



# OXFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

*“Shaping Our Future to Serve Our Father”*

## Statement of Beliefs

### The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of 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. It is inerrant and infallible in its original manuscripts that are to be taken as verbally inspired. 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.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy. 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11, 89,105, 140; Isaiah 34:15; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16, 36; 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; I Peter 1:25; II Peter 1:19-21*

### God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is the supreme, intelligent, spiritual and personal Being, The Creator, Redeemer, Preserver and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. The eternal 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 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; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4, 32:6; I 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- 11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; I Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; I Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; I Peter 1:17; I John 5:7*

### 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 the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience and in His 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, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and 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; Psalm 2:7ff; 110:11ff; Isaiah 7:14-53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 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; 3:2-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 334; 10:4; I Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; I 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; I Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; I John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; II John 7-9; Revelation 1:15-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16*

## **God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effect regeneration. 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 assurance of God to 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; Psalm 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; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 14:16,26-27; II Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I Thessalonians 5:19; I Timothy 3:16; 4:1; II Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8, 14; II Peter 1:21; I John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17*

## **Man**

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His 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 inherits a nature and an environment inclined toward sin and as soon as they are capable of moral action, 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 man possess dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

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

## **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 included regeneration, sanctification, and glorification a. Regeneration 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. b. Sanctification 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 perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life. c. Glorification 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; 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; I Corinthians 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; II Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:17; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff; I Thessalonians 5:23-24; II Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11- 14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12; James 2:14-26; II Peter 1:2-23; I John 1:6 - 2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1 - 22:5*

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

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, 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 a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. Those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified by His Spirit can 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, 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; I 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; 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; I Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; II Timothy 1:12; 2:10, 19; Hebrews 11:39 – 12:2; I Peter 1:2-5, 13:2-4-19; I John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2*

## **The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

*Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Revelation 20:10*

## **The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 14:23-27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; I 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; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:1-15; 4:14; I Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3*

## **Separation**

We believe that all saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon the Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious, apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God.

*Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11*

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

Christian baptism is the immersion of the 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 testimony to his faith in the resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is a 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 unleavened bread and the unfermented 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; I Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12*

## **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 be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by resting from secular employments, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

*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; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10*

## **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, the end of this age, and the establishment of His literal Kingdom.

*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 1:1-6, 9; 5:10; 11:15, 21-22*

## **Last Things**

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will one day come again! In the first phase of His coming, He will come in the air and the dead in Christ will rise first to meet Him, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. This is called the pre-tribulation rapture of the church. Following the rule of the antichrist and the judgments of God upon this sinful world in the Great Tribulation; Jesus, our Lord, will come with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom.

This second phase is called the Revelation. During the time of the tribulation period on earth, all the raptured saints will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ in the heavens to give an account of their works. These redeemed of Christ in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their rewards and will ultimately dwell in Heaven forever with their Savior. At the conclusion of the millennial reign of Christ, all the lost of all ages will appear before the Great White Throne Judgment to receive merited punishment for their sins, and then be cast into the lake of fire, where they will remain forever with the devil and his angels.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 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; II Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1-2; I Timothy 6:14; II Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; II Peter 3:7ff; I John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 – 22:13*

## **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. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all 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; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; I Thessalonians 1:3; II Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39 - 12:2; I Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17*

## Education

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the church. An adequate system of Christian schools 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 and inerrant 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; Psalm 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; I Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3, 8-9; I Timothy 1:3-7; II Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17*

## 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; 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. The tithe is the starting place of Christian stewardship. *Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 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; I Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; II Corinthians 8:1 - 9:15; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; I Peter 1:18-19*

## Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objectives for 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.

## Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

*Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*

## Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastors or deacons.

*Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6*

## **Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of an unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

*Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1-5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44*

## **Lawsuits Between Believers**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company if pursued without malice or slander.

*I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32*

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

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life 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 Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose, in the Spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the widowed, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. 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. It should be realized that social change must be the result of changed hearts. Therefore, the greatest contribution the church can make to social betterment is to bring individual men to a heart changing encounter with Jesus Christ. *Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:63-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff; 4:31-37; 12:2-3; 15:1-35; I Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; II Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18*

## **War and Peace**

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 for acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations and practical application of His law of love.

*Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 25:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2*

## **Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men that are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. The state owes 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 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 that 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. Every Christian church member should be a good citizen by being informed of the political issues and by exercising the right to vote his individual convictions.

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

## **Church Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body of Christ. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort, to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout the nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportments; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. To use our influence to combat the use of drugs and the spread of pornography; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christ; sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.