

**Manual for Doctrinal
and Practical
Applications For Life
and Ministry - 2023
Version.**

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DECLARATION OF FAITH:

We believe ...

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and was raised from the dead. That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Spirit.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism with the Holy Spirit subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the Atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saint's feet.
13. In the pre-millennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked.

DOCTRINAL COMMITMENTS

1. Repentance. Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19
2. Justification. Romans 5:1; Titus 3:7
3. Regeneration. Titus 3:5
4. New Birth. John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9
5. Sanctification subsequent to Justification. Romans 5:2; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:12
6. Holiness. Luke 1:75; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14
7. Water Baptism. Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9,10; John 3:22, 23; Acts 8:36,38
8. Baptism with the Holy Spirit subsequent to cleansing; the endowment of power for service. Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49,53; Acts 1:4-8
9. The speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance as the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. John 15:26, Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:1-7
10. The Church. Exodus 19:5,6; Psalm 22:22; Matthew 16:13-19; 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 7:38; 20:28; Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 12:12-31; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:9,21; Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 2:12; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:6,7; Revelation 21:2,9; 22:17
11. Spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:1,7,10,28,31; 14:1
12. Signs following believers. Mark 16:17-20; Romans 15:18,19; Hebrews 2:4
13. Fruit of the Spirit. Romans 6:22; Galatians 5:22,23; Ephesians 5:9; Philippians 1:11
14. Divine healing provided for all in the Atonement. Psalm 103:3; Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:17; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24
15. The Lord's Supper. Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
16. Washing the saints' feet. John 13:4-17; 1 Timothy 5:9,10
17. Tithing and giving. Genesis 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Malachi 3:10; Luke 11:42; 1 Corinthians 9:6-9; 16:2; Hebrews 7:1-21
18. Restitution where possible. Matthew 3:8; Luke 19:8,9
19. Pre-millennial second coming of Jesus.
20. First, to resurrect the dead saints and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:1 Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. Zechariah 14:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 5:10; 19:11-21; 20:4-6
21. Resurrection. John 5:28,29; Acts 25:15; Revelation 20:5,6
22. Eternal life for the righteous. Matthew 25:46; Luke 18:30; John 10:28; Romans 6:22; 1 John 5:11-13
23. Eternal punishment for the wicked. No liberation or annihilation. Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 3:29; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRUE CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. **Spiritual Example** : We will demonstrate our commitment to Christ through our practice of the spiritual disciplines. We will demonstrate our commitment to the body of Christ through our loyalty to God and commitment to His church. And we will demonstrate our commitment to the work of Christ through being good stewards.

A. **Practice of Spiritual Disciplines:** Spiritual disciplines involve such practices.

1. **Prayer:** Through prayer we express our trust in Jehovah God, the giver of all good things, and acknowledge our dependence on him for our needs and for the needs of others (**Mathew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13; James 5:13-18**)
2. **Praise God:** Through both private and public period of praise we bless God (**James 5:13**)
3. **Worship God:** True worship is how we live our lives fully to God (**Romans 12:1**). As well as through both private and public period of worship we have communion with Him, and are provided daily with spiritual enrichment and growth in grace (**John 4:23-24; Genesis 22:1-18**).
4. **Confession:** Confession of sin should accompanied by repentance to receive forgiveness from the Lord. Through repentance and confession of our sins to God we are assured of divine forgiveness (**1John 1:9 to 2:2**). The sharing of our confession with other believers provides the opportunity to request prayers and to bear one another's burdens and to ask for counselling and advice (**Galatians 6:2; James 5:16**).
5. **Fasting:** Through periods of fasting we draw close to God, meditate on the passion of Christ, and discipline ourselves to submit to the control of the Holy Spirit in all areas of our lives. (**Mathew 6:16-18; Mathew 9:14-15**)
6. **Meditation, and Study the Word of God:** Through meditation on and study of the Word of God we enhance our own spiritual growth and prepare ourselves to help, guide and instruct others in scriptural truths (**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 2Timothy 2:15, 2Timothy 3:16-17**) Every believer should read his Bible from the beginning to the end, daily, page by page, book by book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, in sequence and not jumping from book to book, three to four chapters daily, and when finish to start again from the beginning.
7. **Water Baptism:** Every believer need to be water Baptised by immersion in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit. Water Baptism is due and mandatory for those who heard the message, repented, and willing to follow Christ life and commands. (**Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 6:3-5; Acts 2:38-39**)
8. **Lord's Supper and Feet Washing:** The subject of communion and Feet Washing both are taught in the New Testament (**Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; John 13:1-17**) and we observe doing that once or twice per year or more, with the committed workers.

B. **Loyalty to God and Commitment to the Church:** The life of Christian discipleship calls for the fulfilment of our duties to the body of Christ.

1. **Regular meetings:** We are to unite regularly with other members of the church for the purpose of magnifying and praising God and hearing His Word. (**Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Hebrews 10:25**). Sunday is the Christian day of worship. As the

Lord's Day, it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead (**Mathew 28:1**) and should be employed for worship, fellowship, Christian service, teaching, evangelism, and proclamation (**Acts 20:7, 1Corinthians 16:2**). If Sunday not available for certain members of the church, other days per week can be used to worship and serve God. The crucial thing is to keep one day per week for God.

2. **Financial Commitment**: We are to provide for the financial needs of the church; by the giving of tithes (**Malachi 3:8-12**), offerings (**1Corinthians 16:2; 2Corinthians 8:1-24; 9:1-15**) and the firstfruits (**Exodus 22:29; Proverbs 3:9-10; Hebrews 11: 4**). Tithes, offering and firstfruit will be collected in the main treasury of the church.
 3. **Respect and Submission to those over us in the Lord**: It is our duty to respect and submit to those whom the Lord Jesus has placed over us in the Church (**1Thessalonians 5: 12, 13; Hebrews 13:7; 17**). Our submission must be a manifestation of the spiritual grace of humility (**Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5,6**).
 4. **Spiritual Example in Exercising Authority**: Our exercise of authority must be spiritual example rather than as a lord over God's flock (**Mathew 20:25-28; 1 Peter 5:1-3**).
 5. **Avoid affiliation with oath-bounded societies**: Such societies may appear to have spiritual character, but by being oath-bound and secretive, they contradict Christian spirituality (**2Corinthians 6:14-18**). Christians must not belong to any body of society that requires or practices an allegiance that supersedes or excludes their fellowship in Christ. We need to void friends and people who are not obedient to the Lord and to His word (**Psalms 1:1; 1Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20**).
 6. **Avoid celebrating the worldly events and honouring the following idols that people in the world celebrates**: Like birthdays, Halloween, Valentine days, Christmas, New Year, Mother Day, Father Day, Pastor Month, etc.
- C. **Being Good Stewards**: God has committed temporal blessings to our trust and we need to use them wisely.
- 1- **The simplicity of living**: In the Scriptures, the simplicity of living is honoured, but wasting and carelessness in spending are prohibited (**Isaiah 55:2; John 6:12-13**).
 - 2- **The wise use of the resources**: The living of a Godly life requires the wise and discipline use of our temporal blessings, including time, talent, possessions and money. These all carried temporal values.
 - 3- **The wise use of time**: As good stewards we are able to make the most of our time, (**Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5**). The lazy use of leisure time degrades (**2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1Timothy 5:13**), but the edifying use of it brings inner renewal. All our work should honour the name of God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).
 - 4- **The wise use of the spiritual gifts**: as good stewards we must use fully our spiritual gifts (**Romans 12:3-8; 1Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:9-11**).
 - 5- **The wise use of the natural talents**: (**Mathew 25: 14-30**) Three things that hinder us from using our talents effectively: Laziness, Lack of knowledge in God's word, and wickedness (sin).
 - 6- **The wise use of money**: As good stewards we must recognise that the wise use of money is an essential part of the Christian's economy of life. Christian should work hard (**Genesis 3:17-19**), tithed their income (**Leviticus 27:30**), spend on themselves and their families (**Titus 3:14**), not to borrow or be in debt (**Proverbs 22:7**), save the

fifth (20%) of their income (**Genesis 41:34-35; Proverbs 6:6-8**) and share with those in need (**Ephesians 4:28**)

2. **Moral Purity:** We will engage in those activities which glorify God in our body and which avoid the fulfilment of the lust of the flesh.

A. **Glorifying God in Our Body:** Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (**1Corinthians 3:16-17**). We are to glorify God in our body (**Romans 12:1,2; 1Corinthians 6:19,20; 1Corinthians 10:31**). We are to walk in the Spirit and not fulfil the lust of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8**). Sinful practices that are made prominent and condemned in the Scripture include;-

1. **Sexual Immoralities :** Homosexuality (**1Corinthians 6:9, Romans 1:26-27**) Adultery (**Mathew 5: 27-29**) Sexual perversion (**Leviticus 18:23, 24-28**)
2. **Worldly Attitudes:** Hatred, Envy, Jealousy (**Galatians 5:19-21**)
3. **Corrupt Communication :** Gossip, Lies, Slander, Anger Outburst, Filthy words (**James 3:2,3,5,9,10,12; Ephesians 4:29; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3: 9,16; Colossians 3: 8; Proverbs 6:19; 12:17; 16:28; 19:5; 20:19**)
4. **Stealing:** (**Deuteronomy 5: 19; Ephesians 4:28**)
5. **Murder :** (**Deuteronomy 5:17; Mathew 5:21-22**)
6. **Drunkenness:** (**Ephesians 5:18**)
7. **Witchcraft:** Witchcraft has to do with the practices of the occult, which are forbidden by God and lead to the worship of Satan. (**Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:9-12; Revelation 22:15**)
8. **Eating Blood:** (**Leviticus 17: 10-12; Acts 15:29**)

B. **Reading, Watching, and Listening:** The literature we read, the programs we watch, and the music we listen too profoundly affect the way we feel, think, behave and act. It is important then that the Christian read, watch, and listen to those things that inspire, instruct, and challenge to a higher level of living for God. Therefore, literature, programs, and music that are worldly in content or pornographic in nature must be avoided. A Christian is not to attend (or watch on television) movies or theatrical performances of a demoralising nature (**Romans 13:14**). As well as watching and listening to Christian Programs should be for short period of time, because watching and listening over long period of time will lead us to loss our time and we cannot do what we ought to do for our families, our work and the ministry that God entrust to us.

C. **Benefiting Spiritual Well Being:** The use of leisure time of the life of a Christian should be characterised by those activities that edify both the individual and the body of Christ (**Romans 6:13; 1Corinthians 10:31-32**). We are to avoid places and practices that are of this world. Consequently, a Christian must not be part of any other types of entertainment that appeal to the fleshly nature and/ or bring discredit to the Christian testimony (**2Corinthians 6:17; 1Thessalonians 5:21,22; 1John 2:15-17; James 4:4-5**) Avoid to be yoked with nonbelievers people and friends (**Psalms 1:1, 1Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20**)

3. **Personal Integrity:-** We will live in a manner that inspires trust and confidence, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, and seeking to manifest the character of Christ in all our behaviour.

A. **Live in manner that inspires Trust and confidence:** A Christian should be trustworthy, dependable, and a person of his word (1 Peter 2:11, 12). Therefore,

1. **The swearing of oaths is contrary to a Christian's trustworthiness and should be avoided:** (Mathew 5:34-37; James 5:12; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5; Proverbs 20:25).
2. **Christ, by word and example, taught that we love our enemy;** (Mathew 5:43-48)
3. **Christ, by word and example, taught that we prefer our brother:** (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3; 1John 3:16)
4. **Behave in a way that will point others to Christ:** Salt and Light; Salt preserve, light direct others to see Christ. (Mathew 5:13-16; 1Corinthians 11:1).

B. **Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit:** If we live in the Spirit, we will manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our attitudes and actions; and will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16,22-25).

1. **Positive relationship with the Lord:** (Matthew 22:37-40).
2. **Trustful relationships with others are a natural outgrowth of our Positive relationship with the Lord.** (1John 1:7). We work to restore relationship, but we don't compromise. We work for peace but we don't agree with wickedness (Matthew 10:34-38; Luke 12:49-53).
3. **A lack of fruit bearing in our lives will be judge:** (Luke 13:6-9; Mathew 7:16-20; John 15:1-8, Mathew 7:22-23).

C. **Seeking to manifest the Characters of Christ in our lives:**

1. **Love for others is the hallmark of the Christ-life:** (John 13:34,35; 15:9-13; 1 John 4:7-11).
2. **Jesus displayed submission in His relationship with His Father:** (Luke 22:42; John 4:34; 5:30).
3. **Acceptance in His relationship with others:** (John 8:11).
4. **Compassion for others:** (Mathew 9:36; Mark 6:34).
5. **Forgiveness for others:** (Mathew 9:2; Luke 5:20).

We cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit and manifest the character of Christ without being spiritually joined to Christ (John 15:4,5) and without having the seed of the Word planted in our heart (John 15:3; 1Peter 1:22,23; Colossians 3:16).

4. Family Responsibility: We will give priority to fulfilling family responsibilities to preserving the sanctity of marriage, and to maintaining divine order in the home.

A. **Priority of the Family:** The family is the basic unit of human relationship and as such is foundational to both society and the church. The divine origin of the family, along with its foundational character, makes it essential that we give priority to the family, both from a personal and corporate standpoint.

1. **The principles of marriage:**

- I. **Leaving: (Genesis 2:18-24, Mathew 19:5, Mark 10-7)** Marriage cannot grow and develop so long as no real clear separation from one's family takes place. There must be a clean and clear cut of both from previous life. Both have to leave not only the man.

- II. **Cleaving (uniting)**: You cannot unite unless you leave. And you cannot leave unless you decide to unite.
 - III. **Becoming one**: Husband and wife share everything they have, not only their bodies, not only their material things, but also their thinking, their feelings, their joy and their sufferings, their hopes and their fears, their success and their failure. They are becoming one in marriage: **One Spirit, (Hebrews 4:16)** Both turn to God in complete dependence. **One Soul, (Malachi 2:14-15, Romans 15:7, Ephesians 4:32)** Commitment to minister to one another. **One Body (1Corinthians 7:3-6)** Commitment to give body (sexual) excitement and satisfaction to each other. Body oneness is the expression of spirit and soul oneness, and is God's plan for total oneness.
2. **Preparation for Godly marriage: (Genesis 2:8-25)** Before we approve marriage the following should be observe:
 - I. **A proper set up for living: (Genesis 2:8)**
 - II. **A proper Income: (Genesis 2:15)**
 - III. **A proper resources to sustain the proper place of living: (Genesis 2:10-14)**
 - IV. **A Proper understanding of who God is and what His word teaches: (Genesis 2:16-17)**
 - V. **A Proper understanding of God's purpose for marriage is to have Godly offspring: (Malachi 2:15a)**
 - VI. **A Proper thought for marriage to be fulfilled in God's time: God will give the right partner at His proper time: (Genesis 2:18)** Maturity is needed before marriage
 - VII. **A proper responsibility, and level of maturity for the man should be checked before marriage: (Genesis 2:19-20)**
 - VIII. **A real need for a suitable partner would be raise up to help the man in his life unto God: A suitable helper is a post that needed to be filled by God only. The Scripture do not speak about courting or dating, or making boy friend or girl friend as a way for marriage. God is the one to make and arrange the suitable helper and bring to man (Genesis 2:21-23)**
 - IX. **A family formed by God can manage their life independently well: (Genesis 2:24)**
 - X. **We as a church we officiate marriages only for our workers who abide with God's Word and choice. Those who do their own, we are not called to officiate or bless their marriages.**
 3. **The practice of Christian disciplines and virtues should begin in the home (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).** Parents are responsible to teach their children the Word of God.
 4. **Establish some pattern for family devotions and worship:** Each family should be encouraged to engage in service at least once a day, and at a time most convenience to the household, and that the parents should see that every child is taught as early as possible to give reverent to God and to his parents, by listening quietly and attentively to the reading of God's word and getting down on his knees during prayer.
 5. **Provide a Christian environment in the home (1Timothy 3:4-5; 1 Timothy 5:8).** The parents as royal priesthood over their families are required to raise their children in the fear of the Lord, (**Proverbs 22:6**) Parents they need to love, care and provide for their children shelter and food and raise them up in the fear of the

Lord. Parents they should give big portion of their time to care and to love their children and show them kindness and direct them how to live their lives and describe to them their duties and their responsibilities and prepare them for the future. Parents as priests should keep the right and joyful fellowship atmosphere in the house, (**Ephesians 6:5**) But Parents should not allow certain entertainment that causes children to learn bad things and cause them to fall in sin. Only holy things the children should allow to enjoy with and spend their leisure time inside the house. Parents should choose to the children what they will watch, listen and read, and even to chose to them the toy they should play with. The parents should be firm with the children because every child has foolishness and the way of taking it out from the child is through discipline by a rod, (**Proverbs 22:15**) The rod should be used in the home to keep children in the right way of life, (**Proverbs 29:15,17**)

B. Sanctity of Marriage: Marriage is ordained of God and is a divine spiritual union in which a man and a woman are joined by God to live together as one. Sexual involvement either before marriage or with someone other than the marriage partner is strictly prohibited in Scripture (**Exodus 20:14; 1Corinthians 6:15-18**).

1. **Marriage is a lifelong commitment:** Living together with the children (**Mathew 19:6, Mark 10:9**)
2. **Divorce or divorce and remarriage is a matter that Scripture does not agree about it. Such thing we should not approve because divorce and remarriage is adultery** (**Mathew 19:7-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2,3; 1Corinthians 7:2,10,11**).
3. **Should a Christian desire to remain single, this decision should be respected and should be seen as a viable Scriptural alternative** (**1Corinthians 7: 7, 8-9, 32-34**)

C. Divine Order in the Home: When God created man; He created them male and female. (**Genesis 1:27**).

1. **He gave them distinctly different characteristics** (**1Corinthians 11:14,15**) and physical differences (**1Peter 3:7**)
2. **Man and Woman have different responsibilities** (**Genesis 2: 15,18, 20; 3:16-19; 1Corinthians 7:3 Ephesians 5:25-33; 1Peter 3:1-7**).
3. **In God's order the husband is head of the home** (**Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18,19**) to lead the family.
4. **Parents are to nurture and admonish their children** (**Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21**)
5. **Children are to obey and honour their parents** (**Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20**)

In order for harmony to exist in the home, God's order of responsibility must be observed.

5. Behavioural Temperance: We will practice temperance in behaviour and will abstain from activities and attitudes that are offensive to our fellowman or that lead to addiction enslavement.

A. Temperance: One of the cardinal Christian virtues is temperance or self-control (**1Corinthians 9:25; Titus 1:8; Titus 2:2**). It is listed as fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:23**)

1. We are admonished to practice moderation and balance in our behaviour (Philippians 4:5)
2. The Scripture indicates that it is within our ability to control our thinking (Philippians 4:8)
3. The Scripture indicates that it is within our ability to control our anger (Ephesians 4:26; Psalms 4:4; James 1:19-21)
4. The Scripture indicates that it is within our ability to control our communication (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8)
5. To exercise self-discipline reflects your focus on the target (2Peter 1:5-11) That is so important to live effective, fruitful and productive life, to make your calling and election sure, and to receive a rich welcome in the kingdom of God and our reward from the LORD.

B. Offensive Behaviour: The Bible speaks clearly that we are to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others as demonstration of our love for them (Mathew 22:39; Romans 12:9-21).

1. Not to overlook the interest of others (Philippians 2:3-5)
2. Not to harm others (Romans 13: 8,9,10)
3. At times it is necessary for us to control our behaviour not to bring offense to others (Romans 14:13-15; 1Corinthians 8:9-13)
4. As we know Christ after the Spirit, we are also to know others in the same manner so we will not judge them after their outward behaviour alone (2Corinthians 5:16)
5. A respect and tolerance for differences in others should characterize our relationships (Romans 14:2,3; 1Corinthians 8:8; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)

D. Addiction and Enslavement: One of the primary benefits of our liberty in Christ is freedom from the domination of negative forces (John 8:32; Romans 6:1-2,14; Romans 8:2)

1. We are counselled not to put ourselves again under bondage (Galatians 5:1): Therefore, a Christian must totally abstain from all alcoholic beverages and other habit-forming (Chewing Betel nut) and mood-altering chemical substances and refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, marijuana, and all other addictive substances.
2. We must refrain from any activity (such as gambling or gluttony): These defile the body as the temple of God, or which dominates and enslaves the spirit that has been made free in Christ (Proverbs 20:1; 23:20,30-35; Isaiah 28:7; 1Corinthians 3:17; 1Corinthians 5:11; 1Corinthians 6:10; 2 Corinthians 7:1; James 1:21).

6 Modest Appearance: We will demonstrate the Scriptural Principle of modesty (reserve, humility). Modesty is an inner spiritual grace that withdraws from anything inappropriate and impure. *It is chaste in thought and conduct, and is free of crudeness and indecency in dress and behaviour* (Ephesians 4:25,29,31, Philippians 4:8; 1Timothy 2:9,10).

The admonition of Scripture, “*Be not Conformed to this world,*” (Romans 12:2) reminds us that our manner of dress must be modest and descent. Therefore, modesty includes our appearance, the way we dress, we speech, and the way we conduct our lives in a manner that will enhance our Christian testimony. It is not displeasing to God for us to dress well and be well groomed. All we must seek spiritual beauty, which does not come from elaborate,

showy dress; extravagant, costly attire or an outward adornment with jewellery, expensive clothes, or cosmetics, but from good works, chaste conversation, and a meek and quiet spirit (1Timothy 2: 9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-5).

Pride, Elaborateness, Sensuality: As godly people we are to abstain from all lusts of the flesh and avoid dressing in a manner that encourages immoral thoughts, attitudes, and lifestyles. External adornment, whether clothing or jewellery, as an outward display of personal worth, is contrary to a spiritual attitude (James 2:1-4; 1John 2:15-17)

7 Social Obligation: It should be our objective to fulfil our obligations to society being good citizens, by correcting social injustices, and by protecting the sanctity of life.

A. Being Good Citizens: As Christians we are members of the Kingdom of God as well as a social order of this world.

1. Obedience to God requires us to act in a responsible manner as citizens of our country (Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-17). Therefore, we should support civil law and order, hold our leaders in respect and pray for them; and speaks out on clear-cut moral issues.

2. When it becomes necessary to disagree with practices and requirements of government, we should do so out of a concern for the promotion of righteousness and not out of delight in discord and controversy.

3. God's law is supreme, we are to obey the laws of our country if they are not in conflict with the Word of God (Acts 5:29, Acts 4:18-20, John 15: 18-21, John 16:1-4, Mathew 10:17-20). We need to continue to evangelize and keep our commitment to the LORD to reach the lost inspite of opposition or persecution.

4. Praying for the country that you are in (1Timothy 2:1-7; Jeremiah 29:7)

B. Correcting Social Injustices:

1. Love for others and the recognition of the equal worth of all people in the sight of God (Acts 10:34) should compel us to take steps to improve the situation of those who are underprivileged, neglected, hungry, homeless, and victimized by prejudice, persecution, and oppression (Mathew 22: 39; Matthew 25: 34-40; Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 3:17-18).

2. In all of our dealings, we must be sensitive to human needs (Luke 10:30-37) and guard against racial and economic discrimination.

3. Every person should have freedom to worship and participate in the life of the church regardless of race, colour, sex, social class, or nationality.

C. Protecting the Sanctity of Life:

1. God alone gives life (Genesis 1:1-31); therefore, we are responsible to God to care for our physical life and that of others. If the circumstances require, we must be prepared to risk our life in the service of our neighbour (John 15:13); but the general rule is that we must respect our physical life and employ every worthy means to maintain it.

2. Since God alone confers life, God alone must decide when it is to be ended (Psalm 31:14, 15).

3. Because a human foetus is sacred and blessed by God, we believe we have the responsibility to protect the life of the unborn (Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41).

4. It is our firm conviction that abortion, and euthanasia (merciful death) of the aged, mentally incompetent, terminally ill, and otherwise handicapped, for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment, or economic advantage, are morally wrong.

5. Furthermore, we believe it is our Christian responsibility to care for the earth and its resources. In the beginning God gave man dominion over the earth (**Genesis 1:26-30**). This does not, however, give us license to pollute our natural environment or to waste the resources of the earth.

Water Baptism

Article Number 1

"13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17 KJV)

The above passage describes Jesus' baptism before He started His earthly ministry. He has shown us His very first example in:

- 1. Obedience to God:** Water baptism is immersion in water. It is ordained from God for everyone; having no physical effect but depicting spiritual value. It reflects human understanding of the words - obedience to God. Obeying God without question or doubt describes our trust and full confidence in Him. It is an act of obedience to God and it is a righteous thing to do. Jesus was obedient to God the Father, and when He sent His apostles to preach the gospel, *"15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* (Mark 16:15-16 KJV)
- 2. Submission to God:** Obedience describes the attitude of submission. But human pride opposes that act of obedience and submission to God. We cannot reach God with a haughty spirit. It has to be broken. Taking water baptism is an act of submission to God. Jesus, when He requested John to baptize him, he submitted himself to God not to men.
- 3. Humility:** Jesus is the Son of God and He is God, but he put aside his Godly nature. He showed us the best example of humility. As a man although having no sin, Jesus was baptized by John who was baptizing the people in water for repentance. Jesus is whom John referred to when he said, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."* (Matthew 3:11 KJV)
- 4. Decision-making:** Jesus lived as human for 30 years and before He started his ministry He willingly underwent water baptism. This act represents the point or the mark between his life as a mere man and his ministry as the Son of God; to follow and to do the will of God the Father. Water baptism is a personal decision to choose after firmly understanding its spiritual implications because it represents a covenant between a believer and God. Jesus decided by himself to take water baptism. The person who believes in Jesus and decides to leave behind his old life -the life of sin, and ready to turn to follow God and to serve God, therefore will decide to

obey the ordinance of water baptism. Obviously, water baptism is a personal own-decision to make and is not applied to a little children or to anyone who does not understand its significance.

5. **Proclaiming the will of God:** Water baptism is not only a simple act or just an occasion to celebrate. It is the doer's declaration about his spiritual being not only to God but even to the people around. Water baptism declares the inward condition of the person who has repented from sin and has accepted the saving power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. He proclaims that he is forgiven and cleansed, and God has made him alive with Christ. While John was preaching and baptizing, Jesus also took water baptism publicly. When Apostle Peter preached about Jesus, ***"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."*** (Acts 2:41)

6. **Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit:** After the water baptism of Jesus the Holy Spirit came upon Him as a dove and a voice from heaven said: ***"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*** (Matthew 3:17 KJV) God is very much pleased whenever His children obey Him. When the people heard the message about Christ Jesus, they asked the apostles what they needed to do. And Peter replied, ***"38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call."*** (Acts 2: 38-39 KJV)

Water Baptism

Article Number 2

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN BAPTISM? Baptism means to dip, immerse, or submerge. In scripture it means to put into or under the water, so to entirely immerse or submerge. When the Ethiopian saw water, he asked to be baptized ***"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"*** (Acts 8:36 KJV) Philip was the one who was preaching to him the gospel of Jesus and he answered him, ***"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*** (Acts 8:37 KJV) Then the eunuch complied ***"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."*** (Acts 8:38) Then in the following verse Acts 8:39 we can read, ***"And when they were come up out of the water,"*** that mean during Baptism the eunuch was immersed under the surface of the water. Our Lord Jesus when he got Baptized according to ***Matthew 3:16***, we can read the following ***"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water."*** That it means that during His Baptism Jesus was under the surface of the water. Therefore it is not acceptable that Baptism will be done by sprinkling of water or by taking shower because the whole body needs to be immersed under the surface of the water.

Romans 6:3-5 tell us the following about baptism, ***"3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."*** (Romans 6:3-5 KJV) Here according to this Scripture those who are undergoing baptism are considered as dead to their old life. Therefore the meaning of baptism is to bury the old life, and immersion in water symbolizes the burial of a dead person body. Therefore in doing baptism, only the immersion method is the acceptable and the Scriptural procedure. Those who are baptized by sprinkling need to be baptized again properly by immersion under the surface of the water.

Water Baptism should be done in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as Jesus commanded us, ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*** (Matthew 28:19 KJV)

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

1. Water Baptism is to bury the old life: Romans 6:3-5 tell us that in baptism we are burying our old life. Therefore it is the responsibility of those who desire and willing to be baptize to put to death whatever belongs to their sinful nature. ***“5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”*** (Colossians 3:5-10 KJV) Immersion under the water during baptism is to bury an aware person who is willing to put to death his old life. In this way the person is united with Jesus in His death on the cross, and as Jesus resurrected from the death, the baptized person is united with Jesus' resurrection as he rise up from the water after water baptism to live his new life for Christ. Colossians 2:12,13 tells us the following, ***“12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”*** (Colossians 2:12-13 KJV) Therefore in baptism the old life (sins) has been dealt with and buried with Jesus.

2. Baptism says that a person has repented of his/her sins: Acts 2:38 Peter told the Jews on the day of Pentecost that they needed to ***“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”*** Baptism is an outward expression of an inward condition. The physical action is picture of what happens in the spiritual.

3. Baptism symbolizes that a person has been forgiven and cleansed of his/her sins: Baptism is a confession of our desire to be clean from sin of every kind. Acts 22:16 says, ***“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”***

4. It is an act of obedience: Matthew 28:19 ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*** tells us that baptism is necessary for those who want to be disciples. In Acts 9:6 the Lord told Saul that he will be told to what he needed to do, ***“Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”*** After he could see again, he was baptized, ***“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”*** (Acts 9:18 KJV)

5. We are baptized into Jesus character: We are not baptized into a church or group of people. The important thing is that we are baptized into Christ. Galatians 3:27 says ***“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*** So baptism is to take the character and the attitude of Christ, ***“12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*** (Colossians 3:12-13 KJV) Baptism is to dedicate our lives to be under the control of the Holy Spirit and allow him to work on us to produce in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit that makes our attitude and characters similar to Christ.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR WATER BAPTISM?

1. It is necessary to have heard the Word, believe it and accepted the message: Acts 2:41 says that those who accept the message were baptized. *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

2. Conviction. Acts 2:37 says *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* People should get baptized willingly after they are convinced.

3. Repentance: Without repentance water Baptism will not bring salvation in their lives. Those who got baptised without repentance they need to re baptised again after their repentance. Peter clearly stated in his message to the crowd in the day of Pentecost that they need to repent first then after that to get baptised, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38 KJV)

4. Faith: Mark 16:16 says, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

5. Obedience: Not only for water baptism but for all the commands of God.

Water Baptism

Article Number 3

“ 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:37-42 KJV)

In the day of Pentecost the Jewish who heard the message of Peter, *they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* Those people they heard the message and they repented of their sins, and willingly they got water baptized. After their baptism they devoted themselves to the four following things:

1. The apostles' doctrine: Baptism is not the end of the Christian journey, but is just the beginning of the way. Those who got Baptism, the church should continue to teach them and discipline them to continue to live in the ways of the Lord. Jesus also told us the following in *Matthew 28:19-20* *“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* What the Lord emphasized here that after Baptism we need to continue to teach the new disciples the ways of the Lord and disciplining them to obey everything. So we either

go on discipling the new believers and then we baptize them and continue to teach them, or we baptise the new converts but after baptism we need to continue to teach them the ways of the Lord. What is important here is the following: The church should not Baptise people without teaching or discipleship process whether before or after Baptism. Although in certain occasion we may baptise people who show evidence of true repentance and willingness to obey but we will not be able to follow them up. That should not be the rule to follow, but as an exception that is possible when the Holy Spirit would lead us to do that. The example for that is what Philip did in obeying the leading of God to reach the Eunuch and baptized him in water: ***“26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.” (Acts 8:26-40)***

2. The fellowship: The new convert who were baptised they need to be part of the church, the body of Christ, the family of God. They must be fully come out from the worldly ways of life and replace their old life with new relationships with the body of Christ and their brethren in the church. The fellowship should be concerned about edification and encouraging the members to do what is right and just and directs them in the ways of the Lord and to do His will. Fellowship also involves counseling and giving the right advice. The importance of fellowship is to strengthen the bonding of the brethren to one another and their unity with God and His Word and purpose. Fellowship should not be based and emphasized on arranging food and eating together, that is not what is meant by fellowship. The fellowship also involve to reach those parts of the body who are not able to come with us, like those who are sick in hospitals, and those handicapped and cannot move or those in prison, or those who had great troubles and cannot deal any more with life’s pressure. We need to reach all these categories in order to fellowship with them and strengthen them so that our worship to God would be complete.

3. The breaking of bread: This is the Lord supper that Jesus commanded his apostles to do when he took the Passover with them as we can read here, ***“17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:17-20 KJV)*** We do the breaking of the

bread because the Lord said *this do in remembrance of me*. But we must not do that as a ritual practice and without deep understanding. Jesus did it with His apostles who are his disciples. Therefore the true disciples who are willingly following God should observe that as they are observing and obeying all the commands of God. Jesus said in *John 6:53-58* “*53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*” The bread represents the body of Christ and the cup is the New Covenant in His blood, therefore as long as we abide with Christ and His word We are eligible to take part in the breaking of the bread. Those disciples who are devoted to the apostles’ teaching are eligible for the Lord’s Table. We should not be a traditional church who observes the Lord’s Table but we don’t observe the spiritual condition of our members.

4. Prayer: Is the source of strength that we receive from the Lord to sustain us and His provision for us to face and to solve our problems. The new disciples should get involve in prayerful life. Prayer is our backbone to stand firm in life in serving God. Prayer is our full expression to trust in God and walk in His ways that He will be the one to deliver us from all our troubles. The early church had passed through many hardships and was sustained through prayer. The new disciples should take prayer and petition to the Lord as the only thing that they can trust for to be sustained in life. Read the following Scripture in your bible to see how prayer life was so important in the life of the early church (*Acts 4:23-31; Acts 12:1-19*)

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

Name

UPON REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION OF FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
AS PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD WAS BAPTIZED
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ON THE 26th DAY OF June IN THE YEAR
OF OUR LORD, 2021.

Signature
The Church Overseer

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
CLEVELAND, TENNESSE, USA

The Lord's Supper

Article No. 1

"23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." (I Corinthians 11: 23-26 KJV)

1. The Lord's Supper represents the sacrifice: When we eat the bread we are reminded of Jesus who came down to earth as a man and offered His body for us. He was born as a Son, He served mankind as human and did miracles being God. When we drink the cup we are reminded of the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Before Jesus, in the Old Testament, the people could not come directly to God because of sin. But by the blood of Jesus we received the new covenant. We now can come boldly to the throne of God's grace because Jesus had paid the price. He became the sacrifice for our sins. ***"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*** (Roman 6:23 KJV) Moreover, the Lord's Supper is not a tradition but a command to do as Jesus said, ***"this do in remembrance of me."*** Hence, we should not take it lightly but ought to take the Lord's Supper after we examined ourselves and assured that our sins are forgiven by believing who Jesus is, and by coming to Him with repentant heart. ***"28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*** (I Corinthians 11:28-29 KJV) Awareness of sin move us to repentance as we acknowledge the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. *But if you are not willing to repent, better for you not to take the Lord's supper, because in doing so you are bringing judgment on yourself. We as Church of God UAE we recommend that the Lord's supper to be given only to the disciples; those who had committed themselves to follow Christ wholeheartedly, therefore we do not recommend the Lord's supper to the crowd who have not yet committed their lives and heart to God. We recommend the Lord's supper for those who commit their lives to God, to Christ, to the Word of God and to do their responsibilities carefully toward God, their families and toward God's Church.*

2. The Lord's Supper proclaims that Jesus died: The glory of Jesus was not only seen by the miracles He did or He is doing. His glory was manifested when He died on the cross, raised from the dead and ascended unto heaven. This is the truth: Jesus died on the cross to redeem us from sin and death. We proclaim this as we share together the bread and the cup. Jesus is God, ***"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God."*** (Philippians 2: 6 KJV), but He became man to share humanity with the children of God. He died on the cross to destroy Satan who holds the power of death. ***"14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*** (Hebrews 2:14-15 KJV)

3. The Lord's Supper proclaims the Lord's second coming: The Lord Jesus said, ***"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*** (Matthew 26:29 KJV) Jesus had ascended unto Heaven but He will come again as He said, ***"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*** (John 14:3 KJV) We all wait for the second coming of the Lord, and we all will be judged at His coming. ***"And many of***

them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:2 KJV) We who believe in Jesus and obey His Words our names are written in the book of life. “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15 KJV) As we partake the bread and the cup we proclaim that we are waiting and ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore you really need to be ready if you want to be part of the Lord’s Supper!

4. The Lord’s Supper represents our continuous fellowship with God: When we received Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour we spiritually opened our hearts for Him to come in. *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20 KJV) The Lord Jesus is now with God the Father but the Holy Spirit whom He sent is continuously with us and in us. While we obey God’s Word The Holy Spirit is honoured, Jesus is glorified and God the Father is magnified.*

5. The Lord’s Supper emphasizes our fellowship with one another: Living in the presence of God produces unity among believers and promotes obedience to God’s word. We cannot live without fellowships or away from the church. Besides reading the Bible and praying, we need to be part of the church, the body of Christ, in order for us to grow and mature spiritually. And as the early Christians did that *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42 KJV)*

The Lord’s Supper

Article No. 2

“19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:19-20)

We do the Lord’s Supper and we practice that because the Lord’s commanded us and said, *“this do in remembrance of me.”* So we not only need to remember and do the Lord’s Supper for the Lord who gave His body and shed His blood for our lives, but we need also to remember and do the whole commands of God and the instructions of the Lord.

Therefore it is not correct to observe the Lord’s Supper but forgetting the rest of God’s Word and His commands. For this reason only the disciples who are following God wholeheartedly they are invited to the Lord’s Supper. Therefore we need to practice the Lord’s Supper with the disciples and not with the crowd. Jesus invited His disciples, His apostles and they were His workers to take the Lord’s Supper.

What is the meaning of the Lord’s Supper? The bread represents the body of the Lord, *“This is my body which is given for you.”* And the cup represents the new covenant with the blood of Jesus, *“This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*

But what is really is the body of Jesus and His blood? Also Jesus said that *“Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”* as we can read *“53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.” (John 6:53-55 KJV)* Some people they misunderstand that when

they think that when they are taking the Lord's Supper they are having eternal life. That is not correct. And we need to understand what the body of Jesus and His blood is.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1 KJV) The Word of God was with God and The Word was God, and in ***John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*** The Word became flesh and that is Jesus Christ.

So when Jesus said, ***"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."*** He means unless you take the Word of God and lives on it then you will have no life. And that is why Jesus said, ***"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."*** (John 6:56 KJV) It means if we are living on His Word by obeying them then we remain in Him and He in us. Therefore we feed and live on God's Word, remaining in Him and He in us through His Word, and we practice the Lord's Supper declaring this truth in our lives.

The Lord's Supper is parallel to the Passover lamb that God had asked Moses and the Israelites to observe. The Passover lamb is the shadow of what had had to come later on ***"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things."*** (Hebrews 10:1 KJV) Through Jesus Christ our Lord and His death on the cross and His blood that was shed to redeem us from our sins we have eternal life. And we are commanded to do the Lord's Supper as the Israelites were commanded to observe the Passover Lamb: ***"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us."*** (1 Corinthians 5:7 KJV)

At the time of Moses God commanded that the Passover is to be observed by the Israelites and those who are circumcised: ***"43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: 44 But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. 45 A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof."*** (Exodus 12:43-45 KJV) God had made regulation for the Passover that only those who are circumcised (clean and dedicated to Him) are to take part of it ***"One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you."*** (Exodus 12:49 KJV)

That we can also read in ***Ezra 6:19-21*** of how Ezra observed the Passover to the Israelites; only those who ***"had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel"*** they were included: ***"19 And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. 20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. 21 And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat."*** (Ezra 6:19-21 KJV) Those who had taken part in the Passover, they

1- Had returned from the exile, it means they had been released from their bondages. People who are still smoking, drinking, still telling lies, cheating or doing immoral things they should not be invited to the Lord's Supper. They need to be set free first from sin then they can join us in taking the Lord's Supper.

2- Had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, it means they are no more worldly and living in sin or following worldly practices as the non

believers. Those who desire to take the Lord's Supper they should no more desire to watch TV, U tubes, movies, desire to go to parties, spending much, having wrong friends, making worldly affairs, etc.

3- Had started to seek the Lord "to seek the LORD," it means they move away from the old life of sin and darkness toward the light and start to draw near to God by seeking to do His will and doing His work and serve Him.

Therefore we as a church we need to practice the Lord's Supper only with the disciples whom we know well they are living on His word. The Lord's Supper should not be open to the crowd, the public and to everyone in our church meetings. Only those whom we know they are following and practicing God's Word then we need to invite. We do the Lord's Supper once in a year in a separate meeting, and we do invite the disciples only.

The church should observe that the Lord's Supper should be done in a worthy manner, **"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."** (1Corinthians 11:27 KJV) Those who are water Baptized and had committed their lives to serve the Lord and walk according to His word they are invited to the Lord's Table.

As we come to know what is the bread and the cup, the element of the Lord Supper and as we come to realize the importance of our willingness to live on His Word and practice it before we take part in the Lord's table. Then we need to find out what was the food of Jesus and what he was living on. In **John 4** while Jesus was sharing God's Word to a sinful woman His disciples approached Him to eat with Him the food they brought from a nearby town, Jesus told them, **"32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of."** (John 4:32 KJV) And then He told them, **"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."** (John 4:34 KJV) Therefore as we are taking the Lord's Supper we need to take part of Jesus' food in doing God's will and to finish the work of God, to go on forward in living holy life, preaching the gospel and making new disciples.

But even with the above measure to invite those whom we know they are committed to God, we may not be correct in our decision, because we are not God and we may not know well what in every person heart and what is the secret of their personal lives. So every person whom we invite for the Lord's Supper finally he is still accountable to repent and turn from sin if he/she has a hidden sin in his/her life, **"28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."** (1Corinthians 11:28-29 KJV)

Christ when He invited His Apostles, Judah was one of them. The disciples they did not know that he is a thief and he was planning to betray the Lord. The disciples were not aware of his spiritual condition. But the Lord who invited him possibly was giving him a chance to repent, but he was not willing. So in the same way when we invite the people whom we know they are disciples and they are serving the Lord with us, still we may not be able to discover their secret sins so they are accountable to God to allow the Holy Spirit to examine them, and to repent of their sins. Therefore, **"28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."** (1Corinthians 11:28-29 KJV) That we need to make it very clear when we invite our disciples to the Lord's Supper; we need to explain to them everything and we need to make them understand that they are accountable to the Lord, to repent of whatever sin they are hiding. What we are telling here is this: *If we are invited to the Lord Supper that is all because God so love us and our response to God's love is to repent from*

our sins and to live our lives for Him. Holiness should be the standard for our lives and being then we can take part in the Lord Supper. Many they take the Lord Supper thinking the Lord Supper can save them. That is not correct. Christ blood can save us and is the atonement for our sins when we repent. Receiving Christ and living up to His Word is our qualifications for the Lord Supper.

The Lord's Supper

Article No. 3

“Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.” (Hebrews 11:28 KJV)

Moses observed the Passover and the sprinkling of blood. Lord commanded Moses and Aaron to observe the following in regard to the Passover: *“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:1-13 KJV)* The Passover for us today is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who shed His blood on the cross for the redemption of our sins, *“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.” (1Corinthians 5:7 KJV)*

Moses and the people of God in Egypt believed that as they will put the blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their houses where they eat the lambs will be saved from death. You are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8 KJV)*

But you need to observe that Moses and the people with him they did not only observe putting the blood but they ate also the lamb. As for our lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, then you needs not only to believe but to partake and live according to the Word of God, for Jesus is the living Word of God. For Moses and the Israelites there were regulations they need to observe before taking the Passover: *“43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: 44 But every man's servant that is bought for*

money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. 45 A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof. 46 In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. 49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you. 50 Thus did all the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 51 And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.” (Exodus 12:43-51 KJV):

- A. *There shall no stranger eat thereof (Exodus 12:43):* We should know the people’s life well before we invite them to the Lord’s Supper.
- B. *“But every man’s servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.” (Exodus 12:44 KJV):* Circumcision is the circumcision of the heart. Only those observe and live in holiness should receive the Lord’s Supper.
- C. *“A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.” (Exodus 12:45 KV):* Those who are not part of the ministry should take it with their own churches and ministries. Paid workers and ministers are not the ideal for our service to God. Ministry is not a job to be fulfilled. It is a calling and commitment and cannot be considered job and employment.
- D. *“In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house.” (Exodus 12:46 KJV):* The head of the house is the responsible person to know every person in his household before he let him/her involved in the Lord’s Supper. Today the committed and faithful workers are the members of God’s household who are invited for the Lord’s Supper.
- E. *“Neither shall ye break a bone thereof” (Exodus 12:46 KJV):* No command of God to be broken. You should observe all the commands of God and abide with His instructions.
- F. *“All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.” (Exodus 12:47 KJV):* Every believer is responsible to make himself available and live in holiness so he can take part in the Lord’s Supper. Those who are not willing to commit their lives fully to God, the church should not include them to take the Lord’s Supper.
- G. *“48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. 49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.” (Exodus 12:48-49):* Holiness and commitment to live according to the Word of God and bringing the gospel to our families and households is the rule for all those who want to take part of the Lord’s Supper. For the church today the Lord Supper is our Passover celebration and all the disciples should observe holiness and living according to the Word of God and committing themselves for Christ Mission to preach the gospel before partaking the Lord supper.

The Washing of the Feet

“1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; 4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. 6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. 10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. 12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” (John 13:1-17 KJV)

Washing of the feet it was there from the ancient times; upon the coming of the guest to the house they honor him by washing his feet. This what happened when the Lord visited Abraham; he offered Him water to wash His feet, as we can read what Abraham had said to the Lord, *“Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.”* (Genesis 18:4 KJV) Washing of the feet was also a symbol of holiness as we can read what God ordered Moses to do to the priests, *“So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.”* (Exodus 30:21 KJV) In these two examples we found the people are washing their own feet, but in the New Testament we find the Lord Jesus Christ Himself washed the feet of His own disciples. Washing one another's feet it has a deep meaning and it is not a mere symbolic thing. Jesus had a purpose in doing it and He want us doing it for certain spiritual reasons as He commanded us, *“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.”* (John 13:14 KJV)

Many who would pass through hardships and trials will try to avoid, or complain, or retaliate to deviate from passing through suffering. But let us look of how Jesus passed through suffering. Jesus faced the cross with prayer and fully surrenders His will to God and He was led to offer more love and service to His disciples by washing their feet. When you have the attitude to accept the trial that God ordained for you to pass through then you will go into prayer, kneeling down, surrendering your will to God and yielding your life and your heart unto Him, willingly to be a vessel to impart His love to the people around you, and to the disciples that God had placed in your life.

What are the spiritual meanings of washing the feet and why the Lord commanded us to do it? Or in other word, when you are about to enter into a stage of suffering then you will face that with the following:

1. Love and show full extent of love: *“Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” (John 13:1 KJV)* Jesus was ready to give His life for His own. Always love is the right attitude toward God and His mission on earth. Love will lead you to do the right thing in facing trials. That is why the Word of God telling us the following: *“37 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matthew 22:37-39 KJV)* The same should be for us; as we wash one another’s feet we ought to be ready to offer that sacrificial love for one another: *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13 KJV)*

2. It reflects our obedience to Christ example: *“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14 KJV)* We need to obey Christ in this direction not only in doing this action of washing one another’s feet but also to apply its meaning in our lives; to accept, to love, to serve, to teach, to admonish, and to build one another.

3. It enable the spirit of humility to grow: It is very difficult to be prideful and haughty when you are involved in one of the most mean of task. Washing the feet of another person not easy to be accepted; the person who do that need to be humble; once he involve in such an act he ought to humble himself before God. The word of God it teaches us the following, *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.” (Colossians 3:12 KJV)* To be a true people of God Humility should be there. God opposes the proud but He gives grace to the humble. God want us to be humble because good deeds could only be done if we carry humility in our lives. Also if you are humble, then God will teach you what to do in the difficult times of trials.

4. Action and not reaction: *“And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him.” (John 13:2 KJV)* Even Judas would betray Jesus and would harm Him but Jesus did not retaliate and thought to harm him. Instead he was filled with God’s love, and was willing to offer service unto God. Think not to harm but to do something that will bring God’s love and service to others around you and to the people under your care and ministry. You need to overcome anger, *“I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me. ² I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. ³ My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue.” (Psalm 39:1-3 KJV)* There were wicked people around David as Judas was around Jesus, but David when He wanted to burst he did not open his mouth and complain to man but to God, *“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am.” (Psalm 39:4 KJV)* Jesus did not go and fight with Judas. Do also the same with the people who attacked you, have self-control, pray for them and be patient and wait upon God to handle them and vindicate you, *“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.” (Psalm 37:1,7-9)*

5. Understanding: *“Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God.” (John 13:3)* Jesus knew from where He came and where He is going. The same is with you, you must know from where God had taken you and where He is bringing you; to heaven. You must also understand that God had called you and you are the person that you need to comply with God’s will.

6. Willingness: *“He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.” (John 13:4 KJV) He riseth from supper.* Jesus willingly and spontaneously risen from the supper. Serve God and do it willingly and joyfully! Humble down, and do it willingly as Jesus did; He humbled himself and accepted the cross and no one forced Him. *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:8 KJV)* Jesus when He got up from the table the table was full of delicious food, but He was willing to leave the comfort zone in order to serve the people that God ordained for Him to care. The same for you, if you want to serve God you need to leave food, tables, titles, positions, delicacies, feast and pleasures of this world as our Lord did. The Holy Spirit does not reside in title, positions, prestige, but in your willingness to be used as channel of blessings to convey the love to others. Be willing to leave your riches and whatever privileges you have and be willing to humble down in order to reach people who are in position less than you, *“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” (Romans 12:16 KJV)*

Washing of the feet it mean dealing with dirt, dust and mud, that hidden between toes, and it mean cleaning of area that is dirty using our hand to rub and water to clean. In the Spirit, washing of the feet is offering service to clean from sin (sanctification) *“19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20 KJV)* Using hand means, praying and laying on hands that will bring healing to the wounds of the people. Laying on of hands, means casting out demons that reside in people, who give footholds for them to live in. You must know that your love to the lost and your service will help the people to get delivered from demons. The water is the Word of God *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.” (Ephesians 5:26 KJV)* Use the Word of God to council the people: the Word of God brings healing. The Word of God is a medicine. Sometime when you apply a medicine on a wound it may cause pain so we need to be careful and gently apply the Word of God to the people. Washing of the feet bring refreshment to those who had travelled long journey. And we are called to bring the Word of God and the message that brings joy, hope and restoration into people’s life.

When the Lord was washing the disciples’ feet He treated the entire 12 apostles. The same for us we should do our part and show God’s love to everyone whom God put under our care. Even to people like Judas we just need to do our part and pray for them to repent and respond to God’s love and care.

When the Lord approached Simon Peter to wash his feet Peter did not understand the meaning of it. *“6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. ” (John 13:6-8 KJV)* Simon Peter was not willing that the Lord would wash his feet, but the Jesus explained to him that is mandatory, *“If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. ” (John 13:8 KJV)* Then *“Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:9 KJV)* It was well explained to Peter; to accept and agree with what Jesus said and to do it; it means that Peter will be part of Jesus. To accept and follow what Jesus did it means to carry His same mind and thoughts, and to continue His mission. Willingly, we should have the compassionate heart and the love of Jesus to the lost and to do what He wants us to do in reaching them and disciple them.

The Lord discerned that the disciples might not understand fully what He was doing as He told them, *“Know ye what I have done to you?” (John 13:12 KJV)* The point we need to emphasize that the people or the disciples who are under our care may not grasp or understand what we are

saying or doing, for that reason then we need to be patient and considerate till they are mature and can digest the Word of God and our actions.

When Peter realized the importance for him that the Lord Jesus should wash his feet he said, **“Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:9 KJV)** But Jesus replied was this, **“He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.” (John 13:10 KJV)** Peter requested unnecessary thing to be done, and from Jesus reply we can learn the following: -

A. The church should not do anything unnecessary and wastes the resources without contributing anything to the real people’s needs. Churches now a day have many activities and programs but the main need and people’s sin and suffering are not met. The church should have discernment and act tactfully; not to give unnecessary things but wash the feet and clean the dirty parts.

B. The Church and Christ’s disciples and workers should have the courage and the willingness to suffer in order to meet the need of the people and help them and deliver them. The church should not miss the wounds but to touch them with God’s Word to clean them, sooth them and comfort them to be healed.

Speaking about washing of the feet is doing something that cost you to leave your comfort zone and your privileges and suffer for the sake that other will get the benefit of knowing Christ and follow Him. Most of the time such service with suffering might not be recognized by others or might not be appreciated by others, but that should not be a discouragement factor for you. Instead persevere and stand firm, be encouraged with God’s Word, **“15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.” (1 Corinthians 12:15, 22-24)** Your ministry is important. Others might have bigger achievement than you, but what you are doing they cannot do. So go on and praise God and appreciate the suffering that you are in; you are bringing fruit that God desires and cherish. The Word of God tells us the following: **“Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.” (Isaiah 49:4 KJV)** No one can reward you for your service unto Him. Those who ignore you and not appreciate you, remember, even it is not in their hand to reward you. Even they cannot reward themselves. God will reward you for your labour and He will reward everyone according to what he had done. Therefore go forward and serve Him. Leave the comfort zone and get up from tables and the title that does not bring glory to God and start to wash the peoples’ feet and serve them. Go forward led by The Holy Spirit and instructed with His Word to reach the lost, the wounded and injured and help them with God’s Word and extend your hands to them, serve them and wash their feet, and **“Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.” (Isaiah 35:4 KJV)**

Dedicating the Little Children

“but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15b KJV)

Many parents promised to serve the Lord with their children. Many assumed that as they dedicated their little children to the Lord, whatever circumstances they grew in, later the Lord will call their children back to serve Him because they have been dedicated for God’s service. But training children to serve God is in the hand of the parents, and the Scripture says, **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV)**

Many churches consider the ceremony of child dedication especially for new born babies. It is a good practice to do because it is Scriptural, but if we only do for the sake of the procedure and the ceremony without the real commitment of the parents to obey God to teach and discipline the child as he/she grows according to God’s instruction, then there is no point for the ceremony of dedicating the little child to God in the Church.

“13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.” (Matthew 19:13-15 KJV) *The Lord Jesus desires that the children would come to Him and no one should hinder them. But coming to Jesus would not mean only to bring the children to the church physically and perform the dedication ceremony, but to raise them up and nurture them in the ways of the Lord.*

God spoke to His people through Moses when He told them, **“6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 KJV)** * *We ought to put the commands of God in our hearts and impress them in our children’s hearts and mind by continuously demonstrating and teaching them the ways of God. * What the Lord requires of us is not only to ceremonially dedicate our children to Him but to raise them in the ways and in the fear of God and serve Him. * So significantly, we need to dedicate ourselves to God to serve Him, and to dedicate our family life to nurture our children in the fear and service of the Lord.*

The attribute of Jesus’ birth and how He was raised up by His earthly parents would help us understand the true meaning of child dedication:

“18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.” (Matthew 1:18-19 KJV) Joseph was a righteous man. He was pledged to marry Mary but he found her with a baby so he wanted to divorce her. He needed to divorce her because according to the Scripture the virgin who is pledged to be married or betrothed is considered married and is already a certain man’s wife. But they are not allowed to meet or go outside together until the wedding day is over. This is the principle of God’s Word and not the Middle Eastern culture as some think. So when Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant he decided to divorce her. But since he was a righteous man he wanted to do it secretly and not to expose her to public disgrace.

** The marriage according to the Bible is not based upon a man and a woman who like each other, but wait upon God who calls two royal priests to come together in holy matrimony to lead their family in righteousness and to raise a Godly offspring. * Marriage is never built on Eros love or lust. * According to the Scriptures, when two priests are called by God to lead a family, they are pledged to get married. And during that period they are prepared and trained to develop the kind of love that the Lord requires:*

1- Agape love: *The Lord requires unconditional and sacrificial love between couples to serve Him. This type of love will enable the man in the future to care for his wife and family, and it does not depend on the condition of the wife or the circumstances in life.*

2- Philadelphia love: *The Lord requires brotherly love, and to respect each other's rights as man and woman created in His image and likeness. Having this kind of love between the couple would inspire them to carry each other's burden in building and leading the family.*

In the family of Jesus, Joseph was a righteous man and Mary was God's servant. Both of them were living for God and were willing to do God's will and plan for a Godly family. Here from the narrative of Jesus' birth, let us learn what is meant to build a family to serve God, and how to dedicate our children to God's service:

1. "19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:19-21 KJV) Truly Joseph was a righteous man, and God would speak and direct righteous parents how to protect their children. God spoke to Joseph to take Mary as wife and he obeyed even though God's proposition was not acceptable to his mind and emotion. God directed Joseph through dreams to let the birth of Jesus and His childhood life to be victorious. ** God is the unchanging God who speaks and reveals His plan of marriage to righteous, humble, and obedient people like Joseph and Mary. * As servants and priests of God, we dedicate our coming children to the Lord, firstly, by dedicating our lives to be married to the man/woman whom God chooses for us and secondly, by dedicating our lives as husband and wife to live and serve God and thirdly, we commit ourselves to become parents of Godly children.*

2. "24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." (Matthew 1:24-25 KJV) Joseph respected Mary and the plan of God for the birth of the Saviour. Joseph was humble, righteous, wise, and full of understanding. **"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." (James 3:13 KJV)** Righteous and dedicated parents could raise children to serve God. Joseph and Mary raised our LORD Jesus Christ in God's ways and will. In the same way, Joseph and Mary raised all their children in a Godly manner and they finally became part of God's Church as we read in the book of Acts: **"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." (Acts 1:14 KJV)** James was one of Joseph's and Mary's son and the half brother of Jesus. James became one of the pillars of the Jerusalem Church, and he was the one who wrote the book of James. *As royal priests we commit ourselves to the right decision to lead all our children to be dedicated to God, and become servants of God.*

3. ***“22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” (Luke 2:22-24 KJV)*** Joseph and Mary fulfilled their obligation of having a firstborn son, Jesus. They presented Jesus to the temple and brought with them the offering that they were able to afford according to the Law of Moses. ***“Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord.”*** Mary and Joseph fully dedicated their lives to serve God with their firstborn and their whole family. Hence, they were able to bring up Jesus and the rest of their children in the way that God had planned and ordained for them as a family. *In the same manner we need to commit ourselves to fulfill all our obligations to God as we dedicate our children to Him.*

4. ***“13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15 KJV)*** ***“19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.” (Matthew 2:19-21 KJV)*** ***“22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 2:22-23 KJV)*** God spoke to Joseph through dreams and instructed him how to protect Jesus from the enemies who wanted to kill Him. Also, God continually directed the affairs during the childhood of Jesus through Joseph, His earthly father. The same situation should be applied for us and for our children. If we live a righteous life, God will continually come to us, inspire us, and speak to us what to do for our children. *Thus we dedicate our children to the Lord by dedicating our lives to listen to God's instructions for our children. We commit ourselves to read, study and to meditate on the Word of God so we can grasp and understand what God is speaking to us.* Joseph knew the Scriptures, and God spoke to Joseph in the dream to marry Mary to fulfill the Scriptures. God explained to him that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit: ***“22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Matthew 1:22-23 KJV)*** *Righteous parents should know the Scripture to understand what God is speaking to them and what He wants them to do.*

Jesus is the Son of God born to men, and he lived as a man to give eternal life to all mankind who believe in Him. However, God was behind the growth of Jesus, from birth unto His childhood and Joseph and Mary did their part as His earthly parents. ***“40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.” (Luke 2:40 KJV)*** Joseph and Mary took care of Jesus from birth and as He was growing up they made Him involved in the occupation of Joseph as carpenter, and in going to the temple. ***“41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.” (Luke 2:41 KJV)***

“52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” (Luke 2:52 KJV) To highlight the childhood life of Jesus: *First*, God planned for His birth and His parents. *Second*, the completion of the role of Joseph and Mary as dedicated Godly parents. They did well the task that was entrusted to them.

We are the royal priests called to accomplish the goal as Godly parents. And God would make our children grow according to His good plan to prosper them and serve HIM if we could inculcate in our children’s young mind that they are born in this world to serve God’s purpose.

Let us be assured that our children grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men. As royal priests and Godly parents we need to care and train our children, physically and spiritually at home and in the church. Let us learn from the Scriptures and understand what God wants us to do and how God wants us to rear our family and children. Ceremonial child dedication would not be helpful unless we dedicate ourselves to bring up children to serve God and His Church.

My dear and beloved: Let us commit ourselves to love God, to love His plan for us, to love and obey His Word. Let us love to marry what he prepared for us to marry. Let every one of us love his or her spouse; loving, cherishing, helping, respecting, and forgiving one another, and let us dedicate ourselves to serve God. As parents let us be united to dedicate ourselves to serve God and let us work out to dedicate our children to serve God with us and so they will do that willingly after us. Let us work out to provide for our families and care for our children. Let us work out to prepare a clean atmosphere in our families that our children will be away from the pollution of the media and public schools and friends. Let us do all what we can to protect them from all the temptations that will pull them into dangers. Let us be willing to receive and implement the instruction of God sent to us by the Holy Spirit, His Word and through His church to teach us His ways so our children will raise and grow in wisdom, in stature and in favor of man and God.

CHILD DEDICATION CERTIFICATE

***“Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
(Proverbs 22: 6)***

Presenting this child, -----name----- ,
born on *March 15, 20-- at Hospital, City, Country.* In dedication to the Lord,
the parents are presenting themselves as parents dedicated to the
responsibility of parenthood: To bring up this child in the way of the
Lord, by using all the helps provided by God – His Word and His
church.

The Father: -----name-----

Do solemnly declare before God and His church his responsibility
to build and defend the family and home into which God has
placed this child. “May your home be built on the teachings of Jesus
our Lord. Let nothing enter your home that will destroy the faith,
confidence, and the love that a home must have. May you protect
with all diligence the body, soul and mind of your child.”

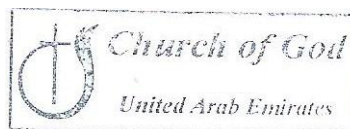
The Mother: -----name-----

Do solemnly declare before God and His church her responsibility
to give the motherhood care for her child. “As this child grows, it is
your responsibility to awaken his consciousness toward God. I
charge you to nurture his faith. It will be from your purity and care
that she will know that God is Holy, and God is love.”

**The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates**

DATE OF DEDICATION

_____/_____/_____



A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
CLEVELAND, TENNESSE, USA

The Criteria for the Approved Worker

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)

The Church of God, United Arab Emirates and all the congregations under its care adopt the following criteria to be met before we approved workers:

1. *True conversion, Repentance, Faith in Jesus, Life Testimony, Water Baptism.*
2. *Sound in Doctrine.*
3. *Spiritual Discipline, Prayer, Bible Reading and Study, Praise and Worship, fasting.*
4. *Commitment to the local church, attend regularly, financial commitment (tithe regularly), agree and go along the church vision and the leadership of the church.*
5. *Good Steward for time, talents, resources and money.*
6. *Family Responsibility. Achieving marital and parental responsibility.*
7. *Work responsibility. Willing to work in a secular job whenever that is needed besides doing his ministry.*
8. *Moral purity (No work of the flesh) No bad habits.*
9. *Good character, Personal Integrity, fruit of the Holy Spirit.*
10. *Modest appearance for dress, speech, conduct and life style that pleases God.*
11. *Being a good citizen, keeping the country rules, Praying for the leaders of the Nations and Evangelizing the lost.*

Why we use the Criteria for The Approved Worker?

1. *God call us to work with faithful people; those who are not committed to the Lord and His Word they are disobedient people.*
2. *This is our integrity and honesty to God and to the church that He entrusted to us. Biblically the criteria we use goes along the Scripture and agree with the Church of God Practical commitment and doctrine.*
3. *No one should think that their disobedience and lack of full commitment can be compensated by their talents or money. As if they are buying their own salvation. **“Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:9 KJV)***
4. *We don't want to give way for compromises in the church and in the Lord Service because this is an invitation for the evil work.*
5. *To avoid that others will start to disobey, compromise and not follow correctly.*
6. *If the disobedient will be part of God's service, then what will be the picture we will give to the non believers and those outside the church? Disobedient acts also include traditions, practices and values that contradict God's Word.*
7. *If we will give ministry to the disobedient then very difficult to correct them and difficult when we take it out from their hands.*
8. *As we clean the church from disobedient people and not allow them to touch the sacred things then God's blessings will be abound to us; the more He will add to His church.*
9. *That set up will expel wolves out. This will spare us waste of effort, time and money, and to avoid division and disharmony in the future.*
10. *That set up will attract more sheep to enter the pen. The church will be a healthy atmosphere to those who are willing to walk with God and that will be the good atmosphere for more disciples and workers to raise up and more disciples and workers to join the church.*

Criteria For Marriage Approval

“3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. 10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. 11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.” (Matthew 19:3-12 KJV)

To follow God’s will in raising up Godly children within Godly families in order to honor Christ, and to avoid the bad consequences that ungodly marriages stemming from wrong choices and unpreparedness of partners would cause, the following steps must be followed for approving marriages in the church:

1. All marriages that are proposed need to be brought before the Church Council and the Church Overseer for evaluation and approval.
2. The Criteria of the Approved Worker will be used as an initial step. (Please review the Criteria of the Approved Worker).
3. The boy and the girl need to be prepared:
 - A. They must be prepared materially, with a good amount of finances and savings, sufficient regular income, a place for living with good facilities, and a facility to sponsor and keep the spouse and children in countries that need residence visas.
 - B. Both the boy and the girl must be mature with a persevering character to bear the strain of the family.
 - C. Both must be free from responsibilities towards their parents and/or the rest of their siblings.
 - D. Both should have had exposure to the teachings of child discipline and the use of the rod in child discipline.
4. God should give the final approval with a clear way, that He spoke, based on His Word.
5. There should be no communication between the boy and the girl while we seek God for His Will about their marriage.
6. After approval, to prevent immorality between the partners, boys and girls are not allowed to communicate before the wedding day. All communication will be through the church.
7. The practices of having boyfriends & girlfriends, dating, love marriage, and other cultural & traditional practices and arrangements for marriage will not be entertained. The practices will be based on God’s Word and His Will.
8. Marriage between partners where one partner is from another church will be approved under the following guidelines:
 - A. They should pass through the same above-mentioned criteria.

- B. The churches they come from will be examined if they have proper criteria for workers, criteria for marriage and discipline for children.
 - C. If there are difficulties to get clear data about these boys' and girls' churches, or if there is no transparency, then the marriage will not be approved.
 - D. In the case of boys and girls who fulfill all the criteria, but the churches they belong to are compromising and/or not having proper criteria for workers, criteria for marriage and discipline for children, then their marriage proposal will not be approved. In such situations, we understand that they had not been taught and trained well. These boys and girls can receive discipleship training if they are willing to join us and then be members of our church. In such circumstances, we will continue to follow them up and teach them until God will reveal His Will and His good plan to them in a clear way with regard to life and marriage.
 - E. The marriage of boys and girls who fulfill all the criteria along with their churches who have proper criteria laid out for their workers, for marriage and for the discipline of children, will be approved. The marriage will be held in the church that the man belongs to, and after marriage, the wife will be under her husband and in his church.
9. We expect that all workers and members will use these criteria for their own benefit and for the benefit of the church and the rest of the members and workers and for the glory and honor of Christ.
 10. In the case of members and workers who bypass these criteria in their marriages, it will not be possible and feasible for us to follow them up and their families after their marriages.
 11. In the case of members and workers who fail to meet these criteria in their marriages, we will neither be able to walk or work with them nor will we approve of them joining other churches.
 12. These criteria are to be announced and distributed to reach all the congregations of the church to educate and teach her members.
 13. All council members, pastors, workers and the rest of the members are called to be watchful to implement these criteria so that disorder and bad outcomes could be avoided.
 14. These criteria will be open to suggestions and improvement based on Scriptures whenever it is deemed a necessity to do that.
 15. These criteria for marriage approval represent our repentance and our turning back to the Lord from the wrong practices of the past and the present, pertaining to the issue of marriage that had caused the church to drift away from what God had ordained from the beginning in His Word. It is our earnest desire to let Christ be glorified in our midst by allowing Godly marriages resulting in Godly children within Godly families. With this attitude, we will not be swept away upon Christ's second coming. Let us not allow in our lives what had happened to the people at the time of Noah, because of their sensuality, lack of discretion, and indifference to take heed of the warning from the Word of God that was preached to them: ***"26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." (Luke 17:26-27 KJV)***

May the Lord be glorified in our midst and bless us as we abide in His Will and plan.



Church of God

UAE

Marriage Covenant

“7 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh.” (Mark 10: 7-8 KJV)

WE , HUSBAND NAME AND WIFE NAME

As husband and wife made a Covenant with God in marriage;
Declaring our endless vow to love and to cherish one another
... in sickness and in health, ... in richest and poorest,
... in joy and in pain, ... in victory and in adversity,
... whether we be near or afar, ... in strength and in weakness,
... in success and in failure.

We do hereby pledge our love and commitment affirming that
God has joined us together with Him and no man can put us asunder.

***“Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”
(Mark 10: 9 KJV)***

We pledge to delight always in God’s presence and live according to His word.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Signed this 2nd day of October, 20-- at

Congregation location, Country

signature
Husband

signature
Wife

signature
The Church Overseer

A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
CLEVELAND, TENNESSE, USA

Resolution For Christ's Birth Celebration:

Dear council members, pastors, workers, and faithful church members who desire to celebrate Christ's Birth:

Please read the article below about Christ's Birth, and implement the guidelines given in your life, in the life of your family and your congregation.

Christ's Birth Celebration

"1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." (Luke 2:1-8 KJV)

The Word of God tells us to show the Lord's death till he comes, ***"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*** (1 Corinthians 11:26 KJV) There is no clear command from the Lord or His Word that instructs us to celebrate His birth. Christ, the apostles, and the early fathers of the church did not celebrate His birth.

Why do we celebrate Christ's Birth? The Word of God has many Scriptures that speak about His birth. It is good to speak about his birth, and to say that He came in the flesh, conceived by a woman, born in the flesh under the law, ***"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."*** (Galatians 4:4 KJV) Christ, the Savior of the World was born as a man; He is God and He is also man. Some don't believe that Jesus is a man, therefore to show from the Scriptures that He is born as a man, in the flesh, is a worthy thing. John in his letter declared the fact that Jesus is man, ***"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."*** (1 John 1:1-4 KJV)

The other reason we celebrate Christ's birth because the heritage that we received from the church. We are keeping that tradition because of various and many Scriptures. Now the question is this: did the Holy Spirit speak to the Church and initiate the celebration of Christ's birth, or was it the Church's thought and desire that established that? If the answer is the Holy Spirit, then there is no more point to object celebrating it. But what if the church is the one to initiate that celebration? I may answer this question this way: certain times God grants the desire of his church and his people when the purpose is noble. God granted the desire of King David to build a house for Him. If the purpose of keeping a day or season is to celebrate the birth of Christ,

honor His name, and tell about Him, then it will be fine to celebrate it in a way that the Word of God dictates on God's church.

But now, what is today called Christmas had been engrossed with pagan things to please the people of the world. Pagan solar customs had been Christianized, and Mithraism and Saturnalia was a big influence in Christ's Birth. Mithraism, also known as the Mithraic Mysteries, was a mystery religion centered on the god Mithras that was practiced in the Roman Empire from about the 1st to 4th century. The religion was inspired by Persian worship of the sun god Sol. The Saturnalia was a yearly Roman festival dedicated to the agricultural god Saturn which was held between the 17th and 23rd of December each year during the winter solstice (A solstice is an event occurring when the Sun appears to reach its most northerly or southerly excursion relative to the celestial equator on the celestial sphere. Two solstices occur annually, around June 21 and around December 21). Originating from old agricultural rituals, the Roman festivities came to include a general round of gift-giving, holidays, and merrymaking so that it became one of the most popular celebrations in the calendar. The church chose a day in December to please pagans and make the church acceptable to them.

Christmas had taken a lot from these feasts in giving long holidays of two to three weeks in which offices close and work stop for no real reason, and that promote laziness. Spending much on food and parties promote wasting of resources. Exchange gifts promote egos, pride, and honoring people. They say that the wise men brought gifts to Christ. Yes, that is true, but Christ's family used these resources to provide for their needs in their journey to Egypt when Joseph took Jesus and his mother Mary to escape Herod. So let us give to Christ and not waste money on food and unnecessary expenses and gifts to one another and waste resources. See to it that we cannot use Scriptures to justify pagan practices in order to perpetuate them inside God's Church. Not only that, but the rest of what accompanied Christmas are non-Biblical including Christmas trees, Santa Claus, games, parties, light effects, and other decorations. You may go and search and you will get more details about the origin of these customs from the pagan world, but not from God's Word.

If we want to celebrate Christ's Birth, let us do it in a Biblical way and go along the Scriptures and follow how Christ wants us to live. Let us learn from the example of Joseph and Mary in their suffering, long traveling, accepting persecution, humbling down, accepting to live a simple life, but still not giving up to serve God.

The church needs to move away from all the worldliness and the pagan idols and customs that accompany what is called Christmas today. Nothing can destroy us and God's church like idols and pagan practices. Almost all the world is celebrating it, by taking the pagan aspect of the celebration and not the Word of God, and the church in the midst of it is getting to accept what the market is producing for Christmas simply for the sake of business.

Not only the above pagans' idols and customs need to be removed, but the church also needs to move away from all the following:

- I. The name of it: Better to call it Christ's Birth and not Christmas so people's mind will not drift toward all the current worldliness that accompany Christmas.
- II. The date of it: The date needs to be moved away and changed so people will be no more in bondage to the holidays or the worldly activities that is going on at that time. The point here is not to argue about days, but just to redirect God's church away from worldliness.

For those who are not celebrating at all Christ's Birth, they are doing well, because nothing in the Scriptures compels them to do it. But, those who desire to observe and celebrate Christ's Birth, could be directed to a specific time and right manner that honor God. Below is a search

from the Scriptures pertaining to the point about moving the celebration to another day. The Bible does not give us a real day of Christ's birth, but the Bible gives us an approximate period.

Christ's Birth was not in winter: Caesar will not do taxation all over the world in winter. Traveling in winter is more difficult, especially in Europe where there will be snow: ***"1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed."*** (Luke 2:1 KJV) He would rather choose a season like spring or fall with a moderate and pleasant weather to make travelling easier.

Another evidence that Christ's Birth is not in winter, was the shepherds who were watching their sheep in the fields; they will not stay in the open field if it is winter, but rather will keep the sheep in their pen, ***"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."*** (Luke 2:8 KJV) Most likely it was a pleasant weather, for when the angels left them, they moved at once and went to see Jesus. ***"15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."*** (Luke 2:15-16 KJV)

Before Mary was visited by the angel of the Lord, Gabriel visited the Priest Zechariah and announced to him that his wife will have a baby, ***"5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord."*** (Luke 1:5-9 KJV) Zechariah was from the course of Abia, and he went to minister in the temple of God in the order of his course. King David had ordained 24 courses for the priests to minister in the sanctuary and had cast lot for them and it is recorded which time they would go to minister in the house of God. We can read that in ***1 Chronicles 24:1-31*** ***"1 Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office. 3 And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service. 4 And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen chief men of the house of their fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers. 5 Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar. 6 And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar. 7 Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, 8 The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, 9 The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, 10 The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, 11 The ninth to Jeshuah, the tenth to Shecaniah, 12 The eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, 13 The thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, 14 The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, 15 The seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Aphses, 16 The nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, 17 The one and twentieth to Jachin, the two and twentieth to Gamul, 18 The three and twentieth to Delaiah, the four and twentieth to Maaziah. 19 These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD,***

according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him. 20 And the rest of the sons of Levi were these: Of the sons of Amram; Shubael: of the sons of Shubael; Jehdeiah. 21 Concerning Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, the first was Isshiah. 22 Of the Izharites; Shelomoth: of the sons of Shelomoth; Jahath. 23 And the sons of Hebron; Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth. 24 Of the sons of Uzziel; Michah: of the sons of Michah; Shamir. 25 The brother of Michah was Isshiah: of the sons of Isshiah; Zechariah. 26 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi: the sons of Jaaziah; Beno. 27 The sons of Merari by Jaaziah; Beno, and Shoham, and Zaccur, and Ibri. 28 Of Mahli came Eleazar, who had no sons. 29 Concerning Kish: the son of Kish was Jerahmeel. 30 The sons also of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites after the house of their fathers. 31 These likewise cast lots over against their brethren the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites, even the principal fathers over against their younger brethren.” (1 Chronicles 24:1-31 KJV) Abia or Abijah is a head of a priestly house, one of the 24 groups of the priests, whom Zechariah belongs to. His lot was *“The eighth to Abijah.” (1 Chronicles 24:10 KJV)* Now that determines that their time for their priest’s office will be on the same time every year.

Now the first month of the Jewish calendar is the month of Abib, which was the month of Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, *“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. 3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. 4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.” (Exodus 13:1-4 KJV)* *“Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.” (Deuteronomy 16:1 KJV)* The month of Abib is the month of Exodus and Passover (March or April). The Lord commanded Moses to consider the month of Abib the first month of the year, *“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.” (Exodus 12:1-6 KJV)* Christ our Lord was crucified in the month of Abib at the same day that the lamb of the Passover needed to be sacrificed. Our celebration for Christ resurrection is also located in the month of Abib, which usually take place between the end of the month of March to the mid of the month of April. The changing of the day is due to the lunar system of the Jewish calendar which in effect is short with 11 days from the solar calendar that we use today in the Gregorian calendar. Therefore, to keep the feast in the same season of the year, the Jewish calendar every two to three years add one more month to keep the feasts timing on the same period of the year.

With the 24 courses for the priests then every course will need to do 14 or 15 days per year in the Temple of the Lord on the same season where the lot was cast on. So if we consider that the midst of March or the beginning of April is the beginning of the year, then Zechariah being on the 8th course will be finishing his course in the second half of July.

Zechariah left the temple after he finished his ministrations and went to his house. ***“23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministrations were accomplished, he departed to his own house.” (Luke 1:23 KJV)*** For he was told by the angel that he will be dumb and can't speak till his wife gives birth, ***“And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.” (Luke 1:20 KJV)*** That will make us conclude that no time was wasted for him to reach home, ***“And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived.” (Luke 1:24 KJV)*** So when it says ***‘And after those days’***, it means she got pregnant once he left his ministrations and reached home.

Now the question is how long the journey was between his house and Jerusalem? We can conclude that when we know where he was living. We can conclude that from the Scriptures. When the angel told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth is pregnant, she left in haste and reached the house of Zechariah, ***“39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.” (Luke 1:39-40 KJV)*** So the house of Zechariah is in a city in the hill country of Judah, and being a priest, most likely the city is Hebron, as a city allocated to the priest located in the hill country of Judah as we read: ***“10 Which the children of Aaron, being of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot. 11 And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.” (Joshua 21:10-11 KJV)*** The real distance today between the city of Jerusalem and Hebron is 21.3 miles which need around 7 hours walk to reach. So as Zechariah left the temple in the second half of July reaching home, then by the end of July and the beginning of August Elisabeth was pregnant, for it says ***“23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministrations were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived.” (Luke 1:23-24 KJV)*** So the birth of John the Baptism was most likely in the month of April

When Mary, in the city of Nazareth received the news from the angel to be pregnant by the Holy Ghost, Elisabeth, her cousin, was in her sixth month, ***“And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.” (Luke 1:36 KJV)*** Mary went in haste to see Elisabeth, ***“39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.” (Luke 1:39-40 KJV)*** When Mary entered the house and met Elisabeth, this what we can read from the mouth of Elisabeth, ***“42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:42-43 KJV)*** So Mary was pregnant when she reached Elisabeth's house. Now the distance between the town of Nazareth in Galilee and Hebron in the hill country of Judah is around 100 miles that need around 32 hours and 16 minutes by walking (4-5 days in maximum). With this we can infer that the difference between Mary and Elisabeth pregnancy is approximately 6 months. Then if John was born in April, Jesus' birth would be in October or end of September.

Someone may ask if it is possible to fix a date for it on our calendar today. That is not possible because as earlier explained that the Jewish calendar keep changing to keep the same season for the feasts. But we can put an approximate period as we stated above, in the month of September or October; we can celebrate on our convenience. The month of September or October is the month where the Jewish feast of Tabernacle and Trumpets is celebrated and in it is also the Day of Atonement. October is a month of good weather in the Near Eastern area where travel is easy for people, and that will confirm to us that is why the taxation of Caesar was in that time and why it was easy for the shepherds to watch over their flocks in the open field and how Mary and Joseph was able to move easily while Mary was pregnant.

“1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.” (Luke 1:1-4 KJV) Even with this study we may not be accurate. We are not here to argue or to project knowledge, but our aim is to move the church away from worldliness and to provide a green pasture for the sheep of Jesus to celebrate Christ’s Birth, and live the truth and serve God while being away from the influences of pagan practices of what is called Christmas today that had invaded the church with much worldliness. If we as a church delight to celebrate His birth, then we can do that in a Godly way.

With this message I am putting guidelines to all workers, members, families, congregations, and outreaches of the church that are under my care, and who are wishing to celebrate Christ’s Birth:

1. Don’t use the word Christmas and do not take part in any activities of it that usually take place in the months of November, December and January.
2. Chose a suitable day in the month of September or October to celebrate. If these months are not suitable to you, then you may chose other months, except the months of November, December and January where pagan worshipping celebrate Christmas.
3. Let the Scriptures expound about the suffering of the family of Jesus and their perseverance to let the mission of God to continue.
4. Celebrate with Godly songs.
5. Have a meal fellowship.
6. Avoid decorations, lights effects, and the idols of Christmas tree and Santa Claus, etc.
7. No exchanging of gifts.
8. No games.
9. If anyone willing to give for the missions of Christ let him give it to the church.
10. This decision is open to suggestions based on Scriptures whenever it is deemed a necessity to do that.

May the Lord be glorified in our midst and bless us as we abide in His Will and Plan.

The Church of God, United Arab Emirates Government:

1. We decided to put the Church of God, United Arab Emirates government in writing in order that everything will be clear now and for the future to all our church workers and members, and for those who want to join the Church of God, United Arab Emirates.
2. The Church of Church of God, United Arab Emirates is in partnership with the Church of God, CLEVELAND, TENNESSE, USA and communicate that partnership through the Mediterranean and Middle East Regional Office of the Church of God World Mission.
3. The structural leadership of the Church of God, United Arab Emirates is composed of the Office of the Church Overseer, and the Office of the Church Council.
4. The Church Council is the body of committed workers, leaders and pastors. The Church Council expands along with the extension and the spread of the church.

CHURCH OF GOD, UAE

- 1- The Church Overseer
- 2- The Church Council
- 3- Body of the Committed Worker

5. The Church of God, United Arab Emirates is one Church with many locations congregations, with central government and with one treasury.
6. The central government of the church involves in appointing of leaders, in the teaching of new disciples, and in the preaching to congregations under the Church of God, UAE.
7. All the teaching materials need to be approved by the Church Overseer and the Church Council. All the pastors are provided with the teaching materials that they need to teach to the congregations under their care.
8. The Criteria of Approved Worker are to be used as standard for auditing process and discipline in all the existing congregations.
9. The Criteria of Approved Worker was developed from the Practical Commitments.
10. The Criteria of Approved Worker, after putting into practice and proven its effectiveness, is the standard to choose workers, appoint leaders and to monitor congregations.
11. All workers and leaders are to comply and to follow the Criteria of Approved Worker. No one is allowed to function as worker or leader if he fails in one or any points of commitments in the Criteria of Approved Worker.
12. The central government of the church involves in the finances of all the congregations which are under the Church of God, United Arab Emirates.
13. All the finances will be collected from all the members in different congregations and be placed in one treasury, the main treasury of Church of God, UAE.
14. All the expenditures will be paid from the main treasury after the agreement of the Church Overseer and the Church Council.
15. All the tithes, first fruits and offerings collected from all the members will be entered and recorded in the main treasury with the names of the tithe and firstfruits-givers and the dates when given.
16. All the expenditures for any congregation of the church would be recorded in the main treasury with their accurate dates and amount.

17. No local congregation or any pastor has the right to decide and use the funds that is collected in that congregation whether for personal or for ministry use. All the money collected needs to be sent and to be entered in the main treasury.
18. Those who are not giving their tithes are not allowed to do any ministry and will be discredited as workers.
19. Pastoral Certificates and Ministerial IDs are issued to recognize the Church of God, United Arab Emirates Pastors.
20. The Church Overseer with the help of the Council Members are to move around to oversee the Church congregations. Able workers are encouraged to oversee new congregations.
21. Any church or congregation who desires to join the Church of God, United Arab Emirates shall abide with all the points of the Church of God, United Arab Emirates government.
22. The right of any congregation that is part of the Church of God, United Arab Emirates to withdraw and get separated from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates does not exist. Separation or withdrawal to become independent or to be under other church is considered division. Division according to the Scriptures is sin, (**Acts 20:28-31**).
23. Those who cause division or take any congregation away from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates are to be warned and admonished to repent and to come back by the Church Overseer, the Council of the Church and by the body of the committed workers.
24. Any leader who causes division and refuses to come back and brings back the congregation under Church of God, United Arab Emirates will be treated as nonbeliever, (**Matthew 18:15-17**) and his ministry will not be recognized, (**Romans 16:17-18**).

Evangelism

Article No. 1

“13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:13-15 KJV)

In the above Scripture it is very clearly demonstrated to us that people will believe in the good news of Lord and got saved through hearing the message. They need to hear the good news and the Word of God from someone to be saved. Therefore it is necessarily that we need to continually preach the Word of God.

We as Church of God we honor the command of Jesus in ***Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*** Therefore we commissioned all our trained workers to go forward with the message and the command of Jesus to go and make disciples by preaching to them the Gospel and teaching them the Word of God, ***“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)***

“32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33 KJV) The Lord would expect from us to acknowledge him before men and proclaim His Word and will to them. Evangelism might not be easy, and you might find opposition and some people who will not accept the message, but the Lord would expect from you to continue to proclaim the message, ***“34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.” (Matthew 10:34-36 KJV)***

The Lord commissioned the prophet Jeremiah to preach and teach His Word to the Israelites, ***“9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.” (Jeremiah 1:9-10 KJV)***

Jeremiah was admonished to stand firm in spite of all the pressures that were surrounded him: ***“17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.” (Jeremiah 1:17-19 KJV)*** Truly Jeremiah was sent to stubborn people who were also misled by many false prophets who taught the people rebellion and did not admonish them to follow God the same as the message of the

Lord through Jeremiah. The Word of God spoke about those false prophets the following: **“25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. 26 How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; 27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.” (Jeremiah 23:25-27 KJV)** But that is how God addresses the challenge: **“28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. 29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:28-29 KJV)**

The time that God had called Jeremiah to serve Him and proclaim His Word, there were many other false prophets and false teachers who were preaching messages that did not come from the Lord. Those prophets were misleading the people and condoning with them their sins and their wrong doings. Jeremiah was surrounded by such dreamers who were teaching the people things that contradict the message that God had given to Jeremiah. Sure Jeremiah was discouraged because of those preachers who were opposing the message of God and who were leading the people through their teaching to move away from God. But the Lord encouraged Jeremiah with His Word that he does not need to be discouraged; the Lord directed Jeremiah also of what he needs to do:

1. Let the false prophet who has a dream tell his dream: Let them speak lies and tell the people wrong things. You cannot close the mouth of those false teachers and those who compromise, and you do not need to condone with the people their sins. But you can do the following:

2- But let the one who has God’s Word speak it faithfully: God instructed Jeremiah to continue to speak forth the Word of God that He was receiving from the Lord. You can face the false prophets and teachers, by continually preaching to the people the Word of God and teach them the sound teaching.

3- For what has straw to do with grain? The false teaching is like a straw and it has no value in compare to the grain (the Word of God). The straw will be blown away by the wind, but the grain will remain.

4- “Is not my word like as a fire?” (Jeremiah 23:29 KJV): The Word of God that you are preaching is like the fire that will consume the false teaching (the straw).

5- “And like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29 KJV): Whatever is the foundation of false teaching, the Word of God shall break it as hammer break a rock in pieces.

It is a very clear way for you to continue to serve God, and to be well maintained in your evangelism even you are in the mid of bad company of false teachers. You do not need to grieve or feel pain because of the false teaching, and you do not need to approve them. But faithfully continue to proclaim the Word of God to the people and to the field of Evangelism whom the Lord entrusted to your care.

The good news is that Jesus died on the cross for the sin of mankind. And you need to mention and speak about sin in detail so that people would have the opportunity to repent. **“46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:46-47 KJV)** The message of Jesus, the

early church and the apostle were preaching the message of repentance as we can read in the following Scriptures:

A. The message of Jesus was a message of repentance: “14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15 KJV)

B. The message of the Apostles of Jesus was a message of repentance: “37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:37-38 KJV)

C. The message of Apostle Paul was a message of repentance: “30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31 KJV)

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10 KJV) The devil is the thief who came to kill steal and destroy. The Lord Jesus Christ came to save mankind from the hands of devil. The footholds that the devil uses in peoples’ lives are their sins. Therefore we need to embrace the message of Jesus by living it and by proclaiming it to the people who are around us. Therefore what we ought to proclaim in our endeavor to evangelize is the message of repentance so the people will be aware of their sins and their eyes would be opened and got repent and have the opportunity to believe in Christ and got saved.

Let us continue go through the Scripture and learn more from the Word of God of how to evangelize and reach the lost

“26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. 27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. 29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) 30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. 31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. 32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. 33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. 34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. 37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again. 38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed

besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.” (Luke 8:26-39 KJV)

Our calling to evangelize is to deliver the people out from the hands of Devil and its demons, so they will be set free from sin and to live a life that pleasant to the Lord. From ***Luke 8:26-39*** We will found out what the demonic manifestation so that we can understand what the strongholds that devil are using to oppose us and to hinder us from reaching our goal in reaching the lost.

1. Shouting: “When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice ...’ (Luke 8:28) The enemy may use shouting to impart fear and trying to hinder us from reaching the lost souls.

2. Fighting and anger: “and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands.” (Luke 8:29) The enemy may use anger and fighting to impart fear and trying to hinder us from evangelizing certain person or a group of people. In such cases to evangelize and make disciples we need to teach about the bad effect of shouting, fighting and anger.

3. Breaking rules: “he brake the bands.” (Luke 8:29) One of the demonic manifestation is breaking rules of governments. Therefore we need to preach and teach about the importance of submission to the rules of the government.

4. Isolation: “neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.” (Luke 8:27) Isolation and being away from people and society is one of the demonic manifestations. Therefore we ought to speak about the importance of having and building a purposeful and healthy relationship with the people around us.

5. Living among the dead: A sinful life, worldly life and a wild living is a life among the dead; therefore when we preach the gospel we need to teach about that.

6. Leaving homes and responsibilities: “neither abode in any house.” (Luke 8:27) In our endeavour to evangelize we need to emphasize the importance of the family; and living in the context of the family entails rules that we need to follow. Many they are willing to do many things for the Lord but they are neglecting their families. Therefore Jesus admonished the man after healing him, "***Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.” (Luke 8:39)***

7. Laziness: Demonic manifestations render the people to be without fruit; either doing nothing good, or doing many harmful things.

8. Doing things out of mind: Those demons possessed may do things as mad people do, for example urinate in public, etc.

9- Nudeness and immorality: “which had devils long time, and ware no clothes.” (Luke 8:27) Demons promote sexual immoralities by lust and second by nudity. We need to teach people to observe how to dress modesty for the Lord.

10. Boasting, telling lies and showing off: “Then Jesus asked him, “And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.” (Mark 5:9) Exaggeration and showing off is what demons always try to do.

11. People avoiding us: *“Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.”* (Luke 8:37) People avoiding us and avoiding to hear the message is another way of demons work.

12. Love of money: *“Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.”* (Luke 8:37) The people asked the Lord to leave them because their pig business got affected. Demons hide in people lives that love money and consider it more valuable than God.

The above brief descriptions are good topics of what you share with non believers in your endeavor to preach the gospel. As well as they are good topics for discipleships.

Now we will highlights the effects of Jesus’ impact on that demon possessed man and that will be the impact of our evangelism and the fruit that will appear in peoples’ lives who will respond to the message:

1. Salvation: That man was living among the dead, and Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”* (John 5:24 KJV)

2. Deliverance from Demons: *“Then went the devils out of the man ...”* (Luke 8:33)

3. Right mind: *“sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: ...”* (Luke 8:35)

4. Dressed: *“clothed, ...”* (Luke 8:35)

5. Submission to God’s will: *“38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.”* (Luke 8:38-39 KJV) The man did not insist to do what he likes but submitted himself to God’s will.

6. Restoration back to the plan of God: *“Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.”* (Luke 8:39 KJV)

7. The person witnessed to others about Jesus: *“And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.”* (Luke 8:39 KJV) So ultimately those whom we are reaching out will tell others about Jesus.

Ephesians 6:15 says *“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”* God gives us feet so we can move and reach the Lost with the Gospel of Jesus and to give them the word of God that will make changes and bring blessings in their lives. Preaching should be accompanied and use the Word of God as the main item of the mission of reaching the lost. The following are good examples:

A. “He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” (Psalm 107:20 KJV) God’s Word brings healing and salvation from sin and death.

B. “The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.” (Proverbs 13:14 KJV) Only through God’s Word we can help people and snatch them from death.

C. “39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. 40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his own word.” (John 4:39-41 KJV) The Samaritan woman that believed in Jesus herself testifies about Jesus to her town, and many they believed on Him when

they heard His Word. We need to give the people the Word of God in addition to our testimony about Jesus.

D. *“Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.” (Nehemiah 9:30 KJV)* Nehemiah in his prayer to God acknowledges that God was admonishing the people and correcting them through the prophets who were using His word.

E. *“But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.” (Jeremiah 23:22 KJV)* God declared here that the false prophets did not give His people the Word of God because themselves were dishonoring God and were not standing in His council. The Word of God we need to use in our evangelism so people would turn from their sins.

F. *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Joshua 1:8 KJV)* Through reading the Word of God, meditating on it and obeying what is in them, success and prosperity will come into people lives. Therefore we need to use God’s word in reaching the lost souls in order for them to experience prosperity and success.

You need to be honest in using the Word of God that you receive from the Lord. Be strong and courageous and stand firm in proclaiming His word that will bring life to the lost. Paul said to the Ephesians and requested them to pray for him ***“19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:19-20 KJV)*** Ahead of us as a Church of God a great responsibility to bring forward the message to the people that God had sent us and whom he had prepared for us. There is no way to compromise; we need to proclaim it in the way it should be and without fear. Therefore be prepared, the Lord is sending you, to go forward and bring the message to the lost.

Evangelism

Article No. 2

One door that God had opened to us as a church to spread His Word and the message of salvation is through the care to those who are hurt, harmed, underprivileged, injured or crippled by the work of darkness. The Scripture teaches us further points in regard to this matter:

A. *“30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He*

that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise." (Luke 10:30-37 KJV)

The above passage speaks about how the priest and the Levite avoided the half dead victim but the Samaritan man when he saw the victim he responded to the call of God and moved and did the needful. What are the points that you can learn further:

1. Remove the victim from the area of dangers: It is import thing to do as first aid is to remove the new people that we are reaching from the hands of rubbers, and from whatever things that will worsen their condition and make them deteriorate more: to remove them from the effect of usury, wasting money, and wrong advices. In *John 10:10* Jesus said, ***"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*** As you move forward and evangelize, you are the servant of Jesus and you are called to help those people that you are reaching and to deliver them from the hand of devil and it vices. The Samaritan brought the victim to a safe place ***"... and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."*** (*Luke 10:34*) We need to bring the people that we are reaching to safe places so they can recover peacefully and enjoy the goodness of the Lord to them.

2. Deal with the victim directly and not through intermediate: There are many in the body of the Christ who collect money in the name of the Lord to help victims and injured people. But those people might be like the priest or the Levite in the above Scripture who saw the victim and did nothing for him. We should not give money to intermediates for they must likely use the money for themselves. We deal directly with the victims and directly spend on them.

3. You cannot use your money without putting your hands: The man who helped the victim as we read in the Scripture he was travelling, when he saw the victim he was move with compassion, ***"And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine."*** (*Luke 10:34*) For effective evangelism you need to see the wounds and examine carefully the damages there and assess the disability so that you will know what to give advice and what decision that you need to help the victim to take and to do.

4. You cannot use your money without physical suffering: The Samaritan man carried the victim and put him on his donkey till he brought him to the inn, ***"and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."*** (*Luke 10:34*) There is no white colour job in serving the Lord. Suffering is part and parcel for effective evangelism.

5. Spent when it is required: ***"And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him."*** (*Luke 10:35*) There is a time that we need to spend money in order that we will be able to extend further our spiritual care and follow up. In such circumstances we need to spend. That is also showing us the importance of saving.

6. Follow up is an important step for evangelism: The Samaritan man said to the inn keeper ***"when I come again,"*** (*Luke 10:35*) Because he knew that he need to follow up the person in order to complete the work that God had called him to do in that person's life. You need to understand that evangelism will only be effective when accompanied by proper follow up to the people that God called you to disciple them.

B. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

Caring for widows and orphans is another important method of evangelism. When we bring the Word of God and his love to those who are widows and orphans we are evangelizing. In fact, widows and orphans are the concerns of God and from the Old Testament as we can read in *Deuteronomy 26:12* “**When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.**” The Israelites were responsible before God to care for the widows and the orphans who were among them. In every town there were widows and orphans the people made accountable to look after them.

Widows and orphans were by no means abandoned by God. The Lord would provide for them as we read in *Deuteronomy 26:12*. As well as we can read in *1 Kings 17:7-16*: “**7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. 8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.**” Widows and their children will be well provided by God when they hear and applied the Word of God that the church is telling them.

What we conclude that the provision of God to the widows and orphans is accompanied by their obedience and their application to the Word of God. When that widow obeyed Elijah, God’s promise came true in her life, “**For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.**” (*1 Kings 17:14 KJV*) God sent Elijah to that widow to provide for her. Jesus mentioned that in *Luke 4:24-26* “**24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.**” Elijah was not sent to the widows of Israel because they were not willing to hear and apply the Word of God.

Evangelism and showing the love of God to the widows and orphans and to the rest of the underprivileged categories like the sick, those in prison and the rest is never without discipleship and emphasizing on holiness. You must know that giving and caring without emphasizing on holiness is neither evangelism nor God’s love.

Further direction on the same topic of caring for the widows we can read from *1 Timothy 5:3-5* “**3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. 5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.**” (*1 Timothy 5:3-5 KJV*) The children

and the grand children are responsible to care for the widows, and in return the widows should show dedication to God, putting their trust on Him and living in holiness. Widows who are in need should trust God, obey His Word and be good example to others in the body of Christ in life of holiness and in service.

“But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.” (1 Timothy 5:6) Widows who live for pleasures are unworthy of any support. ***“And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.” (1 Timothy 5:7)*** These instructions from the Bible are needed so that everyone would know how to deal with the issue of widows:

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (1 Timothy 5:8) Children and grandchildren are called to provide for their widows parents and grandparents, and the widows are called to be obedient to God’s Word and to live in holiness. ***“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.” (1 Timothy 1:16)***

“9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.” (1 Timothy 5:9-10) Below the age of 60 they can work and they don’t need to be supported, unless they are sick and their body is unfit for work.

“11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.” (1 Timothy 5:11-15) Younger widows they need to be taught more and guarded more against the temptations of lust and immoralities. They need to be taught to work, and to marry if that is applicable and if the financial and material circumstances allow them to do that.

The description that we had about how to care for the underprivileged people, the orphans and the widows is meant to help us and to give us clear understanding of how to evangelize and disciple the people that God called us to look after and care. This is one of the way to expand our ministry and a method to show God’s care and love to those whom God’s love and is concerned with.

Church of God UAE History, Teaching and Vision

The purpose of this presentation is to summarize the teaching that the church developed along the years so our members, workers and ministers, old and new, will be aware about the teaching of our church.

From **1995 to 2002** it was a **local Church** in Al-Ain, started as extension of Word International Ministries Church of God (WIM COG), with praise and worship, fellowship, evangelism, but less on discipleship and discipline.

In **2003 to 2004** it was a **lost church**: It happened upon the division of WIM churches from the Church of God. It became a dead church, but it got revived after few among us responded to the letter of the General Overseer and the Director of the World Mission to stay with the Church of God, Cleveland Tennessee, USA.

In **2005** was **revival and evangelism**: Restarting on December 2004 and from there it was a church with multicultural congregation in Al-Ain and in other cities in UAE.

In **2006** the theme was enlarging the tent by **evangelism** from **Isaiah 54:2-3** *“2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.”* There was revival and zeal for evangelism, using workers based on skills and talents without applying **2 Timothy 2:2** *“2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*

In **2007** the theme was **evangelism** from **John 10:10** *“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* The church extended beyond UAE to India and Sri Lanka. Training and seminars done for the talented workers. Our congregations at that time were neither concentrating on personal and spiritual life of our members nor on holiness.

In **2008** the theme was **rebuilding the walls as organized church**: Rebuilding the walls and putting the gates from **Nehemiah 2:17-18** *“17 Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. 18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”* We started to put rules and discipline. Prayer and fasting. Fighting the sin of usury. Helping the poor. Selecting capable leaders and workers who fear God. Discipline for marriage. Observing the Sabbath to attend church regularly. Strict tithing. No ministry for anyone who does not tithe. Totally eliminating the boyfriend and the girlfriend. Commitment to the church and to the leadership of the church. No workers or member attending other churches. No visiting pastors.

Based on **Romans 16: 17-18** *“17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”* and **Acts 20:28-30** *“28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”* The sin of division was condemned and a decision taken about those who left the church were considered as non believers and as lost sons, including those who caused division, that we will not give to any one the permission to move out of the church. The Scripture condemn such rebelliousness, and we too will not approve it. All those who did so in the past, no one of them had received from me the approval and the permission to do so. They did it themselves without our approval due to their wrong motive and their disobedience to God's Word. Division is painful but one aspect good of it is that it clean the church from those who do evil.

Other nations, Iraq and Syria, were reached out. We start teaching the practical commitment of the Church of God. Classes of the School of Ministry started that year also and stayed for 3 years.

In **2009** the theme was **fruit bearing church** from **John 15:16** *“16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”* and **Galatians 5:22-23** *“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* Fruit of repentance, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, concentrating on holiness, and characters and attitudes of members and workers were emphasized.

In 2010 the theme was **making disciples-fruit bearing church** from *Matthew 28:19-20* “19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” The fruit of making new disciples, and homeschooling started and emphasized.

The central government of our church developed inspired from the government of Moses from *Exodus 18:19-23* “19 Harken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: 20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. 21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: 22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. 23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.” The central government is instituted in regard to the teaching, pastors’ appointment and finances. The central government of the church was a need to supervise the wellbeing of the members and workers of the different church congregations. The criteria of the approved worker applied inspired from *2 Timothy 2:2,15*, where the workers should keep certain commitment. On 2010 the website of the church was launched.

In 2011 the theme was **restoration as global church** from *Isaiah 58:12* “12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” The church was restored back to what God intended to reach the whole world and with the government of, “*One Church in Many Locations, Congregations, With Central Government and One Treasury.*”

Every congregation should have the focus on local extension as well as global mission. Four countries were reached out: India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Philippines, through mission trips over a span period of eight months. God raised up pastors to care for these congregations. Some of them from UAE congregations, others from these countries. The church developed audio and written teaching materials to meet the needs and to feed the church members of different languages-English, Tagalog, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, and Burmese.

In 2012 the theme was **enlarging the tent as global Church** from *Isaiah 54:2-3*. The Church overseer and the church council structures were developed. Pastor Certificate and Ministerial ID card given to the pastors who are to continue to function and are recognized as pastor while they continue in the teaching, as Joshua continued in the teaching of Moses; *Joshua 11:15* “As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.” and *Joshua 8:35* “35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.”

In 2013 the theme was **priests of God** from *Isaiah 61:6* “6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.” and *1 Peter 2:9* “9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;” Concentration on family life; family worship was encouraged and families were confirmed as congregations. Every family is considered a congregation in the church. In fact at the present our church mainly composed of families who serve God. Principle of child discipline, spanking by rod was applied according to *Proverbs 22:15*. “*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*”

Sheltering children and homeschooling were more clearly established from *Deuteronomy 6:6-7*, “6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Parents are considered pastors for their children and youth. Parents who are unwilling to discipline their children were agreed upon not to be given a ministry.

Birthday and wedding anniversary celebrations were excluded from the church. Preparation for Godly marriage was instituted clearly from **Genesis 2**. Single mother and single father issues were raised to be dealt with. “**The Duties of The Priest**” book was written and published in 2015.

In 2014 the theme was **watchman** from *Isaiah 62:6-7* “6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, 7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” and *Ezekiel 3:17* “17 Son of man, I

have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.” The watchmen prayer ministry established and workers and deacons with criteria were raised to watch and care over various ministries and meet various needs to prepare the church for further expansion inspired from Acts 6:1-7 *“1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”* and 1 Timothy 3:8-10 *“8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.”* Therefore, overseers raised to help the church overseer to oversee the congregations and the workers. Single mother and single father issue was dealt with based on the life of Hagar from Genesis 16 and 21. Church banking was instituted, to help the members to save, and to give loans without interest to free our members from loans with interests.

In 2015 the theme was **suffering for Christ** from *Philippians 1:29* *“29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;”*, *2 Timothy 2:3-4* *“3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*, and *1 Peter 2:21* *“21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”* The Lord confirmed the vision on that year by the increase of the prices of water, electricity and other expenses. Wars and persecution started in the Middle East. Therefore fasting, disciplined stewardship, the practice of saving, avoiding unnecessary spending, avoiding eating in restaurant, avoiding costly food and dress and parties, avoiding unnecessary vacations, control spending and saving on water and electricity and finances were all implemented.

The teaching of the Firstfruit was instituted from *Exodus 22:29*, *“Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.”* *Proverbs 3:9-10*, *“9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”* *Hebrews 11:4*, *“4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”*

From 2016 to 2018 the theme was **church multiplication in peace** as **global church** from *Acts 9:31*, *“Then indeed had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.* In 2016 the book *“Serve God’s Service”* published.

Farming was introduced based on the instruction of God to Adam, *“17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.”* (*Genesis 3:17-18 KJV*) Workers and members learned to garden and to plant vegetables and fruits, and use the natural resources to reproduce food.

The following idols and cultural practices were totally removed from our church congregations and families: Santa Claus, Christmas tree, Boyfriend, Girlfriend, Dating, Courting, Father Day Mother Day, Valentine Day, Birthdays celebration, Wedding anniversary celebration, Graduation Celebration. Death Anniversary. All Saints Day, Friend Day, Halloween (Harvest), Thanksgiving Day, Pastor’s Appreciation Month, etc. In 2017 the book *“Put God First”* published.

During 2016-2018 the workers and members trained as royal priests, trained as watchmen for the Lord, and trained to be willing to suffer for the Lord. The reward for those who achieved that is *a time of peace, a time of rest, strengthened, edified, encouraged, comforted, filled with the Holy Spirit, living and walking in the fear of the Lord, united, and grow in numbers, and multiply.*

The Lord used as pattern those years we passed through to grasp and to handle new congregations and new workers that the Lord is adding to the church by using the stages that the Lord had led us through. We see and recognize

where they are and we go down to them and take them up with us through the scale as we sow in the diagram below, leading them with us step by step. In 2018 the criteria for marriage approval was instituted.

In the mid of 2018, the church had started to have some outreaches to reach the continent of Africa, and we are still trying to raise up workers in the African countries.

In 2019 the theme was **multiplication in peace and implementing the whole will of God as global church** from *Ephesians 1:9* “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.” *Matthew 6:10* “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” *Matthew 26:39* “And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” *Matthew 26:42* “He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.” *Acts 22: 14* “And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.” And *Acts 20:27* “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Resolution for Christ’s birth celebration; Christmas and all its accompanied practices were condemned including December celebrations, long holidays, banqueting, exchange gifts, Santa Claus, and the tree. The teaching of no makeup introduced. Starting the series of lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain from *Matthew 5-7*. In 2019 the book “**The Power to Get Wealth**” published.

Four Idols was condemned in pertain to implementing the whole will of God in 2019.

- The idol of education. People study whatever they wish and competing with the world, and not as God direct.
- The idol of marriage. People marry whatever they choose and not God’s choice
- The idol of migration. People migrate to live in whatever place they like.
- The idol of living the style of life they want to live and not God’s style.

In 2019 good number of disciples and workers left the church, as in *John 6:60-61*, and *66* “60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” They left the Al Ain, UAE congregations after they know that the church changed the covering school of the church school to hit the idol of education and the idol of using the church to get benefits. They were in the church just for the sake of the schooling of their children and not for God. God cleansed the church from them.

Upon leaving the congregations in Al Ain, we faced heavy persecution; many members were deceived and pulled out. They did this because they were aiming to destroy the church, but the Lord saved us from their evil schemes, He cleansed His church from them and from the idols we mentioned and kept His church and His ministry pure, alive and strong.

In 2020 to 2021 the same theme **multiplication in peace and implementing the whole will of God as global church**: God brought His wrath, COVID-19, over the whole earth to judge the whole world and to discipline the churches that had gone worldly and behaved as harlot. God caused economic collapses and closures of schools, colleges, churches, malls, and airports, destroying the peoples’ idols. God approved all the teaching that He gave us as a church including the teaching of child discipline, homeschooling, no eating in restaurants, no banqueting and wasting, no makeup, no vacations and tourism, saving, no boasting about education and migrating according to people will. But God gave us abundant peace and rest, we who remain with Him and now we are preparing ourselves to witness the accomplishment of the vision of multiplication in peace.

“**Preparation for Godly Marriage**” a new book written on 2020 awaiting for publishing.

Arabic worship service recording started in Al-Ain on March 2020. Translation ministry to translate the English written messages to Tagalog started on March 5, 2021.

In 2022 the same theme **multiplication in peace and implementing the whole will of God as global church**: The writing of the Whole Bible Commentary started on January 2022, followed by the launching of the church clinic.

History and Biblical Description of our Church Growth Diagram

1995-2002	Local church.
2003	Lost church.
2004-2005	Restarting.
2006	Multicultural congregations evangelism, <i>Isaiah 54:2-3</i> .
2007	Evangelism, <i>John 10:10</i> .

2008	Rebuilding the wall, <i>Nehemiah 2:17-18</i> . Organized church.
2009	Bearing fruit, <i>John 15:16</i> . Bearing fruit church.
2010	Go and Make disciples, <i>Matthew 28:19-20</i> .
2011	Restoration, <i>Isaiah 58:12</i> . Global church.
2012	Enlarging the tent, <i>Isaiah 54:2-3</i> .
2013	Priests of God, <i>Isaiah 61:6, 1 Peter 2:9</i> .
2014	Watchman, <i>Isaiah 62:6-7, Ezekiel 3:17</i> .
2015	Suffering for Christ, <i>Philippians 1:29, 1 Peter 2:21, Timothy 2:3-4</i> .
2016-2018	Multiplication in peace in the fear of God, <i>Acts 9:31</i> .
2019	Multiplication in peace-Implementing the whole will of God. <i>Ephesians 1:9, Matthew 6:10, Matthew 26:39, Matthew 26: 42. Acts 22:14, Acts 20:27</i> . Persecution happened during implementation and many left the church to their shame .
2020-2021	Multiplication in peace-Implementing the whole will of God. God sent His wrath, COVID-19, to prove His Word. God gave us abundant peace and rest, we who remain with Him and now we are preparing ourselves to witness the accomplishment of the vision of multiplication.
2022	Multiplication in peace and implementing the whole will of God as global church.

Church of God, UAE Congregations, Families, Outreaches and Extensions

Total of 159 members, in 11 countries, over 39 locations; notice that most of our locations are few members or a family

UAE: Al-Ain English, Tagalog, Arabic, Church School. Telugu, Abu-Dhabi. Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Dubai.

Oman: Buraimi and Muscat.

Iraq: Erbil and Baghdad outreaches.

India: Punyan-Jalendar, Badlapur-Mumbai, Delhi, Tambaram-Chennai, and Pulakode-Kerala.

Philippines: Antipolo, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Castillejos City, Baguio, San Fernando-La Union, San Pablo, Bogabon, Tuganay Carmen Davao del Norte, Paligui Apalit Pampanga, Abra, Bohol, Bicul, Anda, Quezon City, Domaguete City, Zamboanguita Negros Oriental

Sri-Lanka: Nuwara Eliya.

Pakistan: Sialkot.

Kuwait: Kuwait.

Armenia: Yerevan,

USA: Hawaii.

Sierra Leone: Adonkia.

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The ministries of the church: Evangelism, Discipleship, Watchman ministry, Church School, Church Banking, Church Clinic, Farming ministry, Publication ministry, Translation ministry, Children and Youth ministries (under each parents is their children and their youths), and Woman ministry (each husband is to lead his wife).

Now let us pray, with thanksgiving, to God to fulfill the vision:

- Thanksgiving for all the brethren, workers, pastors, families, congregations and outreaches with the church.
- Lord continue to prove your Word that you gave to us, your church.
- **“Lord, increases our faith.”** According to Your promise in *Luke 17:5*.
- **“What shall I do, Lord?”** (*Acts 22:10*)
- **“Here am I. Send me.”** (*Isaiah 6:8*)
- Lord, lead us and take us to new people who are prepared to receive your grace, according to *Acts 9:32-10:48* and what God did through Apostle Peter
- Lord, set apart workers from among us and takes them by the Holy Spirit to new areas and start new missionary journey, according to *Acts 13 and 14* and what God did through Apostles Paul and Barnabas.
- **“Lord, give us the nations as our inheritance, the end of the earth as our possession.”** According to God’s promise in *Psalms 2:8*.
- **“Lord, send labourers into your harvest field.”** According to God’s promise in *Matthew 9:38*
- Lord enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church, to reach new nations and new languages, countries and continents.
- Lord, multiply us in peace according to your promise in *Acts 9:31*.
- Lord lead us, protect us and provide for us to implement Your will in full.

Please feel free to contact me directly for any clarification.

With love, prayer and appreciation

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The website of the church is the place that you can find the teaching of the church in written (English and Tagalog) and audio (English, Tagalog, Arabic, Hindi and Urdu) sermons and in different languages.

To find the English written sermons: Find out on the main page of the website the '**Old Sermons**' and click and search the list of the sermons; each one in both word document and pdf files.

To find the Tagalog written sermons: Find out on the main page the '**Old Tagalog Sermons**' and click and search the list of the sermons; each one in both word document and pdf files.

To find the Audio sermons go to the main page of the web site and find '**Listen online Audio Messages**' under it you will find bottoms for '**Arabic**', '**English**', '**Hindi**', '**Tagalog**', and '**Urdu**'. Press on the language you are looking for and search the list of the sermons under each language.

To find written message go to the main page of the web site and click on '**The bread of Life**' and you will find the list of the English messages and the bottoms to search the Arabic and the Tagalog messages. The messages are covering a variety of Biblical topics and subjects for instruction and training in righteousness.

For short messages you can go to the main page of the web site and click on '**The Lord Is My Shepherd**' and you will find the bottoms of shepherd vol 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Click and you will find the list of each of them. The messages here are short and precise for teaching, correcting, rebuking and encouraging.

Exam and Pastor Certificate

Upon finish studying the manual you will under an exam and upon passing the exam you will receive a Pastor's Certificate. The passing mark is 80. You can repeat the exam in case you fail.

To do the exam please contact me through:

Email. Thebread1@gmail.com

Whatsapp: 00971551902647

Messenger: Ramiz Khalaf

Pastor Certificate

This is to certify that Name Ministerial Number 000
is a pastor in the CHURCH OF GOD, United Arab Emirates.

Through various academic and practical training he was trained and equipped with
the teaching and the discipline of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This Certificate confirmed at the principle office of said CHURCH OF GOD,
United Arab Emirates upon the recommendation of the Church Council and the Church
Overseer on the Date of, Month, Year. This certificate enable him to continue to do
God's work as long as he is in line with the teaching of the Lord and the instructions and
the government of the Church of God, United Arab Emirates.

*The Church of God, UAE is One Church with Many Locations Congregations,
With Central Government and One Treasury*

DR. RAMIZ KHALAF
THE CHURCH OVERSEER
Church of God
United Arab Emirates

A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
CLEVELAND, TENNESSE, USA