

# *The Peach City Catechism* v.1

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## *Catechism and Definitions Based on the Baptist Faith and Message (2000), with Supplementary Material from the Baptist Catechism by Benjamin Keach.*

### **I. The Scriptures**

**Question 1:** *What is our sole authority regarding God, ourselves, and the world?*

**Answer:** The Bible. The Bible is God’s special revelation of Himself to us. It is the only reliable standard by which our lives, beliefs, and homes should be governed.

**Scripture:** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:16-17<sup>1</sup>

**Question 2:** *What is the Bible?*

**Answer:** The Bible is composed of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The Bible was written over fifteen hundred years by more than forty different authors, in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), yet without any errors or internal contradictions. It is the only infallible standard for faith and practice.

**Scripture:** “The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. —Psalms 19:7-10

**Question 3:** *How did we receive our Bibles?*

**Answer:** The Holy Bible was written by men inspired by God. Men’s experiences, cultures, and personalities are reflected, but God the Holy Spirit is its author. The Bible is totally true, trustworthy, and without any mixture of error.

**Scripture:** “...knowing this first of all that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” —2 Peter 1:20-21

**Question 4:** *Who is the focus of all Scripture?*

**Answer:** Jesus Christ, Himself, is the focus of all divine revelation.

**Scripture:** Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

—Luke 24:44-47 (See also: Luke 21:33, and John 5:39)

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<sup>1</sup> All Scripture references will be from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

## II. God

**Question 5:** *Who is the first, best, and preeminent over all?*

**Answer:** Our God – the God of the Bible – is the one and only living and true God; hence, He is the first, best, and preeminent over all.

**Scripture:** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”— Deuteronomy 6:4

**Question 6:** *What is God like?*

**Answer:** God is a spirit. He is an eternal, spiritual, transcendent, yet personal Being. He is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe. He is infinite in holiness and perfect in every way. He is all-powerful and all-knowing; He is sovereign in every detail and reacts to nothing. He does not change.

**He demands and is owed our highest love, reverence, and obedience.** → Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, & strength.

**Scripture:** “To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” —1 Timothy 1:17

**Question 7:** *How do we know there is a God?*

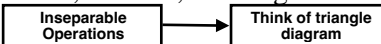
**Answer:** The existence of the natural universe, God’s communicable attributes (i.e., the image of God) as seen in man, and the law of God written on man’s conscience, combine to plainly show that God exists.

Nevertheless, it is only the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures that can lead to a saving knowledge of God through Christ.

**Scripture:** “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” —Romans 1:18-20 (See also 1 Cor. 1:21-24; 2 Cor. 2:9-10)

**Question 8:** *What is meant by triune God?*

**Answer:** God reveals Himself as the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each has distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. This three-fold understanding of the Godhead is often referred to as the Trinity.



**Scripture:** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” —Matthew 28:19, (See also Mark 1:9-11, 1 John 5:7)

**Question 9:** *Who is God the Father?*

**Answer:** God the Father sovereignly and providentially reigns over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise. God is truly the Father to those who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Scripture:** “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...” —Romans 8:14-17a

**Question 10:** *Who is God the Son?*

**Answer:** Christ is the eternal Son of God. In becoming man, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He perfectly revealed and did the will of the Father. Taking upon Himself all the limitations of human nature, he did not sin. He perfectly fulfilled the divine law. He died on the cross as man’s substitute, propitiating the Father’s righteous anger. He was raised again. He has ascended to

Anthropopathism: Describing God’s actions using human emotive language  
Impassability: God is never moved by emotion

General Revelation:  
Cosmological Argument comes from Gen Rev.  
Ex Nihilo, Nihilo Fit: “from nothing, nothing comes”  
I can’t prove the existence of God; He proves Himself.

According to Scripture, who raised Jesus from the dead? Find ALL Scriptures in the NT that explain explicitly who did it.

Sovereignty: rule or reign over; superior position  
Providence: God provides the conditions to accomplish the end through the means  
God is the determiner & completer.

Passive Obedience: Jesus willingly obeyed and followed God’s will to die as our sacrificial lamb  
Active Obedience: Jesus never sinned; perfectly kept the divine law

“Jesus was as much God as if He had never been man. He was as much man as if He had never been God.”

Special Revelation  
The Bible is God’s “Authoritative” Word that continues to live and be powerful

The term “God” does not merely refer to the Father but to the Triune God

heaven and is exalted at the right hand of the Father. Truly God, and truly man, He is the only acceptable Mediator between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

**Scripture:** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.” — Hebrews 1:1-4

**Question 11:** *What roles does Jesus fulfill as man’s redeemer?*

**Answer:** Christ operates as **Prophet**, whereby He reveals God to man. He operates as **Priest**, thereby reconciling man to God. He operates as the eternal **King**, executing God’s rule over the entirety of both the physical and spiritual universe. As our redeemer, He fulfills all three roles in both His humiliation and His exaltation.

**Scripture:** “...We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.” — Hebrews 4:15

**Question 12:** *How is Jesus prophet and revealer to man?*

**Answer:** Jesus administers the revelatory office of prophet by **revealing to man the will of God in salvation. He does this by His Word and through the Holy Spirit.**

**Scripture:** “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” —John 15:15 (cf. John 1:18; John 14:26)

**Question 13:** *How is Jesus priest and reconciler for man?*

**Answer:** He is the One Mediator, truly God, truly man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He stands as both our sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and makes continual intercession on our behalf.

**Scripture:** “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.” —1 Peter 2:24 (cf. Hebrews 9:28; Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 2:17; 7:25; Romans 8:34)

**Question 14:** *How is Jesus king and ruler over man?*

**Answer:** Christ demonstrates His kingship over man by His exalted place at the right hand of the Father. Moreover, by the Spirit, He subdues us to Himself, ruling over us and defending us from the world, the flesh, the devil, and even death itself. Furthermore, he will prove His kingship, once-for-all, when he returns in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.

**Scripture:** “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” —1 Corinthians 15:24-6

**Question 15:** *What is meant by Christ’s humiliation?*

**Answer:** Christ’s humiliation consisted of Him being born as a man into a sinful and fallen world. He had to face all the miseries and indignities of life, the wrath of sinners, the curse of death on the cross, and relinquishment, for a time, to the grave and to death. Worst of all was the bearing of sin for the elect and the wrath of God against that sinful condition.

**Scripture:** “...but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Conceiving of Jesus in another way other than stated in Scripture is idolatry.

Will of God in Salvation: repent & believe

And being found in human form, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” —Philippians 2:7-8

**Question 16:** *What is meant by Christ’s exaltation?*

**Answer:** Christ’s exaltation consists of His rising again from the dead on the third day, ascending into heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

**Scripture:** “Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” —Philippians 2:9-11

**Question 17:** *How are we made partakers of Christ’s redemption?*

**Answer:** The Holy Spirit effectually applies Christ’s redemption to us who believe.

**Scripture:** “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” “Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’” —John 3:3, 5-8 (cf. Titus 3:5-6)

**Question 18:** *Who is the Holy Spirit?*

**Answer:** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. The third Person of the Godhead, He proceeds from and exalts Christ, drawing men unto Christ for salvation. He effects regeneration and through illumination, allows men to see the truth, unto faith and repentance. He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ, and seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the believer is both the guarantee and the power by which the believer is brought into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism and service.

**Scripture:** “For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. —1 Corinthians 2:11-12

### III. Man

**Question 19:** *What does the Bible teach about the human race?*

**Answer:** Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. God created them, male and female, as the crowning work of His creation. The sacredness of human personality is seen in the fact that he is the only creature made in God’s image. Man’s life purpose is to know God and enjoy Him forever. In the beginning, man was created perfect and without sin.

**Scripture:** “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.’” — Genesis 1:27-28

**Question 20:** *What is the duty that God requires of every person?*

**Answer:** The duty which God requires of every person, is comprehensive and perfect obedience to His revealed will.

**Scripture:** “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” — Ecclesiastes 12:12-13 (cf. Mic. 6:8; Ps. 119:4; Lk. 10:)

**Question 21:** *Why is there so much sin in the world today?*

**Answer:** Having been granted free will and the ability to act upon it, Adam rejected obedience to God by believing – and acting upon – the lies of Satan. Having sinned, man lost his innocence, and his will ceased to be completely free. His will is now in bondage to sin, and though man is free to do what he “wants to do,” without the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, man is no longer free to do what he “ought to do.” We have all inherited the fallen nature (natural inclinations of the heart toward sin) from our first parent, Adam; only the grace of God can bring us back into God’s holy fellowship and allow us to fulfill the creative purpose of God.

**Scripture:** “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...” — Romans 5:12 (cf. Gen. 6:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15 19,21-22; Eph. 2:1-22; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

**Question 22:** *What is sin?*

**Answer:** Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God. It is anything one thinks, says, or does that is contrary to God’s revealed will. Anything that is not done as an act of faith or for the glory of God is sin. Every sin is deserving of God’s punishment.

**Scripture:** “Everyone who commits sin also breaks the law; sin is the breaking of law.” — 1 John 3:4 (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 14:23)

**Question 23:** *What is man’s plight under sin?*

**Answer:** All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse and made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the torment of hell forever. Fear, shame, blame-shifting, hatred of God, and hatred of fellow man are the natural result of sin in the human heart. No amount of good work can offset the sin that condemns us; only the free grace of God in Christ can remove the penalty of sin.

**Scripture:** Gen. 3:8-12, 24; Eph. 2:3; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41-46; Ps. 9:17

**Question 24:** *Why does God condemn man for sin?*

**Answer:** God is holy; He must hate sin. He is a God of justice and must punish those responsible for sin. All sin, no matter who else is affected, is a personal affront to God and is deserving of His punishment.

**Scripture:** “The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will never leave the guilty unpunished.”— Nahum 1:3 “But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.” — Isaiah 59:2

**Question 25:** *Did God leave all mankind to perish in sin and misery?*

**Answer:** No! God, out of His own good pleasure, from all eternity, chose a people unto everlasting life. Entering into an everlasting decree, covenanted within the Godhead, He determined to deliver those of His choosing out of sin and misery and to bring them into the state of salvation by a Redeemer.

**Scripture:** “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.” — Ephesians 1:4-5 (cf. Eph. 1:3-14; 2 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 5:21; Acts 13:8; Jer. 31:33)

**Question 26:** *Who is the Redeemer of God’s chosen people?*

**Answer:** The *ONLY* Redeemer of God’s chosen people is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person, forever.

**Scripture:** “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’” — John 14:6-7 (cf. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9)

**Question 27:** *May man earn God’s love?*

**Answer:** No! God loved His elect first. Moreover, God’s love cannot be earned by sinners, since condemnation already rests upon them.

**Scripture:** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” — Romans 3:23 (cf. Rom. 6:23)  
“Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son...” — 1 John 4:10

## IV. Salvation and V. God’s Purpose of Grace

**Question 28:** *What is Salvation?*

**Answer:** Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person and is freely offered, through the gospel, to all people – of every ethnic group and nationality in the world – if they will believe in the substitutionary, atoning work accomplished by Christ through His perfect life, death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead. With this belief is the necessary gift of repentance, without which there is no true salvation; faith and repentance are inseparable graces wrought by the Holy Spirit in the lives of those whom God has determined to save.

**Scripture:** “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” — Mark 1:15 — 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (cf. Matt.; Mk. 16:16; 4:17; Lk. 13:3, 15:7; Jn. 3:16; Acts 2:38, 3:19; 5:31, 8:22 17:30, 20:21, 26:20; Rom. 2:4, 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 2:8; Col. 2:12; 2 Tim. 2:25; Heb. 6:1-20; 1 Pet. 3:21; Jas. 2:19)

**Question 29:** *What does God require of people in order to be saved?*

**Answer:** Repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Scripture:** “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!” — Mark 1:15 “I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.” — Acts 20:21

**Question 30:** *What is saving faith?*

**Answer:** Saving faith is believing, trusting, and relying upon Jesus to accomplish salvation and reconciliation with God, which sinners are utterly incapable of accomplishing for themselves. It is trusting Him and entrusting oneself, in total commitment, to Him. It is relying upon Jesus’ death on the cross, in one’s own place, to take away the penalty of sin – that is, one’s own spiritual death and eternal judgment. It is also trusting that through His resurrection, one may expect to be resurrected unto eternal life as well. Saving faith is not merely mental assent to the propositional facts *about* the gospel. The fruit of saving faith is always a life of growing holiness and commitment to God and the commandments of Jesus. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Faith and repentance both result from regeneration by the Holy Spirit; regeneration does not result from one exercising faith and repentance.

**Scripture:** “For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift – not from works, so that no one can boast.” — Ephesians 2:8-9 (cf. Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 11:6; Jas. 2:19)

**Question 31:** *What is repentance?*

**Answer:** Repentance is a gift of God that results in a sincere *change of mind* (the literal meaning of the word repent in the New Testament) and attitude, which leads the sinner to turn to Christ and away from sin.

**Scripture:** The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this, he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” — Acts 17:30-31 (cf. Mt. 3:8, 4:17, 21:32; Mk. 1:4, 15, 6:12; Lk. 5:32, 15:7, 24:47; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 5:31, 8:22, 11:18, 19:4, 20:21, 26:20; Rom. 2:4-5; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:25; Heb. 6:1; Rev. 3:19)

**Question 32:** *What is election?*

**Answer:** Election is God’s eternal plan, determined before the foundation of the world, to save sinners. Election is consistent and compatible with the sovereignty of God and with the free agency of man. Election depends upon evangelism; therefore, God providentially ensures both the ends (salvation), and the means (a Christian witness) to share the gospel. Man cannot boast in his salvation. God chose us; we did not choose Him. Election is personal, in that the chosen ones are specific people. One does not become elect by choosing salvation; election is the guaranteed purpose of God that none of whom He has chosen will ever be lost.

**Scripture:** “But we must always thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth.” — 2 Thessalonians 2:13

**Question 33:** *What does election accomplish?*

**Answer:** Election is the gracious, unconditional purpose of God, according to which He effectually calls, regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies His specially chosen sinners. It is the glorious display of God’s sovereign grace. It is infinitely wise and holy and cannot be changed in any way. Since it is not conditioned on anything a person has or has not done, it eliminates the possibility of man’s boasting and promotes humility. It provides the basis for eternal security since it originates with God alone and is guaranteed by His own name and character. God has determined that election will see completion through the actual, eternal salvation of all those whom He has chosen in Christ and for whom Christ has died.

**Scripture:** “And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad – in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls – she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’” — Romans 9:10-13

**Question 34:** *What are predestination and/or foreordination?*

**Answer:** Predestination and/or foreordination simply mean to “determine or appoint an end result beforehand.” It refers to God setting the destiny, end, or goal of something before it ever occurs within the sphere of created time. Election is part of God’s predestined/foreordained purpose, since God has chosen both those who will be saved, and the actual, providential means by which that salvation will be accomplished. There is no need for God to choose/elect those who will not be saved, because they are already born into sin, and are also actual, active sinners. In this sense, they are also predestined, but to hell.

**Scripture:** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.” — Acts 13:48 “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to



the counsel of his will” — Ephesians 1:11 (cf. Prov. 16:4; Is. 42:9, 44:7, 46:10; Jer. 1:5; Matt. 22:14; Jn. 15:16; Acts 3:18, 4:27-28; Gal. 1:15; Eph. 1:4-5; Rev. 13:8)

**Question 35:** *What is foreknowledge?*

**Answer:** The New Testament word for foreknowledge refers to the *manner* in which God *knows* a person in an intimate and salvific way. It does not – as the English suggests – mean to simply “know beforehand.” God has never learned anything (He is Omniscient in His very being), and does not respond to the whims of human beings. God did not look down the corridors of time to see what people would do in response to the gospel, and then plan accordingly. God establishes, unchangeably, all that will occur. He knows us intimately; the word in the New Testament translated *know* is also the word to describe the way a husband *knows* his wife in marriage. Therefore, when God foreknows someone it means that in His choice of men and women for salvation, His decision has been to set His love upon them beforehand. Predestination (the what) is conditioned upon, and therefore inseparable, from foreknowledge (the why). God predestines unto salvation those whom He loves with an everlasting love, not out of His prescient knowledge of what a person may or may not do at some point-in-time in the future.

**Scripture:** “But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.” — Ephesians 1:11 (cf. Romans 8:28-30, 11:2; Acts 2:23; 1 Peter 1:2)

**Question 36:** *What is effectual calling?*

**Answer:** Effectual calling is the work of the Holy Spirit, whereby, He convinces us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the true knowledge of Christ. Renewing our wills, He persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, as He is freely offered to us in the Gospel. Effectual calling and regeneration are inseparable; they are simultaneous, even though the effectual call logically precedes regeneration.

**Scripture:** “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel — 2 Timothy 1:8-10 (cf. John 16:8-11; Acts 2:37; 26:18; Ezekiel 36:26; John 6:44, 45; 1 Cor. 12:3)

**Question 37:** *What benefits come to those who are effectually called?*

**Answer:** The ones who are effectually called partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the various other benefits which, in this life, either accompany or flow from them.

**Scripture:** “And those whom he predestined, He also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” — Romans 8:30 (cf. Gal. 3:26; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 8:31, 32; Eph. 1:5; 1 Cor. 1:30)

**Question 38:** *What is regeneration?*

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

**Scripture:** “Jesus replied, ‘I assure you: Unless someone is born again (*anōthen* – *from above*), he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” — John 3:3 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.” — 2 Corinthians 5:17



**Question 39:** *What is justification?*

**Answer:** Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, based solely on the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

**Scripture:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." —Romans 3:23-26 (cf. Eph. 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:19; Phil. 3:9; Gal. 2:16)

**Question 40:** *What is adoption?*

**Answer:** Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number of God's chosen ones and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

**Scripture:** "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." —John 1:12-13 (Rom. 8:16, 17; 1 John 3:1-3)

**Question 41:** *What is Sanctification?*

**Answer:** Sanctification is a work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole person after the image of God and are enabled more-and-more to die to sin and live to righteousness. It means to be set apart for God's purposes and enables the believer's progress toward moral and spiritual maturity. This grace will continue throughout the regenerate person's life and is wrought by the presence and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Scripture:** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. —2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 (cf. Eph. 4:23-24; Rom. 6:11)

**Question 42:** *What are the benefits in this life that accompany and flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?*

**Answer:** The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, hope and assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance in these things to the end.

**Scripture:** "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." —Romans 5:1-5 (Rom. 14:17; Prov. 4:18; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:13)

**Question 43:** *What is glorification?*

**Answer:** Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. It includes being set free from all temptation to sin, being made like Jesus, knowing God in His fullness, and being perfectly suited for living in His holy presence. This will be the condition of the saved for all eternity.

**Scripture:** "...the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. For the creation eagerly awaits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed... we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies." — Romans 8:19-23

**Question 44:** *What benefits do believers receive from Christ when they die?*

**Answer:** In holiness, the souls of believers are made perfect at death and immediately pass into the presence of the Lord. Their bodies rest in their graves until the resurrection. The decay and diminishment of the body – even through means such as cremation – in no way impede the resurrection; the resurrection is not dependent on the mere existence of matter that was part of the decedent's body.

**Scripture:** "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. —2 Corinthians 5:8 (cf. Job 19:26; Is. 57:2; Heb. 12:23; Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:14)

**Question 45:** *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?*

**Answer:** At the resurrection, believers become raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

**Scripture:** "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it, we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." — Phil. 3:20-21 (cf. Matt. 10:32; 1 Cor. 15:42-43; 1 Thess. 4:17; 1 John 3:2)

**Question 46:** *What happens to the wicked when they die?*

**Answer:** The souls of the wicked shall, at death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies will lie in their graves till the resurrection and judgment of the Great Day.

**Scripture:** "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'" — Luke 16:22-24 (cf. Ps. 49:14)

**Question 47:** *What will happen to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?*

**Answer:** At the Day of Judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being resurrected out of their graves, shall be sentenced to unspeakable, conscious torments with the devil and his angels forever. Their resurrected bodies will be burned but not consumed.

**Scripture:** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" —Matt. 25:41 (Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:9)

**Question 48:** *Is there more than one way to be saved?*

**Answer:** Only the gospel can bring reconciliation between God and man. Salvation is possible because Jesus died on the cross and shed His own blood to obtain forgiveness of sins. Salvation is offered freely to all who will repent and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is no salvation apart from personal reliance, in faith, upon Jesus Christ. Those who reject Christ – including those who never hear of Christ – will die in their sins and will receive eternal punishment. Ignorance of the gospel is no excuse; the Great Commission exists in order to make sure people everywhere hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Scripture:** "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" — John 14:6

**Question 49:** *Can't people simply make up their minds to become Christians?*

**Answer:** No. For a person to come to Christ, the Holy Spirit must first regenerate that person's heart – giving them the inclination toward God and away from sin (regeneration is what the Bible also calls being

“born again”). Regeneration removes the barrier between people and their ability to respond to the gospel in faith and repentance. People are born sinful and do not want God to rule their lives. Because people, in their natural state, are spiritually dead, deaf, and blind, and because the intentions of his heart is to do evil always, regeneration is needed to make them desire Christ more than they desire sin.

**Scripture:** “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him” — John 6:44 (cf. Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 13:15; Lk. 8:10; Acts 28:26; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1, 4:18; Tit. 1:15;

**Question 50:** *What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?*

**Answer:** At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit baptizes believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling them and sealing them unto salvation from that moment forward. It is not a second-blessing that follows some amount of time after salvation. It is not signified by the “gift of tongues” or any other manifestation of miraculous spiritual gifts. It is instantaneous and is what accomplishes the believer’s unity with Christ and security in Him. The Holy Spirit bears witness with the believer’s spirit to demonstrate that he or she is genuinely regenerated. This indwelling is accompanied by the “fruit of the Spirit” being manifested in the life of the believer and also brings peace between the brethren in the church. By this indwelling, the Word of God is illuminated unto the believer’s understanding, whereas it had been undiscernible in the believer’s sinful state. The indwelling Holy Spirit empowers and enables Christian ministry and evangelism; part of this is accomplished through the distribution of spiritual gifts to the ones He inhabits.

**Scripture:** “...But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” — Romans 8:9 (cf. Jn. 14:26, 16:13-16; Rom. 8:14-16; Rom. 12:1-9; 1 Cor. 2:14-16; 2 Cor. 1:22-23; 12:13; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 1:13-14 Jude 19)

**Question 51:** *What is the final perseverance or preservation of the saints?*

**Answer:** All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Holy Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Some mistakenly refer to this belief as “Once saved, always saved.” Unfortunately, this term has often given the impression that people can “get saved,” live without any sign of God’s sanctifying work in their lives, and then expect to go to Heaven. If there is no fruit of salvation, one should have no reason to claim to be saved in the first place. The proper term is “perseverance/preservation” or “the final perseverance/preservation of the saints.”

**Scripture:** “I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” — Philippians 1:6

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” — John 10:28-29

## VI. The Church

**Question 52:** *What is a local New Testament church?*

**Answer:** A New Testament church is an autonomous, local congregation of regenerate, baptized believers who have voluntarily joined themselves together in covenant with Christ and with each other.

**Scripture:** “So those who accepted his message were baptized... And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.” — Acts 2:41-42 (cf. Philippians 3:20)

**Question 53:** *What are the purposes of the local church?*

**Answer:** The church is to glorify God in corporate worship, through the expositional preaching of the Word, through the observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and through discipleship and discipline of its members. The mission of the church is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world through evangelism and missions. The fellowship of the church is like a "colony of heaven," providing encouragement and accountability to its members and always seeking to make new "citizens" from those who have been the enemies of God.

**Scripture:** "I have written so that you will know how people ought to act in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth." — 1 Timothy 3:15

**Question 54:** *How is a New Testament church governed?*

**Answer:** Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ, is led by Elders, served by Deacons, and governed by the constituted decisions of the Congregation, as it seeks to honor Christ through its decisions. This means every member should seek to follow the leading of Jesus Christ as the Head of the church and should willingly submit to the leadership of the Elders as Christ's appointed shepherds for the church. Deacons are the servants of the Church and help with administration, mercy ministries, and at the direction of the Elders (so that the Elders may give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word).

**Scripture:** "He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything." — Colossians 1:18 "So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock." — I Peter 5:1-3 (cf. Phil 1:2; I Timothy 2:12; I Timothy 3:1-7, 3:8-13; and Romans 16:1-3)

**Question 55:** *Who are the Biblical officers of the church?*

**Answer:** The biblical officers of the church are Elders (*bishops, overseers, shepherds, pastors, leaders,* and *teachers* are all terms used in the New Testament to describe the *elders*) and deacons. Both men and women are gifted for service, but the office of Elder is limited to biblically qualified men. Women may serve as deaconesses if deacons are not treated as elders and hold no teaching or governing roles over men.

**Scripture:** "Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus: To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons." — Philippians 1:2 (cf. Phil 1:2; I Timothy 2:12; I Timothy 3:1-7, 3:8-13; and Romans 16:1-3)

**Question 56:** *What is the Church Universal, catholic, or invisible Church?*

**Answer:** The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages; believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

**Scripture:** "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope at your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." — Ephesians 4:4-6

"After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were robed in white with palm branches in their hands." — Revelation 7:9

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

**Question 57:** *What is the first ordinance of the church?*

**Answer:** Believer's baptism. Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer beneath water and raising him or her back up — in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Scripture:** "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" — Matthew 28:19

**Question 58:** *To whom is Baptism to be administered?*

**Answer:** Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other.

**Scripture:** "But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." — Acts 8:12 (Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mark 16:16, 36; Acts 10:47-48)

**Question 59:** *Is Baptism required for church membership?*

**Answer:** Yes. Baptism is required before the privileges of church membership are conferred and before admittance to the Lord's Supper may be granted. Believers' baptism administered in other churches or Christian denominations should be recognized for new church membership if the believer seeking membership has a biblically accurate understanding of salvation by faith and he or she gives testimony to that faith personally. The one seeking membership should also have known, or verifiable, good character. One who is under church discipline by another church should not be granted membership until that matter has been resolved biblically, regardless of whether he or she has been baptized.

**Scripture:** "So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them." — Acts 2:41

**Question 60:** *Is baptism required to become a Christian?*

**Answer:** Baptism is a testimony that a person has already been saved. It is an outward act of obedience, representing the inward baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**Scripture:** "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?" — Galatians 3:3 (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13 and Eph. 4:4-6)

**Question 61:** *What does baptism represent?*

**Answer:** Baptism pictures what Christ has done for us and in us. It symbolizes Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It is also a testimony that the believer has died to the old life and has been raised to new life in Christ.

**Scripture:** "Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life." — Romans 6:3

**Question 62:** *What is the second of the two ordinances?*

**Answer:** The Lord's Supper. It is a symbolic act in which members of the church eat the bread and drink the cup. They reflect, in remembrance, upon the death of Jesus and look forward to His return. Secondly, it is a witness to observers — a proclamation of the Lord's death until he returns to establish His Kingdom.

**Scripture:** "...the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He also took the cup, after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as

often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”  
— 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Question 63:** *What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?*

**Answer:** It is required of those who would appropriately partake of the Lord's Supper that they examine themselves, repent of any sins, and make amends with any other Christians between whom there may be an offense. Moreover, they should give special attention to consideration of the Lord's body, laid down for them; of their faith to feed upon Him; of their repentance, love, and new obedience: lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

**Scripture:** “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.” — 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (cf. 1 Cor. 5:8; 2 Cor. 13:5)

## VIII. The Lord's Day

**Question 64:** *What is the Lord's Day?*

**Answer:** Sunday is the first day of the week and is the Lord's Day — that is, a day for the Lord. It celebrates the resurrection since Jesus' resurrection took place on the first day of the week. This day should be respected as a day to spend time with God, in Christian fellowship, and in worship. Since it is a day for the Lord, a Christian should carefully consider the activities the Lord would want him or her to be involved in on this day. It should not be referred to as the *Christian Sabbath* since that is not a term represented in the New Testament, even though Sabbath principles of rest and dedication to the Lord are observed.

**Scripture:** “On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.” — John 20:1

“And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” — Hebrews 10:25 (cf. Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10)

## IX. The Kingdom

**Question 65:** *What is the kingdom of God?*

**Answer:** The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

**Scripture:** “Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” — John 18:36 (cf. Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:152; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mk. 1:14-15; 9:1; Lk. 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; Jn. 3:3; Acts

1:6-7; 17:22-31; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Col. 1:13; Heb. 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

## X. Last Things

**Question 66:** *How will the world end?*

**Answer:** God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.

**Scripture:** “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

— Luke 21:27 “We wait for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” — Titus 2:13 (cf. Isa. 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30,3 6, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mk. 8:38; 9:43-48; Lk. 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thess. 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; Jas. 5:8; 2 Pet. 3:7ff.; 1 Jn. 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13)

**Question 67:** *What will happen to those who don't know Jesus when He returns?*

**Answer:** The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment.

**Scripture:** “This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful angels, taking vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of everlasting destruction, away from the Lord's presence and from His glorious strength” — II Thessalonians 1:7-8

**Question 68:** *What will happen to Christians at the end of the world?*

**Answer:** The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever with the Lord in the new heaven and new earth.

**Scripture:** “When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” — Colossians 3:4

## XI. Evangelism and Missions

**Question 69:** *What is the duty of every Christian?*

**Answer:** It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. Undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, it is the duty of every believer to seek constantly to proclaim the gospel of Christ to unbelievers wherever they may be encountered or sought out.

**Scripture:** “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” — Matthew 28:18-20 (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Lk. 10:1-18; 24:46-53; Jn. 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 3:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Pet. 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17)

**Question 70:** *What is – and who is responsible for – missions?*

**Answer:** Missions is evangelism that reaches people from other cultures or languages. It is not enough to



reach people like us in our own communities. Missionary effort on the part of all rests upon the spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

**Scripture:** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” — Acts 1:8

## **XII. Education**

**Go directly to BF&M (2000) for this information.**

## **XIII. Stewardship**

**Question 71:** *What is Christian stewardship?*

**Answer:** Stewardship is managing something that belongs to someone else, using it the way its owner wants it used. Everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him. Christians are stewards of their time, talents, and material possessions. Most importantly, we are stewards of the Gospel. Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

**Scripture:** “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” — 1 Corinthians 4:2 (cf. Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Lk. 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Rom. 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Pet. 1:18-19)

**Question 72:** *How should the Christian give to the Lord's work?*

**Answer:** Christians should give to the Lord's work cheerfully, regularly, and generously. The more they make, the more they should give. Some speak incorrectly of giving a “tithe.” The New Testament does not teach that one should tithe (a tenth) but that each should give out of his or her own abundance. Ten percent is a good starting point, but in a wealthy nation like ours, it should often be more – even much more.

**Scripture:** “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” —2 Corinthians 9:7-8

## **XIV. Cooperation**

**Go directly to BF&M (2000) for this information.**

### **XIV. The Christian and the Social Order**

**Go directly to BF&M (2000) for this information.**

## **XVI. Peace and War**

**Go directly to BF&M (2000) for this information.**

# The Baptist Faith and Message (2000)

## I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

## II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

### B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in

power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

### **C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:67; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

### **III. Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

## **IV. Salvation**

**Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.**

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

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

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

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

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

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

## **V. God's Purpose of Grace**

**Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.**

**All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and**

comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:12; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

## **VI. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## **VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

## **VIII. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship

and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

## **IX. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; I Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; I Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

## **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; I Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; I Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; I John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.*

## **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:23; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; I Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; I Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

## **XII. Education**

**Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.**

**In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the preeminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.**

*Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

## **XIII. Stewardship**

**God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.**

*Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

## **XIV. Cooperation**

**Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.**



*Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:116; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.*

## **XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

**All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.**

*Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

## **XVI. Peace and War**

**It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.**

**The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.**

*Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.*

## **XVII. Religious Liberty**

**God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access**

to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

*Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*

## **XVIII. The Family**

**God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.**

**Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.**

**The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.**

**Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.**

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

### **The Ten Commandments:**

**Note: 1-4 are God-ward, and 5-10 are Man-ward**

1. And God spoke all these words, saying,
2. "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
3. ***"You shall have no other gods before me (First Commandment)."***
4. ***"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.***
5. ***You shall not bow down to them or serve them (Second Commandment), for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,***

6. but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
7. *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain (Third Commandment),"* for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
8. *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (Fourth Commandment)."*
9. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.
10. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
11. *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you (Fifth Commandment)."*
12. *"You shall not murder (Sixth Commandment)."*
13. *"You shall not commit adultery (Seventh Commandment)."*
14. *"You shall not steal (Eighth Commandment)."*
15. *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Ninth Commandment)."*
16. *"You shall not covet (Tenth Commandment) your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."*

### **Catechism Questions Pertaining to the Decalogue (From the Baptist Catechism by Benjamin Keach)**

**Question 1:** *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*

**Answer:** The sum of the Ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves. (Matt. 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-33)

**Question 2:** *What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?*

**Answer** The preface to the Ten Commandments is, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." (Exodus 20:2)

**Question 3:** *What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?*

**Answer:** The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us, that because God is the Lord, and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments. (Deut. 11:1)

**Question 4:** *Which is the first commandment?*

**Answer:** The first commandment is, "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

**Question 5:** *What is required in the first commandment?*

**Answer:** The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly. (Joshua 24:15; 1 Chron. 28:9; Deut. 26:17; Ps. 29:2; Matt. 4:10)

**Question 6:** *What is forbidden in the first commandment?*

**Answer:** The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God and our God; and the giving that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto Him alone. (Joshua 24:27; Rom. 1:20, 21; Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:25)

**Question 7:** *What are we especially taught by these words, "before me," in the first commandment?*

**Answer:** These words, "before me", in the first commandment, teach us, that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with the sin of having any other God. (Deut.30:17, 18; Ps. 44:20, 21; Ps. 90:8)

**Question 8:** *Which is the second commandment?*

**Answer:** The second commandment is, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me: and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:4-6)

**Question 9:** *What is required in the second commandment?*

**Answer:** The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances, as God has appointed in His Word. (Deut. 32:46; Matt. 28:20; Deut. 12:32)

**Question 10:** *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*

**Answer:** The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in His Word. (Rom. 1:22, 23; Deut. 4:15, 16; Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:18)

**Question 11:** *What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?*

**Answer:** The reasons annexed to the second commandment, are, God's sovereignty over us, His propriety in us, and the zeal He has for His own worship. (Ps. 45:11; Ex. 34:14; 1 Cor. 10:22)

**Question 12:** *Which is the third commandment?*

**Answer:** The third commandment is, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7)

**Question 13:** *What is required in the third commandment?*

**Answer:** The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, words, and works. (Ps.29:2; Deut. 32:1-4; Deut.28:58, 59; Ps.111:9; Matt. 6:9, Eccles. 5:1; Ps. 138:2, Job 36:24; Rev. 15:3, 4; Rev. 4:8)

**Question 14:** *What is forbidden in the third commandment?*

**Answer:** The third commandment forbids all profaning and abusing of anything whereby God makes Himself known. (Malachi 1:6, 7; Lev. 20:3; 19:12; Matt. 5:34-37; Isa. 52:5)

**Question 15:** *What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?*

**Answer:** The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that howsoever the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape His righteous judgment. (Deut. 28:58, 59; Malachi 2:2)

**Question 16:** *Which is the fourth commandment?*

**Answer:** The fourth commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." (Exodus 20:8-11)

**Question 17:** *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

**Answer:** The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as He has appointed in His Word, expressly one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to Himself. (Lev. 19:30; Deut. 5:12)

**Question 18:** *Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?*

**Answer:** From the creation of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath. (Gen. 2:3; John 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Rev. 1:10)

**Question 19:** *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?*

**Answer:** The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days, and spending the time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. (Lev. 23:3; Isa. 58:13, 14; Isa. 66:23; Matt. 12:11, 12)

**Question 20:** *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

**Answer:** The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations. (Ezekiel 22:26; 23:38; Jer. 17:21; Neh. 13:15, 17; Acts 20:7)

**Question 21:** *What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?*

**Answer:** The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, His challenging a special propriety in the seventh, His own example and His blessing the Sabbath day. (Exodus 34:21; 31:16, 17; Gen. 2:2, 3)

**Question 22:** *Which is the fifth commandment?*

**Answer:** The fifth commandment is, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

**Question 23:** *What is required in the fifth commandment?*

**Answer:** The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals. (Lev. 19:32; 1 Peter 2:17; Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:21, 22; Eph. 6:1, 5, 9; Col. 3:19-22; Rom. 12:10)

**Question 24:** *What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?*

**Answer:** The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their several places and relations. (Prov. 30:17; Rom. 13:7, 8)

**Question 25:** *What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?*

**Answer:** The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve God's glory and their own good), to all such as keep this commandment. (Eph. 6:2, 3; Prov. 4:3-6; 6:20-22)

**Question 26:** *Which is the sixth commandment?*

**Answer:** The sixth commandment is, "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13)

**Question 27:** *What is required in the sixth commandment?*

**Answer:** The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life and the life of others. (Eph. 5:29, 30; Ps. 82:3, 4; Prov. 24:11, 12; Act 16:28)

**Question 28:** *What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?*

**Answer:** The sixth commandment forbids the taking away our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tends thereto. (Gen. 4:10, 11; 9:6; Matt. 5:21-26)

**Question 29:** *Which is the seventh commandment?*

**Answer:** The seventh commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

**Question 30:** *What is required in the seventh commandment?*

**Answer:** The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2; 2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 5:28; 1 Peter 3:2)

**Question 31:** *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

**Answer:** The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions. (Matt. 5:28-32; Job 31:1; Eph. 5:3,4; Rom. 13:13; Col. 4:6)

**Question 32:** *Which is the eighth commandment?*

**Answer:** The eighth commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

**Question 33:** *What is required in the eighth commandment?*

**Answer:** The eighth commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward state of ourselves and others. (Prov. 27:23; Lev. 25:35; Deut. 15:10; 22:14)

**Question 34:** *What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?*

**Answer:** The eighth commandment forbids whatsoever does or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbor's wealth or outward state. (1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 28:19; 23:20, 21; Eph. 4:28)

**Question 35:** *Which is the ninth commandment?*

**Answer:** The ninth commandment is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

**Question 36:** *What is required in the ninth commandment?*

**Answer:** The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness bearing. (Zech. 8:16; Acts 25:10; Eccles. 7:1; 3 John 12; Prov. 14:5, 25)

**Question 37:** *What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?*

**Answer:** The ninth commandment forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own, or our neighbor's good name. (Eph. 4:25; Ps. 15:3; 2 Cor. 8:20, 21)

**Question 38:** *Which is the tenth commandment?*

**Answer:** The tenth commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's." (Exodus 20:17)

**Question 39:** *What is required in the tenth commandment?*

**Answer:** The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit towards our neighbor, and all that is his. (Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Lev. 19:18)

**Question 40:** *What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?*

**Answer:** The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his. (1 Cor. 10:10; James 5:9; Gal. 5:26; Col. 3:5)

## **Theological Words and Definitions<sup>2</sup>**

- **Adoption:** When a person becomes a Christian, he or she is adopted by God into His eternal family. In this sense, we are not all God's children; only those who have received Christ are God's children (John 1:12).
- **Ascension:** This refers to the time Jesus returned to Heaven from earth after His resurrection.
- **Atonement:** The means by which sins are covered and reconciliation with God is accomplished. The cross is the place where the penalty of our sins was paid by Christ's substitutionary atonement. The result is "at-one-ment" with God.
- **Autonomous:** Not under the control of another. Baptist churches are not under the control of a denominational body. Each church owns its own property, calls its own ministers, and runs its own affairs as it sees fit, hopefully under the leadership of Christ.
- **Baptism of the Spirit:** When the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believer and to make him or her a part of the body of Christ, the Church. Some Christians believe the Baptism of the Spirit happens as a second experience after a person has become a Christian. They see it as a special experience with the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that this baptism takes place at the same time we are made part of the body of Christ; that is, the moment we are saved.
- **Believers' Church:** Baptists, among others, teach that a church should be made up only of believers and only of those who have freely chosen to be members. One is not "born into" a believers' church.
- **Communion:** A term used by some Christians for the Lord's Supper. It is also used of the close fellowship believers have with God through the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>2</sup> Derek Gentle, *Know the Truth: 60 Questions and Answers on Christian Beliefs* (Tallahassee, Alabama: Self-published, 2007), 34-39. These definitions have been used in their entirety without redaction.



- **Condemnation:** To be found guilty and awaiting punishment.
- **Condescension:** When Jesus came from Heaven to earth, He was leaving the worship and comforts to come to a place where He would be unrecognized and mistreated. The act of doing this — as well as His willingness to do this — is sometimes referred to as His condescension.
- **Conversion:** The change of life that comes when a person is saved. The new birth changes us on the inside. Conversion is the difference seen on the outside.
- **Conviction:** The internal working when the Holy Spirit makes us come to grips with our sinfulness and desperate need of Jesus.
- **Covenant:** An agreement or arrangement of solemn and binding force. God established a covenant with us through Christ. When we join a church, we enter into covenant with Christ and each other. Marriage is established by entering into a covenant with our spouse.
- **Divine:** That is, God. For example, to say Jesus is divine or to speak of His divinity is to say that He is God.
- **Doctrine:** The beliefs that the Bible teaches and we should believe. These are truths about God, the world in which we live, and ourselves. These are the basic facts of life we can live by and die with.
- **Election:** The word means “to choose.” We became Christians because God took the initiative to save us, not because we took the initiative to seek God. Election is His eternal plan to save sinners.
- **Enlightenment:** When God makes the light come on and we understand the Gospel and our urgent need of it.
- **Evangelism:** To announce good news. That people can be made right with God and be forgiven is very good news! Sharing that news is very important.
- **Exaltation:** Jesus was exalted, first by His resurrection, then in His ascension to Heaven, and then by His being enthroned in the place of honor and power in Heaven.
- **Fallen:** This refers to the condition of humanity and the world after Adam fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. This was a huge spiritual “train wreck” that made everything malfunction. It brought death and sorrow into the world. Even the creation fails to function properly. Worst of all, humans have inherited a nature prone to sin. Since the fall, when people do what comes naturally, they sin.
- **Glorify:** When someone gets a glimpse of the qualities of God and begin to praise Him in recognition of those qualities, they are said to glorify the Lord. This should be done with life as well as word.
- **Glory:** When the invisible qualities of the invisible God are revealed, that is glory. It is when God “shows His stuff.”
- **Glorification:** When Christ returns, Christians will be given new bodies suited for heaven and will be set completely free from temptation. We will be made like Jesus.
- **Gospel:** Good news. It is the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins and peace with God through Christ upon repentance.
- **Grace:** Grace is God treating us better than we deserve, pouring out His favor on us and pouring into us the power to live for Him.
- **Heaven:** The place from which God reigns and of eternal reward for believers. It is a perfect, happy, and sin-free place.
- **Hell:** The place of eternal punishment for Satan, the demons, and all who reject Jesus Christ.
- **Humiliation:** Today this word refers to a proud person being embarrassed, but when referring to Jesus, it means that when He came to earth, He came in humility, not exercising His rights or privileges due Him as God.
- **Holy:** Different. In a way that is clean and pure and good, God is different from the world of sinners. Because Christians know God, they too should be holy.

- **Hope:** Hope is faith focused on the future. It is the certain expectation and joyful anticipation of our eternal future with Christ.
- **Immersion:** To dip or to plunge beneath water; the proper way to baptize.
- **Immutable:** One who does not change. Only God is immutable.
- **Incarnation:** In flesh. When God became a man, Jesus was born on earth He took on a human body— He came in the flesh.
- **Iniquity:** This is a term for sin that emphasizes how we distort the good things God gives us, using them in forbidden ways.
- **Jesus Christ:** Jesus is the earthly name of Jesus, meaning deliverer or savior. It is the same name as Joshua in the Old Testament. Christ is not His last name, but His title, meaning Messiah.
- **Justification:** To be pardoned of sin and declared right with God.
- **Law:** The Old Testament provided rules of living for God’s people. This included moral law, ceremonial law, and civil law. Jesus did not remove the law; instead, He fulfilled the terms of the contract for us. The law still gives us guidance on how to show love to God and others.
- **Mercy:** When God doesn’t give us the punishment we deserve. All mercy is shown through Christ.
- **Messiah:** The deliverer promised to God’s people in the Old Testament. The word means “anointed one.” The way people were inaugurated to high office was to pour olive oil over their heads. Jesus was anointed as Prophet, Priest, and King, though not with oil, but with the Holy Spirit. “Christ” is the New Testament word for Messiah.
- **Missions:** Evangelism that reaches people across language, cultural, or geographical boundaries. It’s about reaching people outside our own backyard.
- **Old Testament:** The part of the Bible that records God’s laws (the Torah), the writings of God’s people, the prophecies, and the history of God’s people before Jesus came.
- **Omnipotent:** All-powerful. Only God is omnipotent.
- **Omnipresent:** Present everywhere. Only God is omnipresent.
- **Omniscient:** All-knowing. Only God is omniscient.
- **Ordinance:** A church practice established by God’s command. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the two ordinances of the church.
- **Original Sin:** The understanding that our sin has its origins in the original sin of Adam in the Garden of Eden and that this is where we get our bent toward sin.
- **Perseverance:** Remaining steadfast in the faith. Real Christians persevere in trusting Christ, clinging to the faith.
- **Polity:** The particular way in which a church is organized to govern itself. It is like the word politics, but without the bad connotations.
- **Prayer:** Talking with God. Prayer involves spending time with God (communion), adoring God (praise), asking God to meet our needs (petitions), and asking God to help others (intercession).
- **Priesthood of Christ:** Jesus is our great high priest who of Priesthood offered, not an animal but, Himself as the perfect sacrifice to atone for sin, once for all time. He continuously intercedes for us before God.
- **Priesthood of All Believers:** All believers have direct access to God and the ministry of representing God to men in witness and ministry and of representing men to God in intercessory prayer.
- **Propitiation:** To turn away wrath by providing satisfaction for it. The Bible refers to Jesus as the propitiation for our sin. Jesus turned the just wrath of God away from us by taking that wrath upon Himself on the cross.
- **Providence:** God continuously preserves and governs all creatures. He directs all events, yet not in such a way as to be the author of sin (or even to approve of sin) or to destroy the free agency and

responsibility of people. God makes some things to happen, others He allows to happen, but nothing just happens.

- **Rapture:** This is not a word used in the Bible, but is used to describe an event described in the Bible; that is, when believers are “caught up to be with the Lord” at Christ’s return (see 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- **Redemption:** To buy out of slavery. People were in slavery to sin and Jesus’ death on the cross was the ransom that bought us out.
- **Regeneration:** New life. Another term for being born again. This is when God gives us new spiritual life. Regeneration precedes faith and repentance, and is an act wholly of God.
- **Revelation:** Revelation is God revealing Himself. There is General Revelation in that God reveals Himself through creation and conscience (Romans 1:18-2:16). There is Special Revelation in which God reveals Himself through the Bible.
- **Sabbath:** The seventh day of the week, a day of rest and worship.
- **Sacrament:** Some denominations refer to the ordinances as sacraments. They may believe in other ordinances in addition to Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These people generally believe that the “sacraments” minister grace to those who observe them; thus Baptists do not use this term in the same way. We believe the ordinances are symbolic acts and do not minister grace in that way.
- **Sacrifice:** Before Jesus came, animals were sacrificed to atone for sin. This taught the principle of substitution and that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” It wasn’t possible for animals to provide atonement for people. Jesus came and offered Himself as our sacrifice, once for all.
- **Salvation:** To be rescued when in a helpless and hopeless situation. Salvation includes being delivered from the penalty of sin, being delivered from the power of sin, and, one day, being delivered from even the presence of sin.
- **Sanctification:** To be set apart from the world, for God. Then, to grow in holiness by the Holy Spirit’s power.
- **Scripture:** The sacred writings. Another term for writing in the Bible.
- **Sin:** An archery term meaning to fall short of the target. Even at our best, we fall short of God’s perfect righteous standard.
- **Theology:** The study of God (The Greek word for God is Theos) and of doctrine.
- **Total Depravity:** People are fallen and sin has affected their entire being. This does not mean people are as bad as they could be, that some are not worse sinners than others, or that they have never done a single decent thing in their lives. However, it means they are totally helpless to save themselves.
- **Transcendent:** God is above and beyond us. We couldn’t have figured God out if He hadn’t revealed Himself to us. Even with God revealing Himself, we know only a limited amount about Him. He is greater than we could ever imagine.
- **Transgression:** To step over the line. It is a term for sin, picturing the fact that God has given us boundaries in which we are supposed to stay and, instead, we choose to step out of bounds.
- **Satan:** The Christian’s adversary and accuser, the one who tempts us. Satan is not the opposite of God. He was created by God, but rebelled against God and fell from his place in Heaven. He leads other fallen angels (called demons) who rebelled with him. His powers are great, but limited. He is doomed to the place of eternal punishment.
- **Trinity/Triune:** God is a tri-unity... one God existing as three Persons.
- **World Evangelization:** Includes evangelism in our own communities, in our general area, in our state, in our nation, and our missionary efforts in nations around the world. Act local; think global.
- **Wrath:** God’s anger against sin. It is not God losing His temper, but His determination to punish sin. It is terrible to face and will come suddenly when the opportunity for grace ends.

## Books of the Old and New Testaments

### Old Testament Books

### New Testament Books

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea

29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesian
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation