

DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

- 1.) Having confessed Jesus Christ as our Savior (**Rom. 10:9, 10**), and 2.) having been baptized according to His command and example (**Matt. 28:19**), as set forth in the Scriptures, and 3.) being now banded together in a local congregation (**Heb. 10:25a**), we do hereby set forth the following rules and precepts (what we believe) to be the governing laws of the congregation. (WHY?)

ARTICLE I

Doctrine: a set of beliefs held and taught by the Church. (The word “**doctrine**” is used 45 times in the NT in the KJV twice by Jesus and multiple times by Matthew, Mark and Paul, once by Luke and once by John; 10 times in the NT by Paul in the NASU.)

We do hereby acknowledge that the doctrine (teachings) of our faith be the entire Word of God (**II Timothy 3:15-17**). We acknowledge the following to be fundamental to the Christian faith and a firm foundation upon which the child of God may build and grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, going on unto perfection, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

- A.** We believe that the Bible, made up of 66 books, divinely inspired by God, and free from error in doctrine, fact and ethic, i.e., inerrant, is the Word of God and the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.
- Ok, PD, but what does it mean for Scripture to be inspired? The Holy Spirit caused men to write under inspiration. The doctrine of the authority of the Bible is often described with the phrase, “verbal plenary inspiration.” What does this phrase mean? What are Christians talking about when they speak of the verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture?
 - Verbal means every word: Verbal inspiration means that every word of Scripture is God-given. The idea is that every single word in the Bible is there because God wanted it there. There are no exceptions.
 - Plenary means fully authoritative: that “all parts” of the Bible are divinely authoritative. This includes such things as the genealogies of the Old Testament. All parts of the Bible are of divine origin.

- **II Timothy 3:15-17;** *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” KJV*

Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17

- **Isa. 40:8;** *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.” KJV “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” NASU Isa. 40:8 “The grass dries up, the flowers wither, but the decree of our God is forever reliable.” NET Bible “reliable: it does what it says.)*
- **Matt. 5:18;** *“For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. KJV “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. NASU “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth pass away not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter will pass from the law until everything takes place.” NET*
- **John 17:17;** *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” KJV “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” NASU*

B. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existent in three co-equal persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (THE ONE TRUE GOD)

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4; *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord...” KJV*

Isaiah 43:10,11; *“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior.” KJV “You are My*

witnesses," declares the Lord, "and My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. 11 "I, even I, am the Lord, and there is no savior besides Me." **NASU**

Matthew 28:19; "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..." **KJV** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..." **NASU**

Luke 3:22; "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." **KJV** "...and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." **NASU**

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

a. Terms Defined

The terms "Trinity" and "persons" as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural.

Matthew 28:19;

2 Corinthians 13:14; "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." **KJV** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." **NASU**

John 14:16-17; "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." **KJV** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot

receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.” NASU

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable (incapable of being investigated, analyzed, or scrutinized) and incomprehensible (not able to be understood), because unexplained. In other words, not capable of being separated except by function. (Luke 1:35)

Matthew 11:25-27; *“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” KJV*

1 John 1:3-4; *“...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.” NASU*

c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Spirit is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one.

John 1:18; *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” KJV*

John 15:26; *"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me..."* **NASU**

John 17:21; *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."* **KJV**

Zechariah 14:9; *"And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one."* **NASU**

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others.

John 5:32

John 5:37

John 8:17,18

e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God.

Romans 1:1-3,7

2 John 3

f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper

Son of Man. He is therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man is "Immanuel," God with us.

Matthew 1:23

1 John 4:2, 10, 14

Revelation 1:13

Revelation 1:17

g. The Title, Son of God

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title, Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man, to the order of time.

Matthew 1:21-23

2 John 1:3

1 John 3:8

Hebrews 7:3

Hebrews 1:1-13

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father, and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

2 John 9

John 1:1, 2, 14, 29, 49

1 John 2:22,23

1 John 4:1-5

Hebrews 12:2

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all.

Hebrews 1:3

1 Peter 3:22

Acts 2:32-36

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead, Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father.

John 5:22,23

1 Peter 1:8

Revelation 5:6-14

Philippians 2:8,9

Revelation 7:9-10

Revelation 4:8-11