

INTERNATIONAL APOSTOLIC CHURCHES, INCORPORATED

ARTICLES OF FAITH

PRELUDE

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church;** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the **church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: (39) to whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, (40) saying unto Aaron, "make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him."

The God of all creation, has never authorized, but two churches. The first church was the church in the wilderness, dealing with his chosen people Israel.

Jeremiah 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

God has always referred to His Church as His Bride. By his own law, he could have only one bride. He was bound to His marriage vows with Israel until death. The only way He could have another bride would be through the death of his bride, or to put her away because of adultery.

Judges 2:17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, **but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them:** they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

Isaiah 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.

God had every right to completely turn away from Israel, but he chose another way to allow for everyone to have salvation and be in his bride, (church). Since God is a Spirit and a spirit does not have flesh that you can see, nor blood that could be shed, He created a body for Himself. This body was the Son of God after the flesh, however, the Spirit that was within the body was the Spirit of the One and only God of all Creation. God was faithful to his bride, (Israel), until "His" death occurred.

After His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus showed Himself alive to His disciples and taught them for an additional forty days. Acts 1:5-8. He left them with the promise of the Spirit returning to indwell them, Luke 24:49; **John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

On the Jewish Feast day of Pentecost, in approximately 30 A.D., a group of one hundred and twenty followers of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem in an upper room. We feel it is

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significant that this feast, celebrating the giving of The Law or First Covenant upon Mt. Sinai, for God to choose this Feast day for His Second Covenant to begin. To have a New Testament, there had to be the death of the Testator. Hebrews 9:16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Thus the New Testament Apostolic Church was born! As the Apostle Peter spoke to the gathered throng, 3,000 others were likewise added to the original group of one hundred twenty. Since this beginning in Jerusalem, the Church spread as the apostles carried the Gospel forth into the world.

Nowhere in the bible will you find the complete plan of salvation other than in the book of Acts of the Apostles. The books Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, (called the gospels, meaning good news), tell of the deity of Jesus, his ministry and record his miracles and teaching. The books Romans through Jude are mostly letters written to the churches which were established in the book of Acts. These books are maintenance manuals dealing with specific problems within those churches or encouragement and exhortations to those churches or their leaders. The book of Revelations, (also known as The Revelation of Jesus Christ), tells who Jesus is and is also a book of prophecy.

Shortly after the murder of Peter and Paul in Rome, in the approximate year of 68a.d., the Roman government took over much of the operations of the church and within a short period of time were conquering nations under the guise of spreading Christianity. This was never in God's plan for the Gospel to be spread at the point of a sword or spear. His plan has always been, 1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

It has never been God's plan that Emperors, Empresses or Kings should be the head of His Church or to change His plan of Salvation that He shed his own blood to establish a way to reconcile sinful man back to him. Paul said: **Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**

At the death of the apostles and the conclusion of their writings, which we recognize as New Testament Epistles, those whom they had ordained continued their message with signs following.

During the intervening centuries, the true Church of Jesus Christ has known much tribulation and persecution at the hand of those who oppose her message. Yet in every century the Lord has had a witness and the Church has had a voice. At the beginning of the twentieth century, God chose the United States to pour out the Latter Rain of His Spirit. Revival fires began to spread as people began to seek a deeper experience with God. Soon thousands were filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ here in the United States. Then, Missionaries were sent out into other countries carrying the Gospel. Thus America became a great bastion for Apostolic truth in the twentieth century. In every state the Apostolic Message

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spread and churches were founded. From these churches, groups began to form as churches and men of God united their efforts to do more for God. Through the efforts of these faithful witnesses the Commission of Jesus Christ to "...preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), is being fulfilled.

BRIEF HISTORY

The International Apostolic Churches, Inc. is a continuation of the great revival that began on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, A.D. 30, and is founded upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief cornerstone, (Acts 2:1-41; Ephesians 2:19, 20).

The International Apostolic Churches, Inc was founded in 2005. The reason is to try to build God's Kingdom through Preachers and Churches who share the same vision for spreading the Gospel as we do. That is to say we will build churches in every hamlet, village, town and city who will hear and receive the Gospel. The money coming into the various Churches, who share the same vision for lost souls, will be used for the spreading of the Gospel and for the building of God's Kingdom; not to build personal kingdoms for the various ministers and other church leaders.

We will help each other financially, support each other with prayer and fasting and fellowship. The various Churches will be owned and operated by a board of trustees and a deacon board from each congregation as soon as the Church is self supporting. **Acts 6:3**
Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Until the Church is self supporting the Church will be run and the pastor and expenses paid by the sponsoring churches by a committee elected from such sponsoring churches. The pastor will be responsible for preaching the Gospel only and **never** for the finances of the Church, unless he is the pastor who started the Church.

INTRODUCTION

We believe the Bible to be the Divinely inspired Word of God (II Timothy 3:16), given to us by the Divine inspiration of God as He moved upon the tongues and pens of men who had received the special anointing of God for this express purpose: (II Peter 1:21). "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." We believe the Bible to be God's means of doctrine, instruction, and comfort to the Church today, infallible in its authority, singular in interpretation, and man's only tutorial authority for access to God.

ARTICLE I "THE ONE TRUE GOD"

We believe in the One ever-living, eternal God; infinite in power, holy in nature,

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attributes and purpose, and possessing absolute, indivisible Deity. This one true God has revealed Himself as Father in creation, through the Son in redemption, and as the Holy Ghost by emanation (I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; II Corinthians 5:19; Joel 2:28).

The Scripture does more than attempt to prove the existence of God; it asserts, assumes and declares that the knowledge of God is universal (Romans 1:19, 21, 28, 32; 2:15). God is invisible, omnipotent, omnipresent, and therefore free from all limitations. He is Spirit (John 4:24), and "a spirit hath not flesh and bones..." (Luke 24:39).

The first of all commandments is, "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD:" (Mark 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4). "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all:" (Ephesians 4:6).

This one True God manifested Himself in the Old Testament in divers ways, in the Son while He walked among men; as the Holy Ghost after the ascension. II Corinthians 5:19, God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; John 1:11, He came unto his own, and his own received him not. This one true God was manifested in the flesh, that is, in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:9, In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

HIS NAME

Isaiah 9:6. "... unto us a child is born, unto us a son in given:... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

This prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled when the Son of God was named, Matthew 1:21, And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: For he shall save his people from their sins.

The meaning of the name Jesus is: Jehovah Our Salvation. **Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

ARTICLE II MAN AND HIS FALL

God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26,27), innocent, pure and holy (Romans 5:11, Ephesians 2:3). Man was placed in a paradise and given only one commandment. He could not obey that one commandment, thus sin entered into the world through disobedience. We inherit sin because we are the descendants of Adam. Man needed a redeemer which has been supplied in the seed of the woman, which seed bruised the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15; Luke 2:10,11). **God said: Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. Hosea 13:4 Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.** God created Himself a body, that is, Our Lord and Savior

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Jesus Christ in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 1:5). ***1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.***

ARTICLE III THE GRACE OF GOD

Titus 2:11,12: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." John 1:17: "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

A Christian must walk, "in newness of life." ***2 Corinthians 7:1*** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Jude 21: "keep himself in the love of God, and in the grace of God. The word "grace" means "favor." When a person transgresses and sins against God, he loses favor. If he continues to sin and does not repent, he will eventually be lost and cast into the lake of fire. (Read John 15:1,6; II Peter 2:20-22) Jude speaks of the backsliders of his day and their reward. (Read Hebrews 6:4-6). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" (Ephesians 2:8).

ARTICLE IV REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SIN

The only condition upon which God will accept a sinner is repentance, (meaning an about face), from the heart for his sins that he has committed. Psalm 51:17 A broken and contrite heart He will not despise. ***1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

John preached repentance, Jesus proclaimed it, and before His ascension commanded that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). Peter fulfilled this command on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:38 ***Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

ARTICLE V WATER BAPTISM

John 3:5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

The scriptural mode of baptism is immersion, after repentance and having turned from their sins. We prefer baptism be administered by a duly authorized minister of the Gospel;

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however, we believe anyone "full of the Holy Ghost" can perform baptism if a minister is not available. We will always baptize, in obedience to the Word of God, in the Name of Jesus Christ, according to the Acts of the Apostles; 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5, thus obeying and fulfilling our Lord's commission of Matthew 28:19 and Luke 24:47.

ARTICLE VI HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

John 3:5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

To be baptized of water is obedience; however, you must also be born of the spirit. Both are essential elements of salvation. Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith, said, "water and Spirit."

Receiving the Holy Ghost is not enough, you must also be baptized in the Name of Jesus.

Acts 10:47 *Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? (48) **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.***

Being baptized in the name of Jesus is not enough, you must also receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: (15) Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (16) **(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)** (17) Then laid they their hands on them, and **they received the Holy Ghost.**

Believing is not enough, "except a man be born of water and of the Spirit-----"

Acts 19:1-6 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, (2) He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. (3) And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, **Unto John's baptism.** (4) **Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.** (5) **When heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** (6) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

John the Baptist, in Matthew 3:11, said "... He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." Jesus, in Acts 1:5, said, "... ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Luke tells us in Acts 2:4, "... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance."

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The terms "baptized with the Holy Ghost," "filled with the Holy Ghost," and the "gift of the Holy Ghost," are synonymous terms which are interchangeable in the Bible.

ARTICLE VII APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE OF NEW BIRTH

The basic and fundamental doctrine of this Organization shall be the Bible standard of full salvation, which is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance (Acts 2:4,38; John 3:5).

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

God breathed into the nostrils of man and man became a living soul. This breath of God is what distinguishes us from all other animals. We have a soul that will live forever somewhere. This was the first man Adam and represents the natural birth.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The **first man Adam** was made a living soul; the last **Adam** was made a quickening spirit.

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

Jesus breathed on his disciples and said unto them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost. This second breath of God, (for Jesus is the revealed name of God), is the NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE! This is what Jesus meant when he said unto Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again."

Paul tells us that the last Adam, (referring to Jesus), was made a quickening spirit. The word quickening means to give or restore life to. This is what happens when we receive the Holy Ghost, our life is restored to us.

ARTICLE VIII DIVINE HEALING

The physical suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ purchased healing for our bodies. His death, burial and resurrection provided for the salvation of our souls. Isaiah 53:5, But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Matthew 8:17 reads, "... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

We see from this that healing for the body is in the atonement. That being true, then it is for all who believe. Jesus said of the believer, "... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." James wrote in his epistle to all the church, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"

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(James 5:14-16).

ARTICLE IX COMMUNION

Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God, gave the first communion, consisting of bread and wine (Genesis 14:18), to our father Abraham. Christ, being "made a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." Evidently administered the same (Hebrews 7:21; Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-32).

On the night of our Lord's betrayal, He ate the Passover supper with His apostles, after which He instituted the Communion service. "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19, 20).

Paul instructed the Church how to observe it (I Corinthians 11:23, 24,25).

ARTICLE X WASHING OF FEET

Jesus gave us an example that we do even as He had done. He said that we ought to wash one another's feet. And again, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them" (John 13:4-17).

There is scriptural evidence that this was practiced by the church in the days of the apostle Paul (I Timothy 5:10).

ARTICLE XI HOLINESS

We believe that godly living should characterize the life and walk of all saints according to the sign and example found in I Peter 2:21; Titus 2:11; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 12:14; I Peter 1:15-17.

We believe we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (II Corinthians 7:1), to abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22), and to turn away from those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (II Timothy 3:5; I Corinthians 11:6; I Timothy 2:9,10; I Peter 2:3,4).

The Apostle Peter gives instruction to wives about their behavior and their appearance, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they be-hold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:1-4).

The Word of God teaches a distinction between the dress of a woman and a man: "The

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woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garments: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." (Deuteronomy 22:5) The word "abomination" used by God in this verse indicates that this rule will not change through all generations. Christian men are not to wear women's clothing, and Christian women are not to wear men's clothing. Modesty is not confined to dress alone but also includes conversation and manners. Philippians 4:5 teaches us, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

Holiness is not only an inward presence of God but it is also reflected in the outward life of the Christian in his conduct in this world. Tobacco in any form is harmful to the body.

ARTICLE XII TITHING

We believe tithing is God's financial plan to provide for His work, and has been since the days of Abraham. Tithing came with faith under Abraham, Moses' law enjoined it, Israel practiced it when she was right with God, Jesus endorsed it (Matthew 23:23), and Paul said to lay by in store as God has prospered you. Do not rob God of His portion, that is tithes and offerings (Read Malachi 3).

We believe all tithing and offerings should be brought into the storehouse of the Lord according to: Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

We believe that, since the church of the New Testament was founded by the Apostles in the Book of Acts, the tithes and offerings should also be handled as found in the Book of Acts and as advised by the Apostle Peter to whom Jesus gave the Keys to the Kingdom and sanctioned by all Twelve disciples:

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.**

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

The above plan was followed by the early church; however, within 100 years from the Day of Pentecost, when the second covenant was ushered in with the Holy Ghost and Fire, this rule was no longer followed. This led to pastors and church leaders living like kings in castles and has been a source of men building their own kingdom instead of preaching the word and building God's Kingdom. (Source World Book Encyclopedia). We only want pastors who are dedicated to the building God's Kingdom.

Tithes and offerings should be handled by the deacon board of each church assembly. We recommend the pastor should be paid a salary based upon this formula. Take the median average (family) gross income of the church assembly and add 10% for miscellaneous expenses. If the church furnishes a parsonage and pays phone and utility expenses for the pastor's personal use, the fair market value of this housing and expenses should be deducted from this salary. By basing

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his income on the gross (family) income of the church this will allow for him to pay his income tax, insurance and FICA or other retirement or these items can be withheld and paid by the Church.

The Deacon Board of each church assembly shall be recommended and voted on by the church assembly by secret ballot. Under no circumstance shall the Trustee or Deacon board be appointed by the pastor. We recommended at least 4 deacons with the pastor of the assembly having 1 vote equal to 1 vote by each of the board members and shall vote only in case of a tie. There shall be a board of Trustees, (recommended 3) who shall be voted on by the church assembly. The trustees will hold all property in trust for the church assembly. If the church assembly wishes to incorporate the church, the church assembly, by secret ballot, shall elect the president, secretary, and treasurer of the church from among the church board and trustee board. In smaller assemblies more than one office may be held by the same person, such as both deacon and trustee. The board of trustees shall have veto power over any financial transactions involving the signing of notes or other documents for the Church. If the Church feels strongly enough about the transactions that were vetoed by the trustees, there shall be a vote after 30 days to elect new trustees. Under no circumstances shall a trustee be required to put his signature and thus his name and reputation on any document to which he objects.

ARTICLE XIII MARRIAGE

Marriage shall always be defined as being between one man and one woman, only. Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

This law of marriage being defined as between one man and one woman was restated in the New Testament Church. 1 Corinthians 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, 1 Timothy 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

ARTICLE XIV DIVORCE

"Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery" (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). In order to lift a higher standard in the ministry, no minister shall be accepted in this organization who he or his wife have married for the second time after their conversion, unless the first marriage was terminated by a death or justifiable cause according to bible standards set forth above in the book of Matthew.

ARTICLE XV SECRET SOCIETIES

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The people of God shall have no connection whatsoever with religious oriented secret societies or any other organization (labor unions excluded) wherein bound by a secret oath to unbelievers.

ARTICLE XVI THE RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

That the Lord Jesus Christ is to come to earth in person is a doctrine clearly set forth in Apostolic times. James taught it; the Apostles preached it; the saints expect it; (See Matthew 24:1, etc.; Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; I Corinthians 1:7,8; 11:26; Philippians 3:20,21; Titus 2:13).

ARTICLE XVII TRANSLATION OF SAINTS

We believe the catching away of the church draweth nigh, and at that time all the dead in Christ shall rise from their graves, and we that are alive and remain shall be translated or "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air (Matthew 24:36-42; Luke 17:20-37; I Corinthians 15:51; Philippians 3:20,21; I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

ARTICLE XVIII SECOND COMING OF JESUS

Whereas, the Word of God teaches the imminent second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that there will be first an appearing or catching away of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:13) preceding His second coming back to earth; and said first appearance we believe to be at hand and likely to occur at any moment.

ARTICLE XIX TRIBULATION

Moreover, we believe that the distress upon the earth is the "beginning of sorrows" and will become more intense until there "shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time," (Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1; Romans 11:25-27).

ARTICLE XX MILLENNIUM

We believe that the period of "Tribulation" will be followed by the dawn of a better day on earth, and that for one thousand years there shall be "peace on earth and good will toward men," (Revelation 20:1-5; Isaiah 65:17-25; Matthew 5:5; Daniel 7:27; Micah 4:1; Habakkuk 2:14; Romans 11:25-27).

ARTICLE XXI FINAL JUDGMENT

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When the thousand years are finished, there shall be a resurrection of the dead who shall be summoned before the Great White Throne for their final judgment, and all whose names are not found written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire, burning with the brimstone, which God has prepared for the devil and his angels (Revelation 20:5-15; Matthew 24:41-46; Revelation 21:8).

ARTICLE XXI CIVIL GOVERNMENT

All civil magistrates are ordained of God for peace, safety, and the welfare of all people (Romans 13:1-10; Titus 3:1,2; I Peter 2:13,14); therefore, it is our duty to be in obedience to all requirements of the law that are not contrary to the Word of God. It is our duty to honor without murmuring (Matthew 17:24-27; 22:17-21) and show respect to them in all lawful requirements of the civil government. We should pay our taxes honestly. *Mark 12:17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.*

ARTICLE XXII CONSCIENTIOUS SCRUPLES

We propose to fulfill all the obligations of loyal citizens, but are constrained to declare against participation in combatant service in war, armed insurrection, property destruction, aiding and abetting in or the actual destruction of human life. Furthermore, we cannot conscientiously affiliate with any union boycott or organization which will force or bind any of its members to perform any duties contrary to our conscience or receive any mark without our right to affirm or reject same. However, we regret the false impression created by some groups or so-called "Conscientious Objectors" that to obey the Bible is to have contempt for law or magistrates, to be disloyal to our government and in sympathy with our enemies, or to be unwilling to sacrifice for the preservation of our commonwealth. This attitude would be as contemptible to us as to any other patriot. The Word of God commands us to do violence to no man. It also commands us that first of all we are to pray for rulers of our country. We, therefore, exhort our members to freely and willingly respond to the call of our Government except in the matter of bearing arms. When we say service, we mean service, no matter how hard or dangerous. The true church has no more place for cowards than has the nation. First of all, let us earnestly pray that we will with honor be kept out of war. We believe that we can be consistent in service to our Government in certain non-combatant capacities, but not in the bearing of arms to take another human's life.

ARTICLE XXIII PUBLIC SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We disapprove of school students attending shows, dances, dancing classes, theaters, engaging in school activities against their religious scruples, and wearing gymnasium clothes which immodestly expose the body.