

**A.C.T.S.**  
**ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES TEACHING AND SERVING, INC.**

**TENETS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE**

The Association accepts the Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice. For the purpose of maintaining general unity, the Association adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine, to which each Member shall continuously subscribe.

**Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired.** The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Heb. 4:12).

**Section 2. The One True Godhead.** The triune Godhead is comprised of three (3) separate and distinct members, The Father, The Word, and The Holy Spirit, who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one (plural unity or 'echad' found in Strong's Concordance #259 in the Hebrew). Jesus the Christ, who is God the Word manifested in the flesh (John 1:1), is the second member of the Godhead, coequal and coeternal with The Father and The Holy Spirit.

**Section 3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.** Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." But, man, by voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus

Christ the Son of God (Genesis 1:26-31, 3:17; Romans 5:12-21).

#### **Section 4. The Salvation of Man.**

(1) ***Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.*** On the cross, Jesus Christ bore the fullness of sin and sickness providing both salvation and freedom from the curse for all mankind (Psalm 103:3, Gal. 3:12, 3 John 2). Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Rom. 10:8-10 "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:8-10). Grace is defined by Strong's #5485, which states 'the divine influence upon the heart'.

(2) ***The Evidence of Salvation.*** The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. 1 John 3:23 "And this is his commandment, That we should

believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment." 2Peter 3:14 "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

(3) **Faith and Works.** Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ that we justified freely by his grace (Rom 3:24) therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law (Rom 3:28, Eph. 2:8-10); however, are also justified not just by faith but works (James 2:24-26) for faith without works is dead. These works of faith will determine the rewards in eternity at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 10:9-11, and 2 Cor. 5:10).

**Section 5. Baptism in Water (a commandment/ordinance).** The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4).

**Section 6. Communion, a.k.a. The Lord's Supper (a commandment/ordinance).** 1Cor. 11:24-27 "And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink

it, in remembrance of me. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup." 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.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:24; 25, 28)." As defined in the New Testament, the bread offered was leavened (raised) bread as opposed to unleavened bread, reflecting the mix of holiness and sin within the Body of Christ, which includes this Association. Christ's offering in communion is in harmony of His mission of coming to seek and save those whose hearts are truly His, in spite of sin's perversion even after Salvation (2 Chr 16:9).

**Section 7. Foot Washing.** John 13:14 "If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

**Section 8. The Promise of the Father.** Acts 2:33 "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:48; 1 Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and

subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

**Section 9. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Includes all elements of the gifts found in 1Corinthians 12, 13 and 14 and includes instruction in application. (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:2, 6; 1:8).

**Section 10. The Church.**

(1) **Individual Believers.** The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and Church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven. 1Cor. 12:27-28: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

(2) **Authority in the Church Resides in the 5-Fold Ministry.** "And God hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." (1 Cor. 12:28; Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23). The Association embraces the concept that spiritual authority in the Body of Christ, His Church, is expressed and governed through the five ministries described in Ephesians 4:11-12, referred to in these Bylaws as the "5-Fold Ministry". Each member of the 5-Fold Ministry's goal is to perfect and equip the church for service.

**Section 11. Total Prosperity (3 John 2).** God's character is to bless and

provide. He is the author of everything that is eternally good. Salvation through His Son and adherence to His Word are the foundation to receive a blessed life while in the body and in eternity. 1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

- (1) Spiritual (pneuma). John 3:3, 11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Rom. 10:9-10.
- (2) Soul (psyche). 2 Tim. 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3.
- (3) Physical (soma). Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24.
- (4) Financial. Mal. 3:7-12; Luke 6:38; 2Cor. 9:6-10; Deut. 28:1-14.
- (5) Social. Prov. 3:4, 17:17, 27:17.

**Section 12. Blessed Hope.** Jesus is coming again (1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection) (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1Thess. 4:16-17; and 2 Thess. 2:1).

**Section 13. The Lake of Fire.** Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the Godhead. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15).

**Section 14. The Millennial Reign of Jesus and Eternal Life.** The return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His Saints, who have successfully made it through the Judgement Seat of Christ, rule and reign for one thousand years on earth as

the Scriptures promised in Rev. 5:9-10 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Romans 11:25, 27; 2 Thes.1:7; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:17). After this, there shall be a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21).

Eternal fellowship with the Godhead is conditional on obedience to His laws of eternal life. Rev. 21:6-8 "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 22:14-15 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

Those that are habitual doers of these things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God as warned in Gal. 5:21.

### **Section 15. Christian Life and Scriptural Conduct.**

(1) ***Personal Ethics.*** "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." In other words, what you would do in action when everyone is watching is what you should do when no one is

taking notice. All decisions in every department will be made with the success of the organization and the best interests of the Members in mind and in accordance with the vision given by leadership. Some of the guiding Scriptures that inform the Association's position of personal ethics include:

(a) Matt. 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

(b) 1Cor. 6:12 "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

(c) Prov. 16:2 "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits."

(d) Heb. 5:14 "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

(e) 1 Cor. 8:9 "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

(2) ***Obedience to Laws of the Land.*** We are not above the law. We recognize God's ordination of the civil authority and the legitimate laws in support of that authority and the Association shall uphold the laws of the civil authority provided such laws are not in conflict with the Holy Scriptures or with the doctrines of the Association. We will conduct ourselves with respect to the Scriptures and with respect to the local, state and federal government that allows for freedom to exercise the Kingdom of God in peace.



(a) Rom. 13:1-2 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

(b) Matt. 22:17-21 "Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

(c) Acts 5:27-29 "And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

(3) **Moderation.** Lack of moderation gets us into trouble in our relationships with God, self and others. God has given this guideline of moderation so that we are not controlled by the things of this world.

(a) 2 Pet. 2:19 "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

(b) Rom. 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield

yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

(c) Matt. 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

(4) **Adultery; Fornication; Immorality.** God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) All other forms of sexual activity, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual behavior, bestiality and incest, and other deviant behavior, are characterized as immoral and sinful and against God's design for the human race. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.) We respect each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord according to His Word. We do not conduct ourselves in relationships that would put the other person or ourselves in judgment with God or the laws of the land. These areas of misconduct violate God's example of covenant in the earth.

(a) Ex. 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

(b) 2 Pet. 2:14 "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children."

(c) Matt. 5:27-28 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

(d) 1 Cor. 6:9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor

idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.”

(e) 1 Cor. 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”

(5) **Drunkenness; Drugs.** The use of substances that alter the cognitive and spiritual choices we make are dangerous to our lives and others. This involves all substances both legal and illegal.

(a) Deut. 21:20-21 “And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.”

(b) Gal. 5:21 “Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

(c) 1 Cor. 6:10 “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

(d) Eph. 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

(e) Proverbs 23:21 “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.”

(6) **Smoking.** Reports on smoking unanimously state it kills you or is an open door of death and disease. We will always strive to free the

individual from the curse, not maintain a destructive pattern of living.

(a) 1 Cor. 3:16-17 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are."

(b) 1 Cor. 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

(7) **Gender.** God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of the gender assigned at birth is a rejection of the image of God within that person. Gender confusion, when it is translated into actions and lifestyles, including, but not limited to, those that are homosexual, transgendered, agender, transsexual and transvestite, etc. is against God's ordering of His creation and His express will, as revealed in Scripture. The Association recognizes the distinction between orientation and action and does not condemn a person who possesses but struggles against an orientation that is a manifestation of gender confusion and seeks to assist such a person in his or her struggle, to the glory of God.

(a) Lev. 18:22 "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: *it is* abomination."

(b) Rom. 1:23-32 "And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also

gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

(c) 1 Cor. 6:9 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

(8) ***Definition of Marriage.***

(a) Because God Himself, and not man, ordained marriage

and defined it as an exclusive covenant relationship between a man and a woman, the Association recognizes only marriages between a man and a woman and, specifically, between two individuals whose genders have remained unchanged since birth. The basis of this understanding of marriage is found in Genesis 2:18, 22-24: "And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.* And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, *This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*"

(b) This arrangement of marriage is brought forward into the New Testament church in 1 Corinthians 7:1-2: "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."

(c) The overarching significance of marriage as the union of a man and a woman is found in its modeling of the eternal union between Christ and His Bride, as the New Testament clearly teaches in Ephesians 5. Any other model of marriage, therefore, both distorts and perverts the spiritual truth God has purposed to portray through marriage and offends His ordering of His creation.

(9) ***Other Practices Including but Not Limited to Practices Found In:***

(a) Rom. 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

(b) Gal. 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which **do** such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Those that DO (Strong's Greek definition #4238: perform repeatedly or habitually practice as opposed to a single act) such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. The male or female who lusts after another in their heart is in fantasy lust.)

(c) Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.