

N 15000004167

(Requestor's Name)

(Address)

(Address)

(City/State/Zip/Phone #)

☐

PICK-UP

☐

WAIT

☐

MAIL

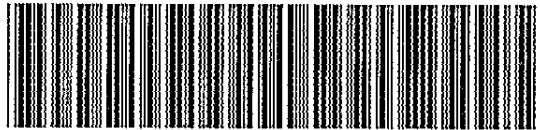
(Business Entity Name)

(Document Number)

Certified Copies _____ Certificates of Status _____

Special Instructions to Filing Officer:

Office Use Only



800272196018

The Genesis Church of Vero Beach, Inc.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Article 1: Name of Organization

The Genesis Church of Vero Beach, Inc.

Article 2: Vision

To model before our community, state, country and world our fellowship with God and fellowship with each other so that they all may know that the God of the Bible invites them as well to His fellowship through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Article 3: Corporate Purpose

1. Section One: Non Profit Purpose

The Genesis Church of Vero Beach, Inc. is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes, including religious, charitable and educational purposes, as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) including but not limited to, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. There shall be no capital stock issued, and this corporation is not organized for profit, nor shall any person or member derive any benefit whatsoever, nor shall any pecuniary profit or benefit inure to the members of this corporation, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as described in Article 3.

2. Section Two: Specific Purpose

The purpose of the Genesis Church shall be to establish and maintain a church modeled after the early Biblical, Christian community as recorded in the book of Acts, for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both in local and foreign communities, and to provide Christian fellowship for those of like faith where Jesus Christ may be honored.

Article 3: Membership

Any person who demonstrates scriptural evidence of a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, has been baptized by immersion and is agreeable to our Confession of Faith as set forth in the attached Exhibit A shall be eligible to be members of The Genesis Church.

In the extenuating circumstance that a prospective member is unable to be immersed for membership due to physical limitations, the pastor shall make available another mode of baptism.

Any person meeting eligibility requirements can become members by baptism, statement of faith or transfer of letter from another church.

Article 4: Principal Place of Business

The principal place of business of the corporation shall be located at 507 Fox Run SW, Vero Beach, Florida, 32962.

Article 5: Directors

The first Board of Directors shall consist of 3 persons who shall serve until their successors are appointed or elected in accordance with the by-laws of the corporation, thereafter the number of Directors and the manner of their election shall be determined in such a manner as is set forth in the by-laws of the corporation.

The names and addresses of the persons who shall serve as the first Board of Directors until the first election are:

Pastor Derrick West
570 Fox Run SW
Vero Beach, FL 32962

Connie Poppel
525 34th Ave. SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968

Lora Grabach
5182 Formosa Circle
Vero Beach, FL 32967

Article 6: Officers

The initial officers of the corporation shall be:

President: Pastor Derrick West
Secretary: Connie Poppel
Treasurer: Lora Grabach

The initial officers shall serve until their successors are appointed or elected in accordance with the by-laws of the corporation. Thereafter, the officers of the corporation shall be determined in such a manner as is set forth in the by-laws.

Article 7: Registered Agent

The initial Registered Agent of the corporation shall be Mandy Fetzer, 4315 60th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32967.

Article 8: Incorporators

The names and addresses of the incorporators of the corporation are:

Pastor Derrick West
570 Fox Run SW
Vero Beach, FL 32962

Lora Grabach
5182 Formosa Circle
Vero Beach, FL 32967

Connie Poppel
525 34th Ave. SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968

Article 9: Term of Existence

The corporation shall have perpetual existence.

Article 10: Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to the organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United

States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

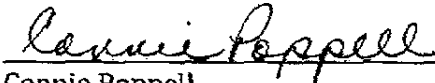
In Witness Whereof, the undersigned, being the incorporators of this corporation, have executed these Articles of Incorporation this 23rd day of April, 2015.



Pastor Derrick West

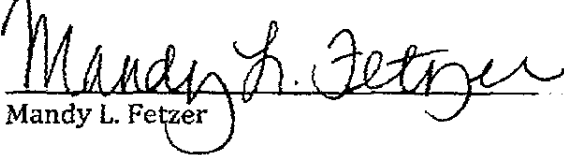


Lora Grabach



Connie Poppel

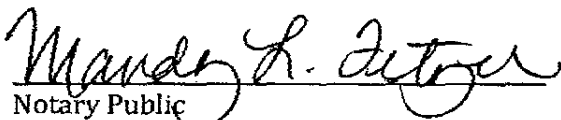
Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above named corporation at the place designated in this Certificate, I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent.



Mandy L. Fetzer

State of Florida)
County of Indian River)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 23rd day of April, 2015, before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Derrick West, Lora Grabach and Connie Poppel, who are ✓ personally known to me or who have produced as identification, and acknowledged and executed the foregoing instrument.



Notary Public

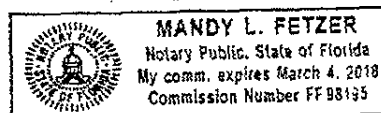


EXHIBIT A

On Dogma, Doctrine and Discussion
*The Doctrinal Statement of Faith
Of The Genesis Church*

A Clarification of Terminology and Ideas

1. **Dogma** – An article of belief that is essential to the Christian faith in general and therefore what we teach and practice at The Genesis Church. If a dogma is denied, then the result is that the boundaries of the individual and/or collective confession falls outside the realm of Christian Orthodoxy and into the realm of Christian heresy.
 2. **Doctrine** – An article of belief that is not essential for the Christian faith but is what we teach and practice at The Genesis Church because it's what we believe the Bible teaches about the doctrine. If a doctrine is denied, then the boundaries of the individual and/or collective confession does not fall outside of the realm of Christian Orthodoxy and does not fall into the realm of Christian Heresy.
 3. **Discussion** – An article of belief that is not essential for the Christian faith where there is a variety of opinions on the subject within the collective body and leadership of The Genesis Church
 4. **An Inclusive People** – The Genesis Church welcomes anyone regardless of belief system, whether Christian or Non Christian. In fact, in the case of the later, The Genesis Church will actively encourage her members and leadership to treat the curious Non Christian seeker or questioner with the open arms of Jesus Christ. Further, the Non-Christian participant is encouraged to voice their questions and concerns publicly and even privately with tact and respect.
 5. **With Exclusive Leadership** - The leadership of The Genesis Church is limited to those who unashamedly and joyfully confess and actively demonstrate the essential dogma of the Christian faith listed in our confession. They are also amenable to the doctrinal articles within our confession and will not teach or lead outside the boundaries of our confession. Leaders individually and/or collectively will not lead either clandestinely in private or in public to deconstruct what we teach and how we practice the Christian faith and The Genesis Church.
-

Dogma

1. **The Bible** - The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. Inerrant in it's original autographs, it is a perfect record of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. 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.

Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:13-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

2. **The Nature of God** - There is one true, living and triune God. Only He is three distinct persons, but without division of his nature, essence or being. Only He is omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. To Him with owe our highest reverence and our pure worship.
 - a. **God the Father** - reigns with His providential shepherding over the universe and over all of His created beings. He is the maker of the heavens and the earth. He is the controller of all of human history and is all powerful, loving and wise. And He is the Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - b. **God the Son** - 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. In Him, the will of the Father was and still is perfectly visible. He was and is fully God in His divine nature and fully Man in His human nature yet without sin. His physical death on a physical cross made perfect provision for the redemption of mankind. He was raised from the dead in a glorified body and appeared to disciples as the person who was with them before his crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of the throne of the father. And He will return to judge the living and the dead.
 - c. **God the Spirit** - is holy and is the Spirit of God himself. He inspired men of old to write the Holy Scriptures. He illuminates man to understand truth. He exalts the Son. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment. God the Spirit calls all men to the Son and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, is the comforter to all believers and the bestower of gifts to the regenerate by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer until the day of final redemption and empowers them for service before that day. And in His presence, the regenerate Christian has the assurance of salvation.
-

John 17:1-5; Ephesians 1:15-17; Psalm 147:5; Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 10:12; and Psalm 24:3-6.

3. **The Nature of Man** - God has made mankind in His own image, both male and female. Therefore, every person of every race possesses complete dignity and is worthy of respect and love. In the Garden before the fall, mankind had the freest of choice because he was not guilty of sin. But through his own violation man sinned against God and brought sin into the world. And now the entire human race is originally sinful and their will is in now bondage to that sin. Through the temptation of Satan, mankind fell from innocence, became transgressors and is now under condemnation. Only through the grace of God in Jesus Christ can restore man back into the fellowship God had with mankind in the Garden before the fall.

Psalm 8:3-6; Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5-7 and 18-22. 1 Corinthians 15:47-56.

4. **Salvation** - Is offered and is free to those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through faith, repentance and belief.
- a. **Regeneration and Justification** -- Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of grace where believers become new creations in Christ. Through faith and repentance of sin, regeneration is the act of justification by God in which the new creation can say **"I have been saved from the penalty of sin."** For in regeneration and therefore God's justification of that person, he has received full acquittal and pardon for sin and entered into a relationship of peace and favor with God free of condemnation.
 - b. **Sanctification** - through the Holy Spirit's indwelling in the new creation which began at regeneration, the believer is set apart for God's purposes and is enabled by Him toward moral and spiritual maturity through His grace. In sanctification, the believer can say throughout his life **"I am being saved from the power of sin."**
 - c. **Glorification** - is the end goal of God for believers where they are present with Christ and abiding as the redeemed eternally. In anticipation of that day, the believer can say: **"I will be saved from the presence of sin."**

Romans 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Corinthians 4:17

5. **God's Purpose of Grace** - is the free and unmerited favor of God as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of His blessings. As a result, all true believers endure to the end. Those who God has justified and is sanctifying through His Spirit will never fall from grace and shall

persevere. While they may fall into sin, grieve His Spirit and bring reproach upon themselves and the cause of Christ, he shall keep them still by the power of His grace for salvation is His work.

Philippians 1:6

6. **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.

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.

7. **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.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

Doctrine

1. **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.

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.

2. **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. And as we partake together we are more aware of the presence of God among us than we are when we do not partake. And how and why that happens is a mystery.

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.

3. **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.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

4. **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.

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.

5. **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 co-ordinate 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.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

6. **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.

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.

- 7. 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.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

Discussion

- 1. The Christian and 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.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 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.

2. **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.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

3. **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.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

4. **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.

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.