



The Gospel:

- **What is the Gospel?**

The just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who turn and trust in Him will be reconciled to God forever.

A biblical presentation and a biblical response to the Gospel includes five key elements. These five key biblical elements are:

- 1. The character of God** (Romans 1:18-20, 2:1-16, 3:22-24, Isaiah 43:6-7)

Biblical truth:

God is the just and gracious Creator of all things.

Biblical response:

Realize that we belong to Him, are accountable to Him, and are created to glorify Him.

- 2. The sinfulness of man** (Romans 1:21-25, 3:9-20, 3:23, 6:23):

Biblical truth:

We are each created by God, but we are all corrupted by sin.

Biblical response:

Admit areas of rebellion, be honest with God about sin, and turn from it.

- 3. The sufficiency of Christ** (Romans 3:21-26, 4:25, 5:6-10, 5:18, 8:1-4):

Biblical truth:

Jesus Christ alone is able to remove our sin and reconcile us to God through His death. He alone satisfies the wrath of God for our sins.

Biblical response:

Recognize that we are helpless to be reconciled with God apart from Jesus Christ.

4. The necessity of faith (Romans 1:17, 3:20-31, 4:22-25, 6:11-14, 8:10-11, 10:9-13):

Biblical truth:

We are reconciled to God only through faith in Jesus. There is nothing we can do to become right with God.

Biblical response:

Faith that leads to salvation involves turning from sin and self-sufficiency. We turn to Jesus and trust in Him as Lord, confess Him as Lord and Savior.

5. The urgency of eternity (John 3:14-16, 36, John 10:27-30, 17:3, 1 Timothy 1:16-17, Hebrews 9:12, 1 John 5:11-13):

Biblical truth:

Our eternal destiny is dependent on our response to Jesus.

Biblical response:

Cry out to God to save you of your sins, put your faith in Jesus Christ and confess Him as Savior and Lord.

The Scriptures:

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

References:

- *Exodus 24:4;*
- *Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19;*
- *Joshua 8:34;*
- *Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140;*

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

God:

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

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.

References:

- *Genesis 1:1; 2:7;*
- *Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.;*
- *Leviticus 22:2;*
- *Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6;*
- *1 Chronicles 29:10;*

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

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.

References:

- *Genesis 18:1ff.;*

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

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.

References:

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

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.

References:

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

Salvation:

- Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who confess 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.
 - **Regeneration**

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

- **Repentance**

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

- **Justification**

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.

- **Sanctification**

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

- **Glorification**

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

- **References:**

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

- *Philippians 2:12-13;*
- *Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.;*
- *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24;*
- *2 Timothy 1:12;*
- *Titus 2:11-14;*
- *Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14;*
- *James 2:14-26;*
- *1 Peter 1:2-23;*
- *1 John 1:6-2:11;*
- *Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

God's Purpose and 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.

References:

- *Genesis 12:1-3;*
- *Exodus 19:5-8;*
- *1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22;*
- *Isaiah 5:1-7;*
- *Jeremiah 31:31ff.;*
- *Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34;*

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

The Church:

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local body 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 church operates under the Lordship of Christ. In such a church each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are elders and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of elder or 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.

- **References:**

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

- *Colossians 1:18;*
- *1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14;*
- *Hebrews 11:39-40;*
- *1 Peter 5:1-4;*
- *Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

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 covenant of church membership.

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

References:

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

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.

References:

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

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.

References:

- *Genesis 12:1-3;*
- *Exodus 19:5-6;*
- *Isaiah 6:1-8;*
- *Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20;*

- *Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53;*
- *John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21;*
- *Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3;*
- *Romans 10:13-15;*
- *Ephesians 3:1-11;*
- *1 Thessalonians 1:8;*
- *2 Timothy 4:5;*
- *Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2;*
- *1 Peter 2:4-10;*
- *Revelation 22:17.*

Stewardship:

- God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. 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.

References:

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

- *2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15;*
- *Philippians 4:10-19;*
- *1 Peter 1:18-19.*

The Christian and Society:

- 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.

References:

- *Exodus 20:3-17;*
- *Leviticus 6:2-5;*
- *Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17;*
- *Psalms 101:5;*
- *Micah 6:8;*
- *Zechariah 8:16;*
- *Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35;*
- *Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21;*
- *Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25;*
- *John 15:12; 17:15;*
- *Romans 12-14;*

- *1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1;*
- *Galatians 3:26-28;*
- *Ephesians 6:5-9;*
- *Colossians 3:12-17;*
- *1 Thessalonians 3:12;*
- *Philemon;*
- *James 1:27; 2:8.*

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.

- **References:**
 - *Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20;*
 - *Exodus 20:12;*
 - *Deuteronomy 6:4-9;*
 - *Joshua 24:15;*

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

Church Leadership:

Journey is an Elder led church. Meaning it is led by men who consistently meet the requirements set forth in scripture. (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)

The leadership is responsible for the day to day operations of the church and overseeing of ministries.

Most decisions are made by the Elders concerning the direction of the church and church discipline.

We do, however, vote on a few things as a congregation. They are: Budgets, Pastoral hiring's, and staff hiring's. Being on staff other than Senior pastor, removes one from eligibility for Eldership.

Core Values:

Core values are those things which make us tick as a church. Any ministry or program that may be done at Journey are first evaluated according to our core values. If they are in line with said values then we may begin that ministry or program. If they do not align with the core values then it is avoided. It's one way we can stay focused on the task God has given us.

- 1. The Gospel: Placing faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only source of redemption for mankind.** (We discussed this in detail in the What We Believe section)
- 2. The Bible: Acknowledging God's authority through the obedience and adherence to the Bible, God's true written word.** In short, we adjust our beliefs to the Scriptures. We do not adjust or reinterpret the Scriptures to our beliefs.
- 3. Prayer: Dedicating ourselves, individually and collectively, to a continuous dialogue with the one true God.** Prayer is the foundation of all we do as individuals and as a church.
- 4. Evangelism: Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through community events and personal opportunities.** (We will discuss this in detail in the "Reach" Section)
- 5. Service: Serving God by serving others, including those in our church and in our community by meeting spiritual and physical needs.** (We will discuss this in detail in the "Serve" Section)
- 6. Discipleship: Sharing life experiences intimately in order to realize and nurture a personal relationship with Christ.**
- 7. Family: Demonstrating the Good News of Jesus Christ through our church and personal family, welcoming all people.**
- 8. Love: Reflecting God's unconditional love through authentic relationships with everyone.**

Connect: *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (ESV)*

Jesus teaches us very clearly that we are to be connected to Him at all times. As we seek to abide in Him certain things will begin to happen:

- We begin to imitate Jesus (Eph. 4:15, John 13:15, Rom. 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 11:1, Gal. 3:27, Phil. 3:10)
- Develop Discipline (1 Tim. 6:12, Heb. 12:7-11, Rev. 3:18-19)
- We begin to resist temptation (1 John 2:14, Matt 26:41, 1 Cor. 7:5, 10:13, 1 Thess. 3:5, Heb. 2:18, Jam. 1:2-3:12)
- We are filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18, Gal. 5:16-18, 1 Thess. 1:5)

- Our faith grows (1 Cor. 16:13, Eph. 6:10, 2 Tim 2:1)
- Our love for others grows (1 John 3:23, Gal 5:6 Eph. 1:15, 6:23, 1 Tim 1:5)
- Spiritual growth (Gal. 5:22-23, 2 Peter 3:18, 2 Cor. 3:18 Eph. 4:11-15, Phil. 3:12)
- Joy in the Lord (Phil 4:4-7, Psalm 5:11,13:5,33:21, Acts 16:34, 1 Peter 4:12-13)
- Spiritual Perseverance (Heb.6:12, 1 Thess. 5:8, 1 Tim. 3:9, 2 Tim. 1:13, Rev. 13:10)

How We Connect:

Sunday mornings are a time when we get together to praise God and to hear His Word. We do this as a family. This, however, is only a small part of how we connect. We also connect through various ministries on Sunday morning and throughout the week.

Everything we do as Christ followers flows from our connection with Him. If we desire to have fruit bearing lives then we must abide in Christ both corporately and privately.

Grow: *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*
John 15:8

Abiding in Christ always results in growth (fruit bearing). It should be the goal of every Christian to grow in Christ. As we grow we begin to see differences in our lives. Sometimes very noticeable at other times subtle. Our lives should be marked by steady growth towards Christlikeness. The great news is that we are not in it alone. God provides what is needed for our growth.

- God Supplies the resources (Phil. 2:13, 2 Peter 1:3, John 4:14, 15:2,5, 1 Cor. 10:13, 2 Cor. 3:18, 9:10, Gal. 5:22-23)
- We must do our part (Phil 2:12, 2 Peter 1:5-9, Rom. 6:19, 2 Cor. 7:1, Gal. 5:16,25, Eph. 6:11-15, 1 Tim. 4:7, 6:11-12)

Means of Growth:

- Death to self (Matt. 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23, Rom. 6:6,12, 8:13, Eph. 4:22, Col. 3:9, 1 Peter 1:14, 2:11)
- The Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16,17, Josh. 1:8, Psalms 19:7-8, 119:9-11, John 17:7, Eph. 6:17, Col. 3:16, 1 John 2:14)
- Prayer (Matt. 6:13, Luke 11:4, Col. 4:2, 1 Chron. 16:11, Matt 7:11, Luke 11:13, Matt 26:41, Mark 14:38, Luke 22:46, John 16:24, Acts 4:29-31, Eph. 6:18, 1 Thess. 5:17)
- Focus on Christ (Heb. 3:1, Matt 11:29, John 3:15, Rom. 15:5 Phil 5:2, Heb. 12:2-3, 1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6)

Results of Growth:

- Fruitfulness (John 15:4-5, Gal 5:22-23)
- Answered prayer (15:7,16)
- Freedom from persistent sin (1 John 3:6-9: *John is not saying that we will be sinless. He is however, saying that in Christ we can live lives in which sin is not the norm. As we abide more deeply, the grip of sin is lessened.*)
- Deepening relationship with God (John 14:23, 2 John 9)

One of the best ways we facilitate growth is through the process of discipleship. Let me stress that discipleship is a process not a program. Jesus commanded all of His followers to teach what He taught (Matt 28). Here at Journey we do one on one discipleship. The way this works is you are paired with another more mature believer who leads you through the Multiply discipleship material. This material is just a tool to facilitate growth. Although the material runs for 26 weeks most commonly your group will last for a year. Upon completion you will be paired with another believer who you will lead through discipleship.

It may seem scary but it is something we are all called to do. God what's to use you to help draw others into an ever deepening relationship with Him.

There are other ways to grow as well. We actually have a process that we are implementing to move everyone towards a growing relationship with Christ. We all start at different place so we want to give opportunities to everyone regardless of where they are at. Here are a few of those opportunities.

- Bible Studies
- Men's Ministry
- Woman's Ministry
- Serving in Ministries
- Outreach

The ultimate goal of any of these opportunities is to get those who are participating into discipleship.

Serve: *and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many. Matt. 20:27-28*

Jesus is the model for what leadership and service is to look like in the Church. The greatest is the least. We are a servant lead church. Meaning there is no hierarchy. Those who hold leadership positions are to work just as diligently as those who serve in any other position.

We are here to serve both:

- God (2 Tim. 2:15, Luke 6:13, Mark 12:30)
- Others (Gal. 6:10, 1 Peter 4:10)

Spiritual Gifts:

- Although all believers have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, Scripture points to God giving individuals certain special gifts of a spiritual nature for the fulfilling of specific tasks.
- In order for Journey to fulfill its mission in God' Kingdom each ministry partner must use his/her gifts in the church.
- Every ministry partner is a minister.

Ephesians 4:11-16English Standard Version (ESV)

- ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds^[a] and teachers,^[b] ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,^[c] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11English Standard Version (ESV)

- ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to

another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- Every partner has at least one gift given by God to help build the church body.

There are many avenues in which to use your gifts here at Journey:

- Children's Ministry
- Usher/Greeter
- Cleaning Team
- Praise Band
- Media/ Audio Visual
- Men's and Women's Ministries
- Building and Grounds
- Care Ministry
- Outreach
- Fellowship Events
- Bible Study Leader
- Discipleship

While not an exhaustive list you get the point.

Reach: *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

Missions is: Specific actions that bear witness to the good news of what God has done for his people. Israel, Jesus Christ and the church all in their different ways bear witness to the saving acts of God in history. Christian mission is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

At the heart of all outreach done by partners of Journey is the Gospel. While we seek to meet physical needs the most important need to be met is of the spiritual nature. (Mark 2:3-5)

Go: Literally while you are going. While Sunday morning are a great time for people to hear the gospel it is not the only time. We are to both live out our faith and share our faith “while we are going.” This means as we interact with family, co-workers, people we run into etc... We are looking for opportunities to share Christ.

Make Disciples: Every partner is a disciple maker. Our goal isn't just to have people baptized it's much more than that. Once someone has pronounced faith in Christ is our responsibility to train them through discipleship. We are to instruct new believes of Christ's commandments. Here at Journey we use the Multiply discipleship material, but this material is merely a toll in through which discipleship takes place. This process never ends. If you would like to join a discipleship group or would like more information please fill out and return the card located in your folder. (There are a times a waiting list for groups. So please be patient. You will be paired with a leader as soon as possible.)

I am with you always: Let us be courageous for we have the promise that our Lord and Saviour is with us as we are going. Every partner is a minister. And every minister has a part in fulfilling the great Commission.

Opportunities:

Various outreaches throughout the year

Short term mission trips

Mission projects

But the greatest opportunities are found as you are going. Pray and Christ will show you how and when you can share the gospel.