

## Statement of Practice (Goals & Guidelines part 2)

### I) DISCIPLINE

#### A) We Believe

- 1) That Christ commissioned the church to go into all the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and ministering to every human need.
  - (a) Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT2) <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
  - (b) Mark 6:56 (NLT2) <sup>56</sup> Wherever he went—in villages, cities, or the countryside—they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.
  - (c) Romans 1:16 (NLT2) <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.
- 2) That those who repent and believe should be baptized with water as a symbol of baptism with the Spirit, cleansing from sin, and commitment to Christ.
  - (a) Matthew 28:18 (NLT2) <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.
  - (b) Acts 2:16-21 (NLT2) <sup>16</sup> No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below— blood and fire and clouds of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. <sup>21</sup> But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’
  - (c) Romans 6:4-6 (NLT2) <sup>4</sup> For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. <sup>5</sup> Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he

was.<sup>6</sup> We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

- (d) **1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT2)**<sup>13</sup> Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.
  - (e) **1 Peter 3:21 (NLT2)**<sup>21</sup> And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 3) That the church should observe the communion of the Lord's Supper as a symbol of His broken body and shed blood, and the fellowship of His church, until His return.
- (a) **Luke 22:19-20 (NLT2)**<sup>19</sup> He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."<sup>20</sup> After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.
  - (b) **1 Corinthians 11:24 (NLT2)**<sup>24</sup> and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."
  - (c) **1 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT2)**<sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.
  - (d) **1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NLT2)**<sup>16</sup> When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ?<sup>17</sup> And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.
  - (e) **1 Corinthians 5:13 (NLT2)**<sup>13</sup> God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."
- 4) That washing of the saint's feet is a symbol of brotherhood, cleansing, and service and in giving the right hand of fellowship and the Holy Kiss as a symbol of Christian love.
- (a) **John 13:1-17 (NLT2)**<sup>1</sup> Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.<sup>2</sup> It was time for supper, and the devil had

already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

- (b) **Romans 16:16 (NLT2)** <sup>16</sup> Greet each other in Christian love. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.
  - (c) **Galatians 2:9 (NLT2)** <sup>9</sup> In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews.
  - (d) **1 Timothy 5:10 (NLT2)** <sup>10</sup> She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers and served other believers humbly? Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good?
  - (e) **Luke 22:24 (NLT2)** <sup>24</sup> Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.
- 5) That God has established unique roles for man and woman; the New testament symbols of man's headship are to be his short hair and uncovered head while praying and prophesying, and the symbols of woman's role are her long (uncut) hair and her veiled head.
- (a) **1 Corinthians 11:2-16 (NLT2)** <sup>2</sup> I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you. <sup>3</sup> But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. <sup>4</sup> A man dishonors his head if he covers his head while praying or prophesying. <sup>5</sup> But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies without a covering on her head, for this is the same as shaving her head. <sup>6</sup> Yes, if she refuses to wear a head covering, she should cut off all her hair! But since it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or her head shaved, she should wear a covering. <sup>7</sup> A man should not wear anything on his head when worshipping, for man is made in God's image and reflects God's glory. And woman reflects man's glory. <sup>8</sup> For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first

woman came from man.<sup>9</sup> And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man.<sup>10</sup> For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority.<sup>11</sup> But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women.<sup>12</sup> For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God.<sup>13</sup> Judge for yourselves. Is it right for a woman to pray to God in public without covering her head?<sup>14</sup> Isn't it obvious that it's disgraceful for a man to have long hair?<sup>15</sup> And isn't long hair a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a covering.<sup>16</sup> But if anyone wants to argue about this, I simply say that we have no other custom than this, and neither do God's other churches.

- 6) That mixed marriages between believers and unbelievers is unscriptural, and marriages with divorced persons with former companions living constitutes adultery.

(a) **Matthew 19:3-9 (NLT2)**<sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?"<sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'<sup>5</sup> And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'<sup>6</sup> Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."<sup>7</sup> "Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?" they asked.<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended.<sup>9</sup> And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful."

(b) **Mark 10:2-12 (NLT2)**<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?"<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered them with a question: "What did Moses say in the law about divorce?"<sup>4</sup> "Well, he permitted it," they replied. "He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away."<sup>5</sup> But Jesus responded, "He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts.<sup>6</sup> But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation.<sup>7</sup> 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife,<sup>8</sup> and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one,<sup>9</sup> let no one split apart what God has joined together."<sup>10</sup> Later, when he was alone with his

disciples in the house, they brought up the subject again. <sup>11</sup> He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery.”

- 7) That anointing with oil is for restoration of the believer’s body.
- (a) James 5:14-15 (NLT2) <sup>14</sup> Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.
- 8) That Christians are not to conform to worldly evil fashions in attire, tattoos, refrain from wearing of rings, refraining from use of tobacco, drugs and alcoholic beverages.
- (a) **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT2)**
- <sup>1</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.
- <sup>2</sup> Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- 1 Timothy 2:8-9 (NLT2)**
- <sup>8</sup> In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.
- <sup>9</sup> And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes.
- 1 Peter 3:3-4 (NLT2)**
- <sup>3</sup> Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes.
- <sup>4</sup> You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT2)**
- <sup>19</sup> Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,
- <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.
- Leviticus 19:28 (NLT2)**
- <sup>28</sup> “Do not cut your bodies for the dead, and do not mark your skin with tattoos. I am the LORD.
- Leviticus 21:5 (NLT2)**
- <sup>5</sup> “The priests must not shave their heads or trim their beards or cut their bodies.
- 9) That we are to regard our bodies as the temples of the Holy Ghost, and crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, that adornment should be a beauty of spirit, expressed in attire that is modest, economical, simple, and becoming to those professing Christian faith. That we seek to be

- scriptural in our stewardship of money and possessions, that our recreational life should be consistent with the Christian walk.  
(a) Matt 7:13-14; Luke 9:23-26; Rom 12:1-2; 2Cor 6:14-18.
- 10) That Christians are to be open and transparent in life, ever speaking the truth, and employing no oaths.  
(a) Matt 5:33-37; John 18:20; Eph 4:20-13
- 11) That Christians are to refrain from force and violence in human relations and to show Christian love to all.  
(a) Matt 5:38-48; Rom 12:18-21.
- 12) That to be spiritual we need to respect, recognize each other and refrain from judging and making demands which the scriptures do not make, but that we work on the basis of true Christian brotherhood, highly esteeming one another.  
(a) Gal. 6:1; Rom. 14.
- 13) That we recognize that were sin or violation of scripture, or a persistent rebellious spirit exists, that we need to be faithful in our

attitude toward sin and scriptural in our approach and procedure in dealing with it.

(a) Matt 18:15-17; 1Cor 5:1-8; 2Tim. 2:24-26; 2Tim 4:1-3; Tit. 3:10-11.

(b) The standard in church discipline is the Word of God as interpreted by the brotherhood.

(c) The purpose of discipline is:

(i) To bring the sinner to repentance.

- Matt. 18:15.

(ii) That the name of the Lord be not blasphemed.

- 2Sam. 12:14; Rom. 2:24.

(iii) That the purity of the church be preserved.

- 1Cor. 5:6

(iv) To help the sinner to understand his position and condition, and restore him to fellowship.

- 2Thess. 3:14-15; Matt. 18:15; 1Cor. 5:5.

(v) That it is the work of the evil one to sow discord among the brethren.

- Prov. 6:16,19.
- Psa. 34:14
- Rom 14: 19
- 1Thes 5:13
- Eph 4:3
- 2Cor 13:11