

Statement of Principles

STANDARD: We believe that every individual seeking to know God, through His son Jesus Christ, can be personally instructed by the Holy Spirit, to obtain greater light and truth. We believe that the words of Christ (past, present, and future) are the standard by which all followers of Christ should govern themselves. We relinquish any desire to have an institution, hierarchy, or mortal to lead us, instead desiring to be personally accountable to repent and turn to Christ ourselves, or answer for our own sins.

GUIDE: The following is a guide for the application of true principles in The Doctrine of Christ, Fellowships and Ordinances.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST:

1. Faith is the assurance of unseen things that are true. Faith is the primary motivation of action and power in both mortals and in God. To exercise faith is to act in alignment with correct belief. To have faith in Jesus Christ, we must believe in Him, learn of Him, and act according to a correct understanding of Him. Exercising faith in Jesus Christ will gradually turn action into power, producing unshaken faith in Him.

2. Repentance requires correct knowledge of Jesus Christ. With correct knowledge, we can recognize and turn away from error, facing Christ instead. As we do so, light dispels darkness and sin is quickly forgiven. Ultimately, repentance leads to redemption from the fall, and the return to Christ's presence.

3. Baptism is required of all who believe in Jesus Christ and repent. Baptism must be performed by immersion, by one holding proper authority, and when possible, in living water such as a river, lake, stream, or sea. Our Lord gave the following instructions:

Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.

4. The Holy Ghost is the promised gift of the Father to those who have faith in His Son, repent and receive baptism. This connection to God will give you access to truth, spoken to your mind and heart. We should seek to hear, understand and obey God's will through this connection.

5. FELLOWSHIPS:

Believers are encouraged to freely gather together in fellowships to worship, partake of the Lord's supper, and serve and strengthen one another. All are equal before God and everyone is valued because of their unique gifts and abilities. Fellowships provide an environment for light and truth to be shared and experienced. Our relationships should reflect our understanding of Christ's words.

Offerings can be freely gathered individually or within each fellowship for the purpose of helping the poor among us. No one is to be paid for their participation in a fellowship. After the needs of the poor in the fellowship are met, excess offerings can be donated to help with the temple.

6. ORDINANCES:

Gospel ordinances, including baptism and the Lord's Supper, require priesthood authority in the man performing them. To receive and exercise authority within his family, a man must be ordained by another man who has authority. Additionally, he must ask for and receive power directly from God. If the man wishes to provide priesthood ordinances outside his own family, he must also be approved (sustained) by at least seven women in a fellowship. If he is married, his wife must be one of the seven women who approve. The women should sign a certificate proving the man's sustained authorization to provide ordinances in fellowships.

The sacrament of the **Lord's Supper** consists of bread and wine, and is offered to all who have been baptized. The bread should be broken into pieces by the man who is officiating, then all should kneel while the man says the following prayer, exactly as written:

O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it; that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

The blessing on the wine, also given by the man who is officiating while all kneel, should then be given exactly as follows:

O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee, in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them; that they may witness unto thee, O God, the

Eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

The officiator and all who are participating should then eat the bread and drink the wine.

7. Marriage is between one man and one woman only, to reflect the image of God. Marriage is a required sacrament for the exaltation of both the man and woman. Marriages that are sealed by the Lord's oath in a sacred place, will endure beyond death and into the Father's Kingdom.

Those who are married according to their local laws, traditions or customs, should seek to have their marriage sealed by the Lord's word. To prepare for this event, women and men should seek to emulate the Savior's teachings in their marriage and their treatment of each other.

CONCLUSION: Those who hear, believe and obey all of Christ's words will become confident in the presence of God, will know the Lord personally, and will become members of his household and family. Ultimately, they will become like Christ.