

REDEEMER BIBLE CHURCH PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

1. We emphasize the teaching of the Scriptures.

- a. Our primary Sunday service includes an extended message from the Bible, typically in a careful expositional manner.
- b. We provide opportunities outside of the primary Sunday service for further study of the Bible.
- c. We teach the Bible to all people in the church in ways appropriate to their age and life situation.
- d. We seek to promote changed lives through the teaching of God's Word, not merely the building up of biblical or theological knowledge.
- e. We attempt to teach as much of the entire Bible - all sections of both the Old and New Testaments - as possible.
- f. We encourage a balanced understanding of God and his works (theology) on the basis of a thorough knowledge of properly explained Scripture passages.
- g. We draw attention to Jesus Christ and his work (the gospel) as the central theme of the Bible.
- h. We seek to base our activities and decisions as a church on a proper and growing understanding of what God has taught in the Bible.

2. We emphasize personal discipleship.

- a. We focus on the importance of each person's walk with Christ and growth in Christlikeness.
- b. The elders' focus and effort is on discipling others.
- c. We encourage all members of the church body to involve themselves in discipling relationships, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of others.
- d. We utilize small groups in order to provide a context for personal discipleship and to develop natural discipling relationships.
- e. We promote strong families in which husbands and wives build each other up in Christ and take the leadership in discipling their own children.
- f. We train the members of the church body to be able to disciple others.
- g. We pursue intentional discipleship in the lives of new, immature, or straying Christians.
- h. We promote the discipleship of all people of the church from every age and life situation according to their needs.

3. We emphasize meaningful fellowship.

- a. We encourage relationship building with all people of the church during and surrounding all the services and meetings of the church.
- b. We utilize small groups to provide a context for the development of close personal relationships.
- c. We encourage discipling relationships that focus on mutual edification, not only friendships based on common interests.
- d. We care for one another through prayer, counseling, and benevolence based on individual needs.
- e. We promote hospitality and relationships that extend beyond official church meetings.
- f. We provide opportunities for people to share personal needs and to testify to others of the work and presence of God in their lives.
- g. We include occasional events and gatherings in addition to regular church meetings to provide further church-wide fellowship opportunities.

4. We emphasize God-exalting worship.

- a. Our primary Sunday service provides an extended time of directed corporate worship of God.
- b. We select the elements and order of the services to direct attention to the greatness and goodness of God based on his revealed truth.
- c. We select the elements and order of the services to allow for heartfelt expressions of praise and thanks to God.
- d. We select the best songs from all eras of church history, including the present, that allow for heartfelt and truth-based worship of God.
- e. We encourage worshipful prayer and praise-giving in church gatherings.
- f. We encourage worship that involves each person's whole life and entire week.

5. We emphasize prayer to God.

- a. We include focused times of prayer in church services.
- b. We provide opportunities in small-group meetings for sustained times of group prayer.
- c. We provide occasions for extended times of church-wide prayer.
- d. The elders pray together and individually for the church body.
- e. We encourage all members of the church body to pray for one another and for the work of God's kingdom in our community and throughout the world.
- f. We teach how to pray according to the teaching and models of Scripture.
- g. We emphasize the importance of worship and confession in prayer along with the making of requests based on physical and spiritual needs.

6. We encourage service to one another and to God.

- a. We seek to involve the entire church body in efforts to serve one another.
- b. We seek to be aware of each other's needs and to respond to them in tangible ways to provide spiritual and material assistance. We also seek to exercise charity toward the needy in our community.
- c. We train members of the church body how to serve one another.
- d. We seek to direct members of the church body to serve according to their personal giftedness and God-given abilities.
- e. We emphasize service and humility as the basis for all leadership roles and efforts in the church.
- f. We provide opportunity for and encourage the service of giving financial gifts to God and to others as the Lord leads and enables.

7. We schedule regular church gatherings.

- a. We identify Sunday as a special day for the primary gathering of the church for instruction from God's Word, congregational worship, and fellowship.
- b. We utilize weekly small-group gatherings to provide an opportunity for additional and more intimate fellowship, mutual edification, and prayer.
- c. We encourage regular and faithful participation of the members of the church body in the official meetings of the church.
- d. We include occasions for church-wide prayer and fellowship.
- e. We seek a balance of getting together often as a church but also taking care not to take away time from other God-given responsibilities of the members of the church body.

8. We emphasize intentional evangelism.

- a. We train all members of the church body to be able to proclaim the gospel to others.
- b. We encourage all members of the church body to develop genuine relationships with non-Christians with a focus on sharing the gospel of Christ with them.
- c. We emphasize disciple-making, not only the generating of professions of faith.
- d. We seek to make our teaching understandable to non-Christians.
- e. We seek to provide an opportunity for non-Christians to witness the presence and glory of God in the worship and fellowship of all church services and gatherings.
- f. We engage in group and church-wide gospel outreach efforts.
- g. We encourage and participate in the starting of new churches within the United States through prayer, financial support, and personal involvement.
- h. We encourage and participate in the starting of new churches and other ministry efforts outside of the United States through prayer, financial support, and personal involvement.

9. We select and exercise Christlike leadership.

- a. We remind ourselves that Jesus Christ himself is the Head of the Church, its Great Overseer, and Chief Shepherd.
- b. We exhort men to exercise leadership in their homes to direct their families after Jesus Christ

- c. We emphasize humble, servant-like leadership based on love and concern for all members of the church body.
- d. We seek to identify gifted leaders who are qualified to serve according to the principles laid down in Scripture.
- e. We seek to develop leaders in their ability to use their gifts to serve and lead others.
- f. We recognize two offices in the church - elders (pastors) and deacons.
- g. The elders bear the responsibility for teaching and shepherding the church, exercising spiritual oversight for it, and setting an example for others to follow by their lives.
- h. The deacons allow the elders to attend to their focus on the spiritual shepherding of the church body by attending to important physical and logistical needs in the church and any other matters assigned to them by the elders.
- i. We designate funds for the purpose of paying one or more elders who may devote their full vocational attention to the affairs and needs of the church.
- j. We designate the role of a lead elder who is particularly gifted to teach God's Word and thus to provide vision, leadership, and training for the other elders and for the church body. As finances allow, this is a financially supported role

10. We employ church restoration and discipline for straying church members.

- a. We seek to help church members to turn from their sin by lovingly confronting them, calling them to repentance, and helping them through discipleship.
- b. We hold church members accountable to their profession of commitment to Christ as Savior and Lord by employing the church restoration and discipline process according to the Bible's guidelines.
- c. We do not allow a church member to maintain his or her membership and service in the church while he or she refuses to repent of sin(s).
- d. We carry out the church discipline process with a loving desire for the restoration of the member and a careful desire to keep all matters known to as few people in the church as possible until it becomes necessary to inform the entire congregation because of ultimate refusal to turn from sin.

11. We promote unity within this church and with other true Christians.

- a. We seek to be aware of and to eliminate divisions and factions that begin to arise in the church.
- b. We promote unity through church-wide teaching, worship, fellowship, and prayer.
- c. We seek to involve members of the church in the lives of others of different ages and life situations.
- d. We regularly encourage one another to prefer one another and to lay aside personal interests for the good of others.
- e. We participate with other Christians or churches that hold to the gospel of salvation by faith in Christ alone and that are walking according to the truths and instructions of the Scriptures.
- f. We will safeguard true Christian unity in Christ and the truth of the gospel by refraining from participation with those who do not hold to the gospel of Christ or do not walk according to the teachings of the Scriptures.

12. We seek to present and protect a Christlike public reputation.

- a. We conduct our financial affairs with integrity and safeguards that protect against accusations of misconduct.
- b. We carry out decision-making and activity in the church in a way that demonstrates concern for others and leaves no room for accusations of misconduct.
- c. We pursue the restoration of any broken relationships among members of the church body with one another or with people outside of the church.
- d. We demonstrate the love of Christ to our community by involvement in appropriate community affairs and by purposeful ministries to our community.