:24). The marriage covenant requires the married parties to be faithful, loving, and helpful to each other as long as they both shall live (Mark 10:3-10). Christians are not to marry unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Those whom God has directed to be joined together shall, after counseling with the pastor concerning what God requires of them, be joined in Christian marriage (Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:5-6,9; Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 7:10-11, 15; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:22-23). This church observes the wedding ceremony as holy and unto God. It is a religious ceremony and cannot be conducted in this church without pastoral consideration. Any couple wishing to conduct their wedding ceremony in this church must also live a lifestyle that is consistent with this church's doctrinal views and set up an appointment to discuss their ceremony.

### **Missions**

Missions are the whole task, endeavor, and discipleship process of the Church of Jesus Christ to reach out across geographical and/or cultural boundaries by sending missionaries to evangelize people who have never heard or who have little opportunity to hear the saving gospel. Missions are both domestically and internationally. We do missions both in the non profit and profit sectors for both non profit and profit work.

### **Music**

Music and song are a product of, reflection of, and appreciation of God's word, works, and person inside a believer. Biblical music honors God, adores who He is, teaches and recalls Bible doctrine, and encourages people. Biblical music expresses the thinking, free will, emotion, conscience, and self-consciousness, though it especially joins the learned doctrine in the soul and human spirit with the emotion of the soul and human spirit. In church assembly, the ministry of music prepares the congregation for the ministry of God's Word (Psalm 30:4, Psalm 57:9, Colossians 3:16, 1 Chronicles 15:16; 25:1, Exodus 15:1-18, 1 Samuel 16:23, Acts 16:25, James 5:13). Music can be used to honor God as well without the mentioning of God's name or even expressing the humanity of this world in creative ways for ultimate redemptive purposes.

### **New Heavens and New Earth**

We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).

**Of the World to Come** We believe that the end of this age is rapidly approaching (I Peter 4:7). We believe in "That Blessed Hope"-the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost without Christ (Acts 24:15; Matthew 24:31-46; Revelation 22:11).

### **Scientific Accuracies in the Bible**

Science is merely that branch of discovery that categorizes, discovers, and utilizes the knowledge woven into the fabric of the universe by a Sovereign, All Powerful, and Omniscient Creator. Science is not the end of all things, but merely one of the means by which man may glorify God. This is because God is the creator of all that is. He has hidden the treasures of his glorious glory in the very universe in which we exist. The power in the atom, momentum, energy, mass, time, etc. are all creations of God and, therefore, under his authority. The more the Christian learns of these things, the more he can glorify God. Science must be subservient to Him, not the other way around. Science is not God's replacement. This is not to say that the Bible is vindicated by science; rather, it is science that is vindicated by the Bible (Genesis 1:11, 15:5, , 8:22, 28; Isaiah 40:22; Job 26:7--8; 2 Samuel 22:16; Psalm 8:1, 3, 6, 8, 102:25--26; Ecclesiastes 1:6--7).

**ALL RIGHTS. BRANDING, LOGOS, ETC are reserved to Family Life Church & Missions. Any illegal, unlawful, unauthorized use or change of any sorts by any person or entity will be subject to legal action**