



Central  
**MEMBERSHIP**

# Central

## MISSION

*Transforming families to live and love like Jesus*

Discipleship Defined — Discipleship is the life-long process of learning to live and love like Jesus.

## VALUES

Renewing Hearts and Minds Through Biblical Teaching

Inspiring a Fervent Love for Jesus Through a Lifestyle of Worship

Intentionally Building Christ-Centered Relationships

Strategically Creating Opportunities for Families to Impact their World for Jesus

## STRATEGY

Gather

Grow

Impact

## FIVE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

Daily Devotion

Prayer Time

Time with Believers

Generous Living

Sharing Your Story

## WHY MEMBERSHIP?

Membership at Central Christian...

- Clarifies expectations of what it means to be a part of Central Christian Church
- Helps us all to move forward in the same direction in the same way
- Ensures that all our leaders are unified and qualified

# NOTES

## Mission, Values, Strategy, 5 Marks

The mission of Central is transforming families to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ like Jesus.

The four values at Central are:

- 1) Renewing hearts and minds through \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching
- 2) Inspiring a fervent love for Jesus through a Lifestyle of \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Intentionally building Christ-Centered \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Strategically creating opportunities for Families to \_\_\_\_\_ Their World for Jesus

The three components of Central's strategy for fulfilling our mission are:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

The 5 Marks of a disciple we have identified are:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES

Read Acts 2:42-47 and answer the questions that follow.

## **Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> and they would sell their property and possessions and share them with all, to the extent that anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> 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.

1. What did the early church devote themselves to?
2. How was the early church viewed by their surrounding community?
3. What did this loving community mindset result in?

# NOTES

## Why We Gather

The Greek word *ekklesia* means \_\_\_\_\_

The early church devoted themselves to 4 things in Acts 2:42:

- 1) The apostles' \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Breaking of \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

## Gatherings

Name two elements of every worship service:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Communion, or the Lord's Supper, helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES

## Community Groups

The primary discipleship vehicle at Central is \_\_\_\_\_

If large gatherings and the preaching of the Word generates conviction, smaller gatherings generate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Healthy Community Groups naturally lead to \_\_\_\_\_

## Action Item

Use the chat feature during the Membership Zoom Meeting to let host know what day(s) of the week work best to join a Community Group.

# NOTES

## Local Outreach

Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in \_\_\_\_\_, in all Judea and \_\_\_\_\_, and to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."

Ephesians 2:8-10 tells us we are God's \_\_\_\_\_

## Regional & Global Outreach

We believe the best way to reach those who are yet to believe is by planting new \_\_\_\_\_

Central is striving toward a \_\_\_\_\_ mindset

# NOTES

## Serve Teams

What are some different teams you can serve on at Central?

- Guest Services
- Community Group Leadership
- Youth
- Kids
- Tech/Music

You don't have to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to make an impact

## Baptism

At Central, we practice \_\_\_\_\_ baptism by \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word *baptizo* means to fully \_\_\_\_\_ in water

Baptism is an \_\_\_\_\_ expression of an \_\_\_\_\_ change



# NOTES

## Giving

All things belong to \_\_\_\_\_

God appointed us to be \_\_\_\_\_ of His creation

We work hard to be good \_\_\_\_\_ of what God has given us

Be compassionate and \_\_\_\_\_ with your goods

## Marriage

Strong marriages lead to strong \_\_\_\_\_

### Action Items

Attend the Live Membership Class (on zoom)

Complete the Spiritual Gifts Assessment and S.H.A.P.E. Inventory

- Go to <https://www.freeshapetest.com>
- Fill out the assessment (30-60 minutes)
- Use [membership@centralchristian.org](mailto:membership@centralchristian.org) as the church leader email before submitting

Read Supplemental Resources (included in this booklet)

Schedule an Elder Interview (email [cchapin@centralchristian.org](mailto:cchapin@centralchristian.org))

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

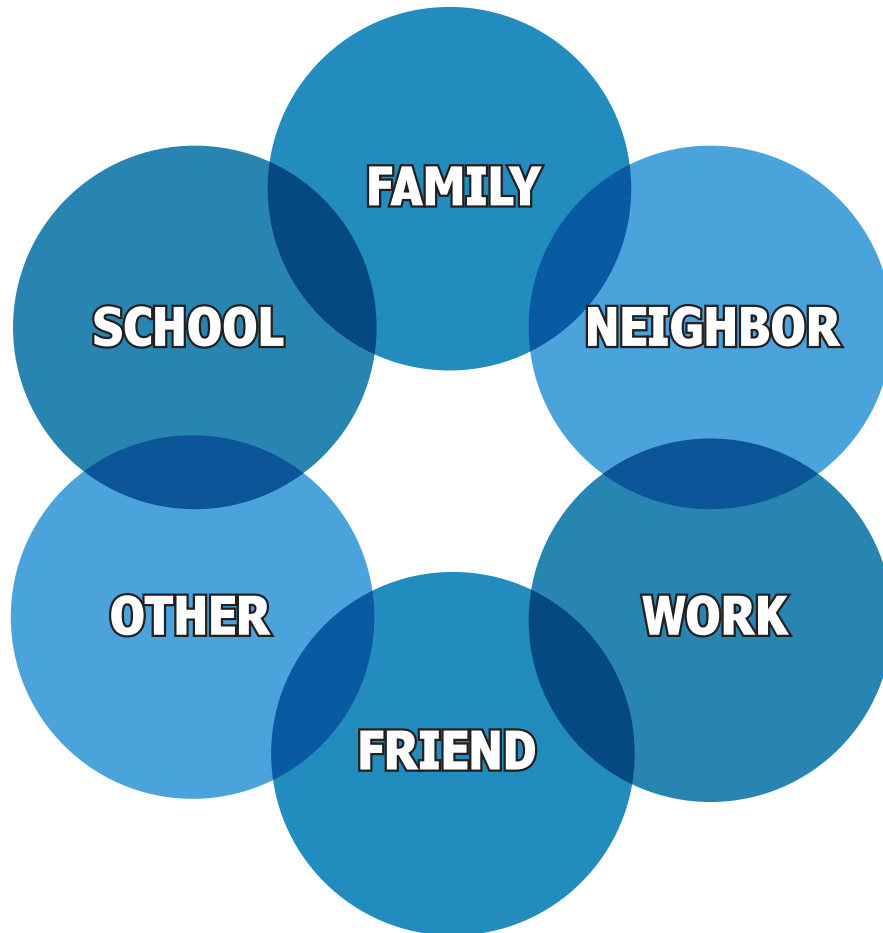
*Transforming families to live and love like Jesus*

- Inspiring a fervent love for Jesus through a lifestyle of worship
  - Renewing hearts and minds through Biblical teaching
  - Intentionally building Christ-centered relationships
- Strategically creating opportunities for families to impact their world for Jesus

Children	NextGen	Men & Women	
<p><b>GATHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekend Services</li> <li>• Youth Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>GATHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekend Services</li> <li>• Youth Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>GATHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekend Services</li> </ul>	
<p><b>GROW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kid's Small Groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday Nights</li> <li>• CYA</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups</li> <li>• Classes</li> <li>• Men's &amp; Women's Studies</li> <li>• MOPs</li> <li>• Central Marriages</li> <li>• Celebrate Recovery</li> </ul>	
<p><b>IMPACT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Camps</li> <li>• Learning Planet</li> <li>• Invitation Culture</li> </ul>	<p><b>IMPACT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Camps</li> <li>• Lists</li> <li>• Invitation Culture</li> </ul>	<p><b>IMPACT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Activities</li> <li>• Lists</li> <li>• Invitation Culture</li> </ul>	
Consider all phases of the family unit	Are we helping the family grow as a unit?	Our Goal: Fostering the Five Marks	Our greatest preoccupation should be teaching the gospel and sharing Jesus



Central **IMPACT**



COMMIT TO **PRAYING** FOR PEOPLE IN  
THESE AREAS OF **YOUR LIFE**  
AND BEGIN LOOKING  
FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO  
**REACH OUT TO ONE**

**MY ONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

# CREATING YOUR TESTIMONY

## Your Story is God's Story

We suggest keeping your story brief and approximately 750 words.

### **Step 1**

Begin thinking about your story of Good News.  
Who were you before you knew Jesus?

### **Step 2**

How did you recognize your need for Jesus?

### **Step 3**

What were the circumstances when you were "good soil" — ready to receive the Good News and share it with others?

### **Step 4**

How is your life different now that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

### **Step 5**

Review your testimony.  
Are you prepared to share the Good News of Jesus to those around you?

### **Step 6**

How are you an example of the Good News today?

# FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

## **THE BIBLE**

The Bible is a historical story about God (Gen. 1:1) and His imminent involvement with the world He made. It is a salvation story that progressively reveals God's plan for redeeming and restoring our broken world through the person and work of Jesus Christ, His Son. The Bible encompasses all of history (past, present, and future) and reveals God's good and perfect will for the Creation that He has made.

## **DAILY DEVOTION**

Spend time in the Word of God and let the Word of God spend time in you.

## **CCC DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

We believe the Bible came into existence through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and is God's verbal and complete revelation to man. As such, it was inerrant in its original documents and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Four Implications of the CCC Doctrinal Statement:

1. The Bible is the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
2. The Bible is Authoritative (Ephesians 2:19-20, Matthew 5:17-20)
3. The Bible is Infallible. (Psalm 19:7-11)
4. What the Bible accomplishes in hearts will remain forever.  
(1 Peter 1:24-25, 1 Peter 2:2-3, Isaiah 55:10-11)

# FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

## **SALVATION**

The Gospel is the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus – His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection in our place for our sin.

Two elements of the Gospel message (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

1. Jesus died for our sins
2. Jesus rose for our salvation

### Salvation Summary

All of these benefits of Christ's atoning work are received through faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).

### Gospel Summary

Salvation is by Grace Alone (Sola Gratia), through Faith Alone (Sola Fide), in Christ Jesus Alone (Solus Christus), to the glory of God alone (Soli Deo Gloria).

We realize the world and all it has to offer cannot help us.

## **BAPTISM**

"And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God." Acts 16:32-34

Baptism is a public proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ.

We require believer's baptism through immersion for membership at Central Christian Church.

# BAPTISM EXPLAINED

## WHY BE BAPTIZED?

To follow the example set by Jesus

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river."

(Mark 1:9)

Because Christ Commanded It

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

It demonstrates that I really am a Christian

"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey his commands." (1 John 2:3)

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

It Illustrates Christ's Burial and Resurrection

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried ... and He rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." (Colossians 2:12)

It Illustrates My New Birth as a Christian

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!" (Romans 6:4)

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith . . .it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

# BAPTISM EXPLAINED

## **WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?**

Because Jesus Was Baptized That Way

"As soon as Jesus was baptized. He went up out of the water." (Matthew 3:16)

Every Baptism in the New Testament Was by Immersion

"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39)

The Word "Baptize" Means To Immerse in Water

The Greek word baptizo means "to immerse or dip under water".

It Best Symbolizes a Burial and Resurrection

## **WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

Every Person Who Has Faith in Christ

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized . . ." (Acts 2:41)

"Simon himself believed and was baptized . . ." (Acts 8:13)

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:12)

About 300 years after the Bible was completed, a custom of baptizing infants and children emerged in some churches. Intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child, parents promised to raise the child in the faith until the child was old enough to make his own personal confession of faith in Christ.

At Central, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. We believe that the purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. We encourage parents to dedicate their children to the Lord and to declare their intention to raise them in the faith. Information about our next Parent Dedication is available by calling the church office.

Baptism by immersion, as demonstrated by Jesus, is a requirement for those who want to become members of Central Christian Church, even for those who were baptized as children.



# BAPTISM EXPLAINED

## WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed!

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” (Acts 8:35-38)

“Those who believed. . .were baptized. . . that day!” (Acts 2:41)

# GIVING

## WHY WE GIVE

Giving is a way to financially support what we're doing at Central. It's also something that God has called us to do as an act of worship and trust in Him. By giving generously to the mission of God we are letting go of our hold on money and trusting that He will graciously provide.

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Online** - Most of us do our banking on-line. There are 2 ways to give on-line:

1. If you pay your bills through your bank, you can add Central Christian Church as a payee and schedule your payments.
2. Go to our website and schedule your giving or give a one-time gift.

### **In Person**

There is an opportunity during any of our weekend services to give by cash or check.

### **By Check**

For those who prefer to write checks (and still have them) and like to mail it with their bills, you can always mail a check to 3131 W. Ave. J, Lancaster, CA 93536

# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

We believe the Bible came into existence through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and is God's verbal and complete revelation to man. As such, it was inerrant in its original documents and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

## **THE GODHEAD**

We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, The Father, and The Son and The Holy Spirit. These three are identical in nature, equal in power and glory, have precisely the same attributes and perfections, yet execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of providence and redemption.

Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14

## **THE FATHER**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, justice, wisdom, power and love. We believe He acts mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayers, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 1:3, 2 Peter 1:17

## **THE SON**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, and that our redemption is made sure through His bodily resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven exalted at the right hand of the Father where, as our High Priest, He intercedes on our behalf. We believe in the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ and in His Kingdom reign upon this earth.

John 1:1,2; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:6

# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every Christian, seals them unto the day of redemption, and is our present helper, teacher and guide. We believe that the Holy Spirit imparts Spiritual Gifts to Christians and thus equips them for effective ministry in the Body. We believe that it is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 15:26; John 16:8; Romans 8-9; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 14:26; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 5:18

## **MAN'S CREATION AND FALL**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but through sin became alienated from God, acquired a sin nature, and came under the judicial sentence of death.

Genesis 1:25-26; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3,12

## **SALVATION**

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation and in need of a Savior. We believe that salvation is the gift of God offered to man by grace and received by faith in Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord, and the genuine faith will manifest itself in works pleasing to God.

Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:9,10

## **BAPTISM**

We believe in water baptism by immersion as an act of obedience to Jesus' command, and as a picture of our union or sharing with Him, in the likeness of His death, burial and resurrection.

Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:1-4

# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe in both the universal and local church. The universal church, whose Head is Christ, is made up of all born-again persons irrespective of their denominational affiliation. The local church (a portion of the body of Christ) is a group of believers who have organized for the purpose of glorifying God through carrying out His will and sharing His word in the world.

Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Revelation 2-4

## **THE FINAL STATE**

We believe that the condition and punishment of the lost and the salvation and blessedness of the saved are conscious and everlasting.

Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:10-15; 22:3-5,11

## **CONCLUSION**

We believe that these truths are not just a sacred trust to be preserved and taught, but to be lived out in our daily lives as well.

*(Note: While the Bible teaches and we believe other doctrines, these are fundamental or foundational doctrines. Our commitment is, "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things love.")*

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit exercised in the Scriptures have not ceased with the death of the last Apostle or the closing of the New Testament canon. Although believers today do not possess the same authority as the original Apostles, they are nonetheless encouraged to pursue their spiritual gifts and practice them in accordance with the Scriptures for the building of the body of Christ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.

Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:1-16

# FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

## **THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLE OF MEN AND WOMEN**

Men and women are absolutely equal in person, but are different by divine design. As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church, especially as it comes to teaching and authority. These role distinctions are God's grace to man and woman and are to be protected, preserved and practiced for His glory and our joy.

Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 14:33-35; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Peter 3:1-7

# PEACEMAKER'S PLEDGE

*A Commitment to Biblical Conflict Resolution*

As people reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict.<sup>1</sup> We also believe that conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, serve other people, and grow to be like Christ.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, in response to God's love and in reliance on His grace, we commit ourselves to respond to conflict according to the following principles:

**Glorify God** — Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will rejoice in the Lord and bring Him praise by depending on His forgiveness, wisdom, power, and love, as we seek to faithfully obey His commands and maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude.<sup>3</sup>

**Get the Log out of Your Eye** — Instead of blaming others for a conflict or resisting correction, we will trust in God's mercy and take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts—confessing our sins to those we have wronged, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused.<sup>4</sup>

**Gently Restore** — Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will overlook minor offenses or we will talk personally and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook, seeking to restore them rather than condemn them. When a conflict with a Christian brother or sister cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner.<sup>5</sup>

**Go and be reconciled** — Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation—forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.<sup>6</sup>

By God's grace, we will apply these principles as a matter of stewardship, realizing that conflict is an assignment, not an accident. We will remember that success in God's eyes is not a matter of specific results, but of faithful, dependent obedience. And we will pray that our service as peacemakers will bring praise to our Lord and lead others to know His infinite love.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:9; Luke 6:27-36; Gal. 5:19-26.

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:28-29; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; James 1:2-4.

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 37:1-6; Mark 11:25; John 14:15; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 4:2-9; Col. 3:1-4; James 3:17-18; 4:1-3; 1 Peter 2:12.

<sup>4</sup> Prov. 28:13; Matt. 7:3-5; Luke 19:8; Col. 3:5-14; 1 John 1:8-9.

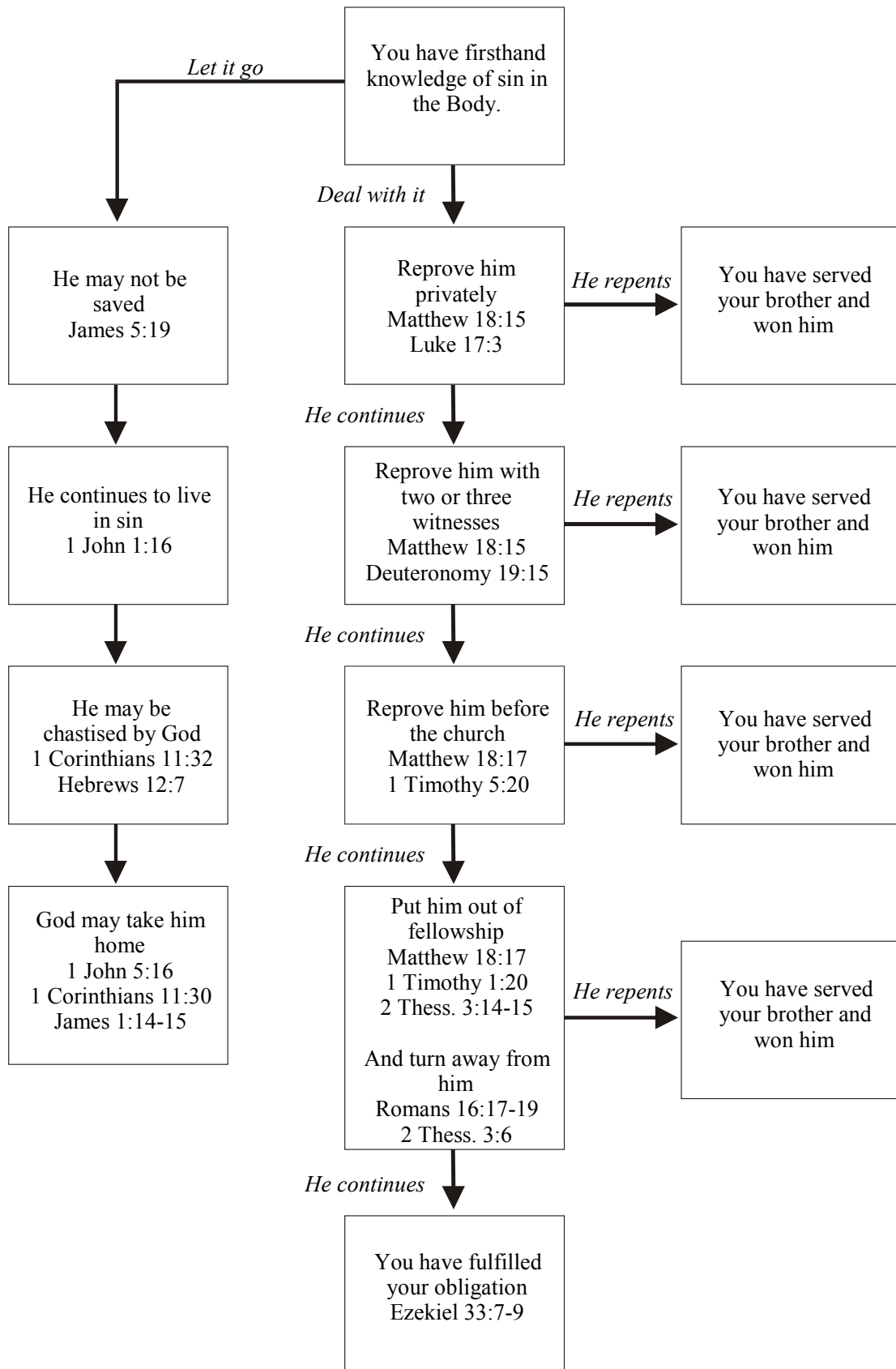
<sup>5</sup> Prov. 19:11; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:29; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; James 5:9.

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 5:23-24; 6:12; 7:12; Eph. 4:1-3, 32; Phil. 2:3-4.

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 25:14-21; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:18; 1 Peter 2:19; 4:19.



# CHURCH DISCIPLINE



# MARRIAGE STATEMENT

## MARRIAGE

We believe that marriage was established by God (Gen. 2:20-24) and the guidelines for marriage are clearly addressed in the Bible (Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7). Because of Gen. 2:20-24, Matt. 19:4-6, Eph. 5:22-33, and 1 Peter 3:1-7, Central Christian Church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such union is designed by God to be a lifetime commitment.

## HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage (Gen. 2:20-24; Heb. 13:4). Hence, sexual activities, such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church (1 Cor. 6:9-11,18; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; Rom. 1:26-27; Lev. 20:12-13). Further, lascivious behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and efforts to alter one's gender are incompatible with the biblical witness (Matt. 5:27-30; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

# DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

## THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman instituted by and publicly entered into before God.<sup>1</sup> It is a covenant relationship whereby God joins one man and one woman together as one flesh, consummated in sexual union, and ensuing in a permanent mutually supportive partnership. We believe that marriage illustrates Christ's covenant with his church, therefore the husband is called to faithfully love his wife as Christ loves the church and the wife is called to respond to her husband's loving leadership as the church responds to Christ (Eph. 5:18-33).

## DIVORCE

Although marriage is a gracious gift from God, and designed by Him to last a lifetime, we believe it is still subject to the curse of the fall. God hates divorce. He hates it because it always involves unfaithfulness to the solemn covenant of marriage that two partners have entered into before Him, and because it brings harmful consequences to those partners and their children. (Mal. 2:14-16).<sup>2</sup>

We believe that God can and does heal and restore even the worst of marriages, therefore we never counsel divorce. Even in the case of marital unfaithfulness. Infidelity in a marriage is a big deal. It violates the covenant that the husband and wife make before God..."forsaking all

<sup>1</sup> Kostenberger, Andreas J.. God, Marriage, and Family (Second Edition): Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation (Kindle Location 1353). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Divorce and Remarriage. Gracechurch.org

others, to cling only to each other..."It corrupts the "oneness" that a husband and his wife are called to. And while the Bible may allow for divorce in the case of sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32, 19:9), the greater and higher call is to forgiveness and reconciliation. We believe that God wants to restore broken marriages...but both must be willing to walk that long and difficult road together. That begins with repentance and a real brokenness over our sinfulness and selfishness.

## **REMARRIAGE**

Remarriage is permitted for the faithful partner only when the divorce was on biblical grounds. Those who divorce on any other grounds have sinned against God and their partners, and for them to marry another is an act of "adultery" (Mark 10:11-12). Remarriage after unbiblical divorce should only be considered if reconciliation is not possible (i.e. former spouse remarries, is an unbeliever, or dies).

## **REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS**

In cases where a believer obtained a divorce on unbiblical grounds and remarried, he or she is guilty of the sin of adultery until that sin is confessed (Mark 10:11-12). If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Therefore the believer should strive from that point forward to continue in his or her current marriage to the glory of God.

# **ABUSE**

## **COUNSELING IN CASES OF ABUSE**

In situations of abuse it is important to remember that safety always comes first. We also have a responsibility to minister to both the abused and the abuser. Here are three questions to consider when navigating these situations.

- 1. Should I counsel separation?** – In cases where people are at risk of harm it is wise to suggest a time of separation. Separation does not equal divorce, but it does allow the distance needed to get out of a harmful situation and begin addressing the issues.
- 2. Should I report this to the authorities?** – The answer to this question is usually yes. If children are involved it is especially important to call the authorities right away, including Child Protective Services.
- 3. Do I have a plan to move forward?** – Cases of abuse are always messy. It is important to inform the right people and then begin working on a plan for healing and restoration. This is a time to invite people to go deeper into our ministry as opposed to pushing them away.



# Central

## **MEMBER COVENANT**

I have committed my life to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

I have followed the Lord in believer's baptism (believer's baptism is baptism by immersion after committing to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord).

I commit to grow in my relationship with Christ through consistent prayer, worship, fellowship, and Bible study.

I will be faithful in my worship attendance and commit to being active in a community group.

I commit to investing in Central with my treasure, time and talent, to be used for God's glory in the building up of this church, through the church's mission, vision and initiatives.

I am in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Central Christian Church and will submit to the authority and leadership of the Elders, including church discipline if required.

I commit to working through the Peacemaker's Pledge should any conflict with another believer arise.

I have completed the MEMBERSHIP class

I desire to abide by the Central Christian Church Membership Covenant

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# STAFF CONTACTS

## **Children/Preschool/Nursery**

Christina Armentrout  
Kim Baywood  
Debbie Severs (admin.)  
Erin Baywood

## **NextGen/Youth**

Matt Guarino  
Tatiana Estrada (admin.)  
Jordan Avery  
Cydney Amposta

## **Community Groups**

Gerry Chaddick  
Chris Tomes  
Cyndy Chapin (admin.)

## **Marriage Ministry**

Gerry Chaddick  
Cyndy Chapin (admin.)

## **Women's Ministry**

Alisa Anderson  
Kami Hendrie  
Autumn Rutledge

## **Member Care**

Gerry Chaddick  
Cyndy Chapin (admin.)

## **Worship Ministry**

Bryan Ingram  
Melissa Mann (admin.)

## **Creative**

Scott Sturdyvin  
Myron Mielke (Graphics/Creative Arts)  
Melissa Mann (admin.)

## **Counseling**

Pat Wright

## **Classes**

Matt Guarino  
Tatiana Estrada (admin.)

## **Local/Global Outreach**

Ricky Hemme  
Chris Tomes  
Tatiana Estrada (admin.)

## **Multiplication**

Chris Tomes  
Tatiana Estrada (admin.)

## **Business/Finance**

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