

GOD COMMANDS
THE BODY OF CHRIST
TO COVENANT LIVING
WITH HIM AND WITH ONE ANOTHER
COMMENSURATE WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Hebrews 10:19-31 (NASB95)

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, **since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,** ²⁰ by a new and **living way** which He inaugurated for us **through the veil, that is, His flesh,** ²¹ and since *we have* a **great priest over the house of God,** ²² **let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,** for **He who promised is faithful;** ²⁴ and **let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,** ²⁵ **not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some,** but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

²⁶ **For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,** ²⁷ **but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.**

²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy *on the testimony of* two or three witnesses. ²⁹ **How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

³⁰ For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." ³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB95)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** ¹⁹ "Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 2:44-47 (NASB95)

⁴⁴ And **all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;** ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ **Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,** ⁴⁷ **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Luke 22:14-20 (NASB95)

¹⁴ When the hour had come, He reclined *at the table*, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "**I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you** before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I say to you, **I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**" ¹⁷ And when **He had taken a cup and given thanks**, He said, "**Take this and share it among yourselves;** ¹⁸ for I say to you, **I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.**" ¹⁹ And when **He had taken some bread and given thanks**, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" ²⁰ And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (NASB95)

²³ **For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you**, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "**This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**" ²⁵ **In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."** ²⁶ **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ **But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. ³¹ **But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.** ³² **But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.**

Luke 14:16-24 (NASB95)

¹⁶ But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; ¹⁷ and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, '**Come; for everything is ready now.**'" ¹⁸ **But they all alike began to make excuses.** The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; **please consider me excused.**' ¹⁹ "Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; **please consider me excused.**'" ²⁰ "Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason **I cannot come.**'" ²¹ "And the slave came *back* and reported this to his master. Then **the head of the household became angry** and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' ²² "And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' ²³ "And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and **compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.**'" ²⁴ "For I tell you, **none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.**"

Matthew 8:21-22 (NASB95)

²¹ Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, **permit me first to go and bury my father.**" ²² But Jesus said* to him, **"Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."**

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB95)

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.** ² **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Romans 12:4-13 (NASB95)

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, **are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.** ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give⁽¹⁰⁾ preference to one another in honor;** ¹¹ **not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;** ¹² **rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,** ¹³ **contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.**

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Chapter 1: Of the Holy Scriptures

1. The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible¹ rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, . . . Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His church; and afterward for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto⁴ writing; which maketh the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary . . .

6. The whole counsel of God concerning all things⁹ necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture; unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge the¹¹ inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be¹² ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.

7. All things in Scripture are not alike¹³ plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so¹⁴ clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them.

9. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the²¹ Scripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture which is not manifold, but one, it must be searched by other places that speak more clearly.

10. The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit, into which²⁴ Scripture so delivered, our faith is finally resolved.

Chapter 22: Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

1. The light of nature shews that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good and doth good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God, is instituted by Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshipped according to the imagination and devices of men, nor the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representations, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.

5. The reading of the Scriptures, preaching, and hearing the Word of God, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord; as also the administration of baptism, and the Lord's supper, are all parts of religious worship of God, to be performed in obedience to Him, with understanding, faith, reverence, and godly fear; moreover, solemn humiliation, with fastings, and thanksgivings, upon special occasions, ought to be used in an holy and religious manner.

6. Neither prayer nor any other part of religious worship, is now under the gospel, tied unto, or made more acceptable by any place in which it is performed, or towards which it is directed; but God is to be worshipped everywhere in spirit and in truth; as in private families daily, and in secret each one by himself; so more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly nor wilfully to be neglected or forsaken, when God by His word or providence calleth thereunto.

7. As it is the law of nature, that in general a proportion of time, by God's appointment, be set apart for the worship of God, so by His Word, in a positive moral, and perpetual commandment, binding all men, in all ages, He hath particularly appointed one day in seven for a sabbath to be kept holy unto Him, which from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ was the last day of the week, and from the resurrection of Christ was changed into the first day of the week, which is called the Lord's day: and is to be continued to the end of the world as the Christian Sabbath, the observation of the last day of the week being abolished.

8. The sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering their common affairs aforehand, do not only observe an holy rest all day, from their own works, words and thoughts, about their worldly employment and recreations, but are also taken up the whole time in the public and private exercises of his worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.

Chapter 26: Of the Church

2. All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, not destroying their own profession by any errors everting the foundation, or unholiness of conversation, are and may be called visible saints; and of such ought all particular congregations to be constituted.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner;

5. In the execution of this power wherewith He is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calleth out of the world unto Himself, through the ministry of His word, by His Spirit, those that are given unto Him by His Father, that they may walk before Him in all the ways of obedience, which He prescribeth to them in His word. Those thus called, He commandeth to walk together in particular societies, or churches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which He requireth of them in the world.

6. The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly manifesting and evidencing (in and by their profession and walking) their obedience unto that call of Christ; and do willingly consent to walk together, according to the appointment of Christ; giving up themselves to the Lord, and one to another, by the will of God, in professed subjection to the ordinances of the Gospel.

12. As all believers are bound to join themselves to particular churches, when and where they have opportunity so to do; so all that are admitted unto the privileges of a church, are also under the censures and government thereof, according to the rule of Christ.

Chapter 27: Of the Communion of Saints

1. All saints that are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by His Spirit, and faith, although they are not made thereby one person with Him, have fellowship in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory; and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each others gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, in an orderly way, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

2. Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things according to their several abilities, and necessities; which communion, according to the rule of the gospel, though especially to be exercised by them, in the relation wherein they stand, whether in families, or churches, yet, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended to all the household of faith, even all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus;

Chapter 28: Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

1. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution, appointed by the Lord Jesus, the only lawgiver, to be continued in His church to the end of the world.

Chapter 30: Of the Lord's Supper

1. The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by Him the same night wherein He was betrayed, to be observed in His churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and shewing forth the sacrifice of Himself in His death, confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits thereof, their spiritual nourishment, and growth in Him, their further engagement in, and to all duties which they owe to Him; and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other.

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ARTICLE III-DECLARATION OF FAITH

Section 1 The Holy Scripture

We believe the Holy Bible to be the only verbally inspired Word of God, authoritative, and without error in the original manuscripts. We further believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament are designed for our practical instruction in faith and conduct.

Section 9 The Church

We believe that all who are united to the risen and ascended Son of God are members of the church which is the Body of Christ. We believe that the explicit message of our Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has saved is to make Christ known to the whole world and that this is the purpose of the church as individuals. **We believe that the local church gathers together for practical instruction in the Scriptures, fellowship with God and with other believers, and for corporate witness to the unsaved. Our common spiritual goal is to grow toward Christ's likeness.**

Section 12 The Responsibility of Believers

We believe that all believers should offer their bodies as living sacrifices, being transformed by the renewing of their minds, seeking to walk by the Spirit, separating themselves from worldly practices; and witnessing by life and by word to truths of Holy Scripture.

Section 13 Church Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of Believers Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed by all believers until His return. We believe that the ordinance of Baptism is immersion of the believer in water as it sets forth the essential facts in redemption: the death and resurrection of Christ; and the essential facts in the experience of the believer - death to sin and resurrection to newness of life.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a privilege accorded to all believers, in commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes.

**ARTICLE IV - CHURCH MEMBERS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
AND DESIRE**

I subscribe to the Articles of Faith of South Baptist Church and do now, with other members of the church as one body in Christ, state my purpose and desire to enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ:

- **To walk lovingly and humbly with my brethren, to pray for them, to separate myself from worldly and unchristian practices, and to prayerfully study God's Word and to follow His Word as my rule of faith and practice.**
- **To pray for the advancement of my church in knowledge, spiritual growth and fruitfulness; to uphold it through faithful attendance at worship, training and teaching; to observe its ordinances and affirm its teaching.**
- **To give regularly and cheerfully to my church as God prospers for the support of the evangelistic, teaching and training ministry among us. For the relief of the needy, and for the spreading of the Gospel both here in the Lakes Region and all over the earth.**
- **To serve faithfully in some activity in the church body according to God's leading and according to my spiritual gifts and abilities; taking care to assume only such duties as can be effectively performed.**
- **To encourage family worship, training and discipline in my home. To encourage daily prayer, Bible study and spiritual growth for any under my care.**
- **To endeavor by my example, witness, and effort, to point people to Christ, and to do my part in building them up in the faith.**
- **To endeavor to understand and appreciate my fellow members in the church, especially those who may have personalities, ministries, and backgrounds quite different from mine.**
- **To endeavor to apply the Scriptures as they relate to the whole Body of Christ.**

ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP

Any person who receives Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord, shows evidence of the new life in Christ; has expressed suitable agreement with the Declaration of Faith [Article III] and the church Members Statement of Purpose and Desire [Article IV] and accepts the Constitution and the By-Laws of this church is eligible for membership.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Qualifications

To be received into and remain in this Church as a member, any person must have:

Expressed agreement with the Articles of Faith, the Constitution, the By-Laws, and the Member's Statement of Purpose and Desire of South Baptist Church.

Section 4 Dismissal

The following dismissals shall be made upon the recommendation of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons and will not require a vote by the church membership:

Any member who moves outside a reasonable distance for continuing church membership will be encouraged to seek fellowship in a local church in their new home area. After one year, they will be taken off the church roll.

The following dismissals shall be made upon the recommendation of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons and voted on accordingly by the church membership.

Since it is the desire and purpose of the Church to maintain an active membership, the Pastor, the Church Clerk, the Board of Deacons, and the Board of Deaconesses shall constitute a committee for revising the roll. This committee shall meet before the Annual Meeting and take into full consideration the members' compliance with the requirements of the Constitution, Article IV-Church Members Statement of Purpose and Desire, page 6. The committee shall recommend as the first order of business at the Annual Meeting, the removal from the roll the names of existing members not in compliance.

Exceptions to 2.2 above may be placed on an inactive membership list by the committee revising the roll for the following reasons:

Shut-in and disabled.

Those at college or in the military.

Those in Christian service outside the community, who choose to keep their membership at South Baptist Church [missionaries, chaplains, etc.]

Section 1 Definitions

1. Discipline: The term discipline as used in this Article and throughout these By-Laws, refers to the method of correction for problems in the church body. It is a procedure including Christian teaching, training, admonition and/or rebuke [both public and private], with a view to helping the individual Christian to grow spiritually in the faith and to throw off unchristian attitudes and practices.
2. Sin: Sin is disobedience to God. Sin is not limited to, although it includes, the breaking of the literal Ten Commandments. Any act that is in disobedience to the will of God as declared in His Word, or which is detrimental to the honor and glory of God because of disobedience, is sin.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1 Worship

Public services shall be held on the Lord's Day.

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed at regular intervals as the Board of Deacons may designate.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

Section 1 Policy

The Scriptures are the sole authority of the financial policy of this church. Only Scriptural methods of raising monies are allowed. Inasmuch as tithes and offerings are commanded of every believer, all members are encouraged to bring them into this church, God's storehouse.