

MORE THAN A CREED

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ONLY ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT JESUS.

WHAT IS A CREED?

Throughout the centuries, Christians have expressed their faith in brief summaries. Some of these summaries are called creeds, from the Latin *credo*, which means, 'I believe.'

Some possible creeds in the Bible: **Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Kings 18:39; Matthew 16:16; Matthew 28:19; John 1:49; John 6:68-69; John 20:28; Acts 8:36-37; Acts 16:31; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Ephesians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6-11; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 6:1-2; 1 John 4:2**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONFESSION, A CATECHISM, A CREED, AND A MOTTO?

CONFESSION

Definition: sometimes comprehensive description of _____ beliefs

Length: chapter or _____ length

Examples: Augsburg Confession (1530), Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), Baptist Confession of Faith (1689), Baptist _____ & _____ (2000)

CATECHISM

Definition: series of _____ designed to teach beliefs

Length: can vary from a few dozen questions to several _____ questions

Examples: Catechism of the Catholic Church, _____ Catechism

CREED

Definition: short, pithy document describing a group's beliefs

Length: typically _____-page

Examples: _____ Creed, Apostles' Creed

MOTTO

Definition: describes the _____ motivation or intention

Length: single phrase or sentence

Examples: "Where the Bible speaks we speak, where the Bible is silent, we're silent"; "No Creed but Christ, no Book but the Bible, and No Law but Love"; "It's all about Jesus, it's only about Jesus, it's always about Jesus."

What was your background? Did you learn a confession, a catechism, a creed, or a motto growing up?

WHY NOT JUST USE THE BIBLE?

Do any of the passages above individually summarize/communicate all of your beliefs about Christianity?

2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible was _____ given to provide a concise and easily transmittable version of what we believe so we could more easily communicate it to others.

2 Timothy 2:15

Our doctrine should _____ together in the same way.

The Bible is a collection of historical accounts, law, prophecy, poetry, and letters—and it all _____ together perfectly—every seam is flawless and every corner is woven with precision.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

06/14: Introduction

06/21: Nicene Creed

06/28: Apostles' Creed

07/05: Baptist Faith and Message (2000): (1) The Scriptures, and (2) God

07/12: Baptist Faith and Message (2000): (3) Man, (4) Salvation, (5) God's Purpose of Grace, and (6) The Church

07/19: Baptist Faith and Message (2000): (7) Baptism & the Lord's Supper, (8) The Lord's Day, (9) The Kingdom, (10) Last Things, and (11) Evangelism and Missions

07/26: Baptist Faith and Message (2000): (12) Education, (13) Stewardship, (14) Cooperation, and (15) The Christian and Social Order

08/02: Baptist Faith and Message (2000): (16) Peace and War, (17) Religious Liberty, and (18) The Family

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REVIEW

Creed: short, pithy document describing a group's _____

WHY CREEDS?

1. To _____ what we believe
2. To _____ what we believe
3. To _____ what we believe

WHY NOT CREEDS?

1. Creeds can become the _____
2. Creeds can be _____
3. Creeds can be _____

NICENE CREED

WHAT IS IT?

The most widely accepted creed in Christianity (I thought the Apostles' Creed was before this study)

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

First version was written in AD _____, with a section added related to the Holy Spirit in AD _____ (sometimes referred to as the "Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed") and a highly controversial addition made in AD 589

WHO WAS IT WRITTEN BY?

A collection of 318 (we think) bishops from all over the world—the first ecumenical council who met from May 20 to July 25 to collectively agree on a wide-ranging set of issues that had arisen after three centuries. It was approved by all but _____ of the bishops present.

WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN?

The city of Nicaea (modern-day _____)

WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

To clearly articulate a proper theology of _____; more specifically, to rebut the philosophy of Arius

WHO WAS IT WRITTEN FOR?

The common man to serve as a symbol

WHAT DENOMINATIONS USE IT?

Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican Communion, Reformed churches, Presbyterian, and Methodist

WHAT DID IT SAY? (THIS ENTIRE SECTION IS TAKEN FROM WIKIPEDIA)

The following table displays side by side the earlier (325) and later (381) . . . [and] indicates by [square brackets] the portions of the 325 text that were omitted or moved in 381, and uses *italics* to indicate what phrases, absent in the 325 text, were added in 381.

FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEA (325)	FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (381)
We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.	We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of <i>heaven and earth, and</i> of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;	And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, <i>begotten of the Father before all worlds (æons)</i> , Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
By whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth];	by whom all things were made;
Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man;	who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate <i>by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary</i> , and was made man;
He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven;	<i>he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;</i>
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.	from thence he shall come again, <i>with glory</i> , to judge the quick and the dead; <i>whose kingdom shall have no end.</i>
And in the Holy Ghost.	And in the Holy Ghost, <i>the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.</i> <i>In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</i>

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REVIEW

Creed: short, pithy document describing a group's _____

WHY CREEDS?

1. To _____ what we believe (define)
2. To _____ what we believe (protection against heresy) (defend)
3. To _____ what we believe (declare)

APOSTLES' CREED

WHAT IS IT?

The _____ most widely accepted creed in Christianity

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

It existed by the end of the _____ century, and changes were made until the early eighth century

WHO WAS IT WRITTEN BY AND FOR?

_____: The Apostles themselves each wrote a portion

_____: Baptismal candidates would be asked a series of questions

WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN?

It was widely used as a baptismal catechism for centuries before being formally written into its current form

WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

Probably to refute _____—the belief that Jesus was not a man at all

WHAT DENOMINATIONS USE IT?

Roman Catholic, Anglican Communion, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Methodist (to name a few)

WHAT DID IT SAY?

The following table displays the Roman Catholic version as well as the version in the Book of Common Prayer.

ROMAN CATHOLIC	BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (1662)
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.	I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.	And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.	Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.	Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.	He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.	He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.	From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.	I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.
Amen.	Amen.

Note: 'catholic' is a reference to the universal church, not the Roman Catholic Church

THE ISSUE

1 Peter 3:18-20

John 19:30

Luke 23:43; 16:19-31

Ephesians 4:8-10

Revelation 1:18

Does the Bible clearly state that Jesus went to hell? _____

Is this a closed fist issue? _____

If you were writing the Apostles' Creed today, would you leave that line out? _____

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OVERVIEW OF THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

Note: All green text without citation is from *The Baptist Faith & Message*, by Kelley, Land, and Mohler

History: First adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in _____

Need: Adopted as a formal response to the _____/modernist controversy

Versions: 1925, 1963, 1998, and _____

Articles: ____ different articles covering a wide array of topics (The Scriptures, God, Man, Salvation, Church, Education, Stewardship, Peace and War, Religious Liberty, and The Family)

1. THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verses: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

“GOD’S REVELATION”

divine _____-disclosure (p. 8)

“GOD FOR ITS AUTHOR”

We believe in the _____ inspiration theory of the Bible. **Put simply, this means that the Bible’s inspiration is verbal—extending to the very words themselves—and plenary, or full. Thus, we affirm that every word of the Bible is inspired and that every word is fully inspired. . . . The result of divine inspiration is that. . . . _____ is missing.** (p. 11)

Alternate views on inspiration:

1. Dynamic theory: **God gave human authors the basic _____ that they developed in their own ways** (p. 11)

2. Dictation theory: **The authors were _____ instruments who recorded divine instruction** (p. 11)

“SALVATION FOR ITS END”

1 John 5:13. The Bible points us to _____. **John 5:39**

“TRUTH, WITHOUT ANY MIXTURE OF ERROR”

Psalm 19:7

Authoritative: **Every word of the Bible bears God's own _____** (p. 19)

Infallible: **God never _____, nor does His Word.** (p. 17)

Inerrant: **John 17:17. The Bible is all truth and contains no _____ of any kind.** (p. 19)

Sufficient: We do not rely on any other source to find _____ or wisdom.

Eternal: **Isaiah 40:6-8**

The Baptist Faith and Message does not begin with the Scriptures by mere accident or custom. . . . All of the other doctrines we will study in this book are truths found in God's Word. (p. 20)

2. GOD

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:3**

"ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD"

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5a

"INTELLIGENT, SPIRITUAL, AND PERSONAL"

Intelligent: **God is a knowing Being, not a blind _____** (p. 23) **Job 37:16**

Spiritual: **God is . . . not limited by a physical _____** (p. 23) **John 4:24a**

Personal: **God has a personality and relates to His people in a _____ way** (p. 23) **Ezekiel 34:24, 30-31; 1 Peter 5:7**

"CREATOR, REDEEMER, PRESERVER, AND RULER"

Creator: **Genesis 1 (ex nihilo), Psalm 19:1; John 1:3**

Redeemer: **God rescues His people from _____** (p. 25) **Exodus 6-12; Job 19:25**

Preserver: **God protects and _____ His creation and His creatures** (p. 25) **Matthew 10:29; Psalm 147:9; Colossians 1:17**

Ruler: **God exercises His _____ lordship over the entire cosmos** (p. 25) **1 Chronicles 29:11; Exodus 15:18**

"INFINITE IN HOLINESS"

Isaiah 6:3

Holiness is the quintessential attribute of God's moral character, and it defines _____ other attributes (p. 29)

"TRIUNE GOD"

Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

"The Bible does not explain the Trinity. It simply gives us the _____. . . . the briefer the definition of the Trinity, the better for practical purposes. God is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These have personal qualities. Yet God is one. This is the New Testament teaching. Beyond this we tend toward speculation." E. Y. Mullins, *Baptist Beliefs* (pp. 19-20)

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OVERVIEW OF THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

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History: First adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in _____

Versions: 1925, 1963, 1998, and _____

2A. GOD THE FATHER

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

Memory Verse: [Matthew 6:26](#)

“PROVIDENTIAL CARE”

[Psalm 104](#)

1. **Seen in His _____ and protection** (p. 32)
([Genesis 50:15-21](#))

2. **Seen in His _____** (p. 33) ([1 Kings 17:2-7](#); [Matthew 6:25-34](#))

3. **Seen in the _____ structure of the universe**
(p. 34) ([Deuteronomy 30:19-20](#); [Galatians 6:7-8](#))

“ALL POWERFUL”

[Genesis 17:1](#); [Jeremiah 32:17](#); [Revelation 19:6](#)

“ALL KNOWING”

[Psalm 50:11](#); [1 Kings 8:39](#); [Psalm 139:1-4](#); [Romans 11:33](#)

“ALL LOVING”

[1 John 4:8](#); [Romans 5:8](#)

“ALL WISE”

[Isaiah 40:13](#); [Romans 7:14-15](#)

2B. GOD THE SON

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

hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Memory Verse: [Romans 5:8](#)

“ETERNAL SON OF GOD”

[John 1:1-3](#); [John 8:58](#); [Revelation 22:13](#)

“INCARNATION”

[John 1:14](#); [Philippians 2:7](#)

“YET WITHOUT SIN”

[Hebrews 4:15](#); [1 Peter 1:18-19](#)

“SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH”

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

“RAISED FROM THE DEAD”

[1 Corinthians 15:3-5](#)

“ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN”

[Luke 24:51](#)

“EXALTED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD”

[Romans 8:34](#); [Hebrews 10:12](#)

“ONE MEDIATOR”

[1 Timothy 2:5](#); [Hebrews 9:15](#); [Hebrews 4:16](#)

“RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN”

[Romans 5:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:18](#)

2C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

Memory Verse: [Ephesians 5:18](#)

“INSPIRED HOLY MEN OF OLD”

[2 Peter 1:21](#)

“ILLUMINATION”

[1 Corinthians 2:12-13](#); [John 16:13-14](#)

“EXALTS CHRIST”

[John 16:14](#)

“CONVICTS MEN”

[John 16:7-11](#)

“CALLS MEN”

[Revelation 22:17](#)

“COMFORTS BELIEVERS”

[Romans 8:26](#); [John 16:7-8](#)

“BESTOWS THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS”

[1 Corinthians 12:4](#); [1 Corinthians 12:11](#)

“SEALS THE BELIEVER”

[Ephesians 4:30](#)

“THE GUARANTEE”

[Ephesians 1:13-14](#)

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3. MAN

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

Memory Verse: [Genesis 1:27](#)

“MADE IN HIS OWN IMAGE”

[Genesis 1:27](#); [Colossians 3:10](#)

“MALE AND FEMALE”

[Genesis 1:27](#)

“CROWNING WORK OF HIS CREATION”

[Genesis 1:31a](#); [Ephesians 2:10a](#)

“FREEDOM OF CHOICE”

[Genesis 2:16-17](#)

“MAN SINNED”

[Genesis 3:6-7](#)

“BROUGHT SIN INTO THE HUMAN RACE”

[Romans 5:12](#)

“ENVIRONMENT INCLINED TOWARD SIN”

[Colossians 1:19-20](#); [2 Corinthians 5:19](#)

“UNDER CONDEMNATION”

[Romans 5:12](#); [Romans 3:10-12](#)

“EVERY PERSON OF EVERY RACE”

[Revelation 5:9](#)

4. SALVATION

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

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds

in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

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

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

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

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

Memory Verse: [John 3:16](#)

[Isaiah 59:2](#); [John 3:18](#); [John 3:36](#); [Isaiah 64:6](#)

“REPENTANCE AND FAITH”

[Mark 1:14-15](#)

“REGENERATION” (birth)

[John 3:3](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

“JUSTIFICATION” (declaration)

[Romans 3:26](#); [Romans 3:28](#)

“SANCTIFICATION” (setting)

[1 Thessalonians 4:3a](#); [1 Corinthians 1:2](#); [Hebrews 10:14](#)

“GLORIFICATION” (perfection)

[Romans 8:17, 30](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [1 John 3:2](#)

5. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

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

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Memory Verses: [John 10:27-29](#)

“ELECTION”

Election: God's gracious action in choosing people to follow Him and obey His commands (p. 78)

“GRACIOUS PURPOSE OF GOD”

[Genesis 6](#)

“FREE AGENCY OF MAN”

God's sovereignty: (God knows and chose) [John 15:19](#); [Acts 13:48](#); [Romans 8:29-30](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13](#)

Man's free will: (Man has the option) [John 3:15](#); [Romans 10:9](#); [Revelation 22:17](#)

“BELIEVERS ENDURE TO THE END”

[John 10:29](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [2 Timothy 1:12](#)

SCRIPTURE (NKJV)

3. MAN

Memory Verse: **Genesis 1:27**: So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Colossians 3:10: and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. **Genesis 1:31a**: Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good.

Genesis 2:16-17: **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." **Genesis 3:6-7**: **6** So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Colossians 1:19-20: **19** For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. **2 Corinthians 5:19**: that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. **Romans 3:10-12**: **10** As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; **11** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Revelation 5:9: And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation

4. SALVATION

Memory Verse: **John 3:16**: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Isaiah 59:2: But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear. **John 3:18**: "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **John 3:36**: He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Isaiah 64:6: But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. **Mark 1:14-15**: **14** Now after John was put in prison,

Jesus came to 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, and believe in the gospel."

John 3:3: Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." **2 Corinthians 5:17:** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Romans 3:26: to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **Romans 3:28:** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

1 Thessalonians 4:3a: For this is the will of God, your sanctification. **1 Corinthians 1:2:** To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours. **Hebrews 10:14:** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Romans 8:17: and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. **Romans 8:30:** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. **Philippians 1:6:** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ. **1 John 3:2:** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

5. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Memory Verses: **John 10:27-29:** **27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

John 15:19: If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **Acts 13:48:** Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Romans 8:29-30: **29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. **2 Thessalonians 2:13:** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth

John 3:15: that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **Romans 10:9:** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **Revelation 22:17:** And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

John 10:29: My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. **Philippians 1:6:** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ. **2 Timothy 1:12:** For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

MORE THAN A CREED

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ONLY ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT JESUS.

6. THE CHURCH

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

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

Memory Verse: **Colossians 1:18: And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

“BODY OF CHRIST”

Paul used the analogy of the . . . _____ to describe the church (p. 87) (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-8**)

“BAPTIZED BELIEVERS”

There is no clearly stated verse in the New Testament that gives the requirements for membership in a local body.

“COVENANT IN THE FAITH”

A church is not merely a voluntary association or a _____ organization. Instead, it is a congregation of believers who covenant [contract] together to fulfill Christ's ministry. (p. 88)

“OBSERVING THE TWO ORDINANCES OF CHRIST”

A church _____ the ordinances

“SEEKING TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL”

Revelation 22:17: And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

“SCRIPTURAL OFFICERS”

_____. The qualifications are given in **1 Timothy 3:1-7. 2 Timothy 4:2: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

_____. The qualifications are given in **1 Timothy 3:8-13.**

7. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

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

Memory Verse: **2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.** (stuartheights.org/sundayschool → "Observing the Ordinances")

8. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: **Psalm 122:1: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."**

"CHRISTIAN INSTITUTION"

Acts 20:7: Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (see **John 20:19**)

"REGULAR OBSERVANCE"

Hebrews 10:25: not _____ the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

9. THE KINGDOM

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

Memory Verse: **Matthew 6:33: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Kingdom of God: God's sovereign rule in the universe and in the hearts of Christians.** (p. 108)

"REALM OF SALVATION"

see **Matthew** ____

"PRAY AND LABOR"

Matthew 6:9-10: 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

MORE THAN A CREED

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ONLY ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT JESUS.

10. LAST THINGS

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

Memory Verses: **John 14:1-3: 1** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

_____ : from the Greek *Eschatos* meaning "last" and *-logy* meaning "the study of" (Wikipedia)

“IN HIS OWN TIME AND IN HIS OWN WAY”

Our church holds a _____-tribulational and a _____-millennial view of end times.

“PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY”

1 Thessalonians 4:17: Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

“THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

“UNRIGHTEOUS WILL BE CONSIGNED TO HELL”

Revelation 20:11-15: 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Caution: be wary of spending too much energy focusing on tomorrow or end time events. It is good to be knowledgeable so we can share the future reward/punishment options with those whom we come in contact, but the Bible commands us to focus on today and not to let slip the opportunities that are available now.

11. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

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

Memory Verses: **Romans 10:13-15**: **13** For *“whoever calls on 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 unless they are sent? As it is written: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

_____ : telling others about the gospel with the goal being their salvation

_____ : the church's responsibility to evangelize all

“SEEK CONSTANTLY TO WIN”

Matthew 28:19-20: **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.* Amen. One of the greatest things about Christianity is that God lets us be involved in it. Life and death hang in the balance. (p. 125)

12. EDUCATION

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

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

Memory Verses: **Psalms 25:4-5**: **4** Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. **5** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

Homework: Read **Deuteronomy** ___-___ with your spouse

“FAITH OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND INTELLIGENCE”

Proverbs 3:13: Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding

13. STEWARDSHIP

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

Memory Verses: **Matthew 6:19-21: 19** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

_____ : one who actively directs affairs (Merriam-Webster)

"GOD IS THE SOURCE"

Deuteronomy 8:18a: And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth.

"SERVE HIM WITH THEIR TIME, TALENTS, AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS"

Matthew 6:1-4: 1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. **3** But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. All that is ours is at his [Christ's] disposal. (p. 137)

"SYSTEMATICALLY" (WITH A PLAN)

Luke 12:16-21: 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. **17** And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' **18** So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" **20** But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' **21** "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

"PROPORTIONALLY"

Leviticus 27:30, 32: 30 And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, *is* the Lord's. It *is* holy to the Lord. **32** And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord.

"LIBERALLY"

To be liberal literally means to be _____-handed, or generous. That's the spirit that we're taught to give with in **2 Corinthians 9:5:** Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

MORE THAN A CREED

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ONLY ABOUT JESUS. IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT JESUS.

14. COOPERATION

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

Memory Verse: **1 Corinthians 3:9: For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.**

_____ : The belief that a local body of believers is directly responsible to God's authority, not to a church hierarchy (p. 143)

Voluntary association: The united, cooperative effort of churches with common beliefs to minister together in ways they could not minister alone (p. 143)

"ASSOCIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS"

Stuart Heights Baptist Church is a member of the Hamilton County Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

We do not cooperate with groups that _____ the gospel of Jesus Christ or that do not accept the Bible as the Word of God. (p. 145)

"COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER"

Cooperative Program: A plan of cooperation by which Southern Baptists provide financial support for ministry and missions in an ongoing, systematic way. (p. 145) The Cooperative Program includes missionary (around 5,300 missionaries), educational (six seminaries), and benevolent ministries (evangelism efforts, children's homes, volunteer missions, collegiate ministries, camps, etc.).

The spirit of cooperation is summed up in this passage: **Acts 2:44-47: 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

15. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

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

Memory Verses: **Matthew 5:14-16: 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

The Lordship of Jesus Christ extends to every dimension of human _____ and _____. (p. 154)

“IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY”

Turn to **Romans 13:1-7**

“ESTABLISHMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Matthew 5:13-16: 13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

“IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST”

Luke 4:18-19: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

James 1:27: Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. We are called to be _____.

“SANCTITY OF ALL HUMAN LIFE”

Psalms 139:13-16: 13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. The most serious problem with abortion is that it can _____ with God’s plans for the unborn.

16. PEACE AND WAR

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

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

Memory Verse: **Romans 12:18: If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**

“SEEK PEACE”

Matthew 5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Peacekeepers maintain what already exists while peacemakers _____ that which does not already exist.

“REMEDY . . . GOSPEL OF OUR LORD”

Ephesians 6:12: For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. The object of war should be _____. It is easy to forget that the solution to the problems of the world is the _____.

17. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Memory Verses: **1 Timothy 2:1-2: 1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.** We are to _____ on all men.

We are not free from the commandments and doctrines of God's _____. (p. 163) **Philippians 3:20: For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

“CHURCH AND STATE SHOULD BE SEPARATE”

While the church is independent of the state, the state should not abandon morality.

“LOYAL OBEDIENCE”

One of the most ignored Scriptures is the command to _____ for our leaders. (**1 Timothy 2:1-2**)

18. THE FAMILY

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

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

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

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

Memory Verse: **Ephesians 4:32: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

“FOUNDATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HUMAN SOCIETY”

Few confessions of faith throughout the history of the church have included articles on marriage and the family because Christians through the centuries have been united in a common understanding of God's plan for marriage, family, and children. (p. 168)

“MARRIAGE”

God honored marriage by establishing the metaphor of the bridegroom and the bride to express the relationship between Christ and the church.

Revelation 19:7: Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Ephesians 5:22-25: 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

A healthy Christian marriage is a powerful illustration of the _____. (p. 171)

“CHILDREN”

Colossians 3:20: Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.