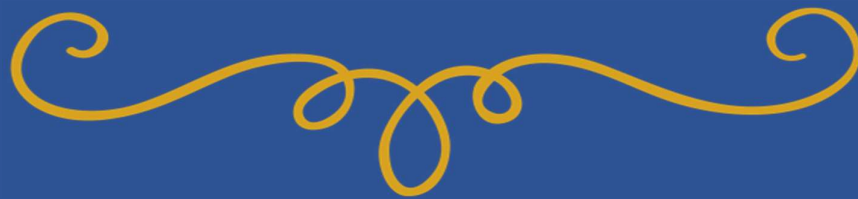


**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOUTHLAND MARANATHA
CHRISTADELPHIAN
ECCLESIA,
NEW ZEALAND**



MAY 2024

The Constitution

of the Southland Maranatha Christadelphian Ecclesia, New Zealand

This Constitution is based upon the Constitution of the Birmingham Temperance Hall Christadelphian Ecclesia.

They (the Birmingham Ecclesia) adopted it initially at a Special Meeting held 22nd July 1886 and readopted it 14th September 1908, after making slight modifications.

We (the Southland Maranatha Ecclesia) have made further modifications which were adopted at our half year business meeting held 12th May 2024 to better reflect our current circumstances, specifically our reduced numbers.

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1) Constitution

A) Membership

1. That we are the Southland Maranatha Christadelphian Ecclesia.
2. Membership of the ecclesia is open to all who accept the doctrines of Christ as defined in the Statement of Faith, Doctrines to be rejected, and Epitome of the Commandments of Christ (numbering one hundred) which are appended to these rules. We require that the scriptural position of the following topics be discussed with a member who wants to join:
 - Christ's sacrifice.
 - Conditions of membership.
 - Creation.
 - Fellowship between members.
 - Gender.
 - Marriage and divorce.
 - Sisters' speaking and the wearing of head coverings.
3. That we recognize as brothers and sisters, and welcome to our fellowship, all who have been immersed (by whomsoever) after their acceptance of the same doctrines and precepts.
4. That we mutually agree to submit to the order and arrangements preferred by the majority on business arrangements only and not doctrinal or walk rules.
5. Any member wishing to terminate membership shall notify the Recording Brother, following which the brothers shall consider the matter in conjunction with the member concerned.

B) Meetings

6. That we meet:
 - Each Sunday for the breaking of bread, worship, and exhortation.
 - Every alternate Sunday to share the gospel message either to the public or as an ecclesial study.
 - One weekday evening to hold a Bible class.
 - Six monthly to discuss Ecclesial business and other business that concerns the functioning of our Ecclesia.
7. The following order is to be observed at our Memorial Meetings each Sunday:
 - Presiding Brother reads an opening Bible verse.
 - Welcome visiting brethren.
 - Sing opening praise hymn.
 - Daily Bible readings to be read according to the Bible Companion. The number of readings is at the discretion of the presiding brother however it is our practice to do at least two of the daily readings.
 - Opening praise and thanks prayer
 - Exhortation hymn.
 - Exhortation (not to exceed 30 minutes).
 - Breaking of bread hymn.
 - Prayer for the bread followed by the partaking of the bread.
 - Prayer for the wine followed by the partaking of the wine.
 - Collection.
 - Closing hymn.
 - Ecclesial notices or fraternal announcements.
 - Closing prayer.
 - Closing Bible verse.
8. That special meetings may be requested by any baptised member by contacting the Recording Brother to arrange. Such meetings are to be held in accordance with all scriptural guidelines.
9. The annual meeting shall be held as soon as practicable after the financial year end date of 31st October each year.
10. All Ecclesial gatherings, except for Sunday Memorial Meetings, can be suspended over the end-of-year holiday period (usually from late December to 6th February Waitangi Day).
11. The brothers shall meet as often as necessary (but at least monthly) to attend to the conduct of matters affecting the working of the ecclesia such as conduct of the meetings, to fix speaking appointments, and decide all matters affecting the working of the ecclesia. These meetings are to be announced to the Ecclesia beforehand. All brothers are expected to attend, and each shall have one vote. Sisters shall be at liberty to attend and take part in the deliberations, but not to vote. Any decisions shall have immediate effect but may be reversed by the ecclesia.
12. Sisters shall meet regularly to study the scriptures and support each other as appropriate.
13. Depending upon the size, needs, and members of the ecclesia, it may be decided that additional classes be held. If a Sunday School is established, then it shall be under the control of a superintendent, elected by the ecclesia, who shall appoint the teachers, and in conjunction with them, manage the school in matters of detail. If a Youth Class is established, then it shall be administered by their parents while we are small in number. However, their parents may choose to involve other brothers and sisters in this from time to time.

C) Appointment and Removal of Serving Members

14. Those members holding offices among us shall be described as “serving members”; and that the denomination of each office shall have “brother” or “sister” associated with it (for the sake of preserving the family character of our assembly in harmony with the mind of Christ).
15. Given our small number, all brothers are regarded as ‘arranging’ brethren. The meeting shall additionally appoint, from baptised brothers:

- Presiding and Exhorting Brothers.
- A Recording Brother.
- An Assistant Recording Brother.
- A Treasurer.
- An Assistant Treasurer.
- Any other appointed position as required from time to time to attend to various matters of detail, such as door-keeping, visiting, examining, or such like.

In addition, the following may be appointed from any suitable baptised or non-baptised members:

- A Charities Commission Administrator.
- Flower and Gift Administrator.
- Pianist/s.
- Technology Administrator. It is recommended that the Technology Administrator train others to assist in case they (the Administrator) are sick or otherwise absent.

16. That the Recording Brother, Assistant Recording Brother, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer shall be elected every three years.

17. No member shall be eligible for appointment for the first two years after baptism, except by the unanimous consent of the Ecclesia.

18. When making any appointments, we shall always have in view, and strive to follow, the directions given by Paul as to the qualifications that ought to exist in members suitable for appointment (refer 1st Timothy 3 and Titus 1). In addition to those qualifications:

- No member shall be eligible for election unless their consent has first been obtained.
- Nominations are to be advised to the Recording Brother.
- All names of newly nominated as well as previous serving members shall be given in printed voting form (ballot paper) to all members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.
- Each baptised member shall, on that ballot paper, be required to put a tick before the name of each member whom they desire to be appointed. There is no requirement to indicate any member whom they do not desire to be appointed.
- Those having the highest number of votes shall be elected.
- All baptised members are eligible to vote for nominations.

19. In all elections, it shall require the voice of at least one half of those voting before an appointment shall be confirmed. Half of the members of the ecclesia shall be a quorum and if at least half are not present, the meeting shall be adjourned to a date to be decided by the brothers. If a quorum is not present on that (second) occasion, the members present shall be sufficient for a quorum.

20. Any member holding office may be removed at any time by ballot of the ecclesia. Any behaviour unworthy of the name of Christ shall, on the establishment of the facts before the brothers, have the effect of cancelling any member’s ecclesial appointments without a vote of the ecclesia.

D) Duties of Serving Members

21. That the presiding brothers shall do duty week by week or provide substitutes from their own number. They should also advise their chosen hymn numbers to the Technology Administrator at least two days prior to the Memorial Meeting.
22. That the Recording Brother shall himself, or nominate another to:
 - Keep minutes of all proceedings of the ecclesia.
 - Receive and communicate all correspondence to the ecclesia.
 - Remind the members of future meetings to be held, and speakers of their appointments.
 - Take note of bank balance twice a year.
 - Keep an up-to-date record of the name, address, email, phone numbers, and date of immersion for each member.
 - Record the attendance at the Sunday Memorial meetings.
 - Draw up a yearly roster for all serving duties of the ecclesia.
 - Distribute the minutes of each Brothers' Meeting within the week following the meeting.
 - Distribute the minutes of all other meetings before the half yearly and the annual meetings for all members to read through.
23. That the treasurer shall himself, or nominate another to:
 - Receive all funds accruing to the ecclesia.
 - Pay all money into the ecclesial bank account.
 - Make all necessary disbursements.
 - Keep books of accounts, and records of receipts and payments.
 - Distribute a financial report every six months before the half yearly and annual meeting to all members.
 - Report on the finances at the half yearly and annual business meetings.

E) Matters of Conduct

24. That any member of the ecclesia neglecting to attend the meetings for breaking of bread consistently, for three or more weeks, without reason, shall be visited by one or more brothers. If they fail to give a satisfactory reason for their absence, and do not resume attendance within three months after such visit, their case shall be reported to a business meeting of the ecclesia, at which time they may be withdrawn from. The absentee member must be given notice of the intention to bring their case to such a meeting.
25. That none shall, even for a legitimate cause, separate themselves from the assembly for an extended period, without first stating, in writing (addressed to the recording brother), the cause or causes of pending separation; and asking the same to be considered at a special meeting, at which they consent to be present and take part.
26. That any member departing from any element of the One Faith, as defined in our Statement of Faith (appended), shall, on proof of the fact being given to the satisfaction of the brothers, cease to be in fellowship, without a formal vote of withdrawal, on the fact being announced to the ecclesia.
27. Sisters should be silent during the memorial meetings, ecclesial Bible classes, and public lectures, however, they may comment and vote at the half yearly and annual business meetings.
28. We are all in equal and full fellowship with each other. We do not therefore agree with any single member refusing or blocking contact between other members.
29. No accusation or evil report shall be listened to in public or private unless the member making it shall first have taken all possible steps to fulfil both the spirit and the letter of the principle in Matthew 18:15-18. Failure to do so shall itself be considered behaviour unworthy of the name of Christ.
30. No member, whose fellowship with another ecclesia has ceased, shall be received into our fellowship until the cause has been investigated and opportunity given to the ecclesia who withdrew fellowship from them to join in the investigation.
31. If another ecclesia, after investigation, receives into their fellowship any member from whom we have withdrawn (other than for the cause of wrong walk or belief), or who may have separated from us, we shall not consider it a cause of separation from that other ecclesia. We would regard the case as one of a difference in judgment of facts. However, if they receive such without investigation, we shall request that they investigate the matter. Only in case of their refusal, shall we consider that their action in the case has furnished a cause of separation.
32. That any member becoming engaged to marry out of the faith shall abstain from breaking of bread until his or her cause shall have been considered at a special meeting of all members. The ecclesia shall communicate with instruction to that member, to persuade them otherwise. If the member goes ahead with the marriage, they shall be withdrawn from. In the event of repentance by way of return letter, their return to the table of the Lord shall be sanctioned.
33. That no brother or sister shall break bread with any community with which their Ecclesia is not in fellowship, and that after discussing with that member and they fail to discontinue with the other community, be withdrawn from.

E) Matters of Conduct Continued

34. That any member knowing a case of want is expected to mention the same to the brothers, who will, if they deem it advisable, render assistance out of the ecclesial funds or report a case to the ecclesia.
35. The doctrines to be rejected forbid service in any of the emergency services (including the army and police force), politics, Red Cross, or going to law for recovery of debts. It is also forbidden to take an oath in court, but taking an affirmation is allowable. However, if a person finds the truth while being in these forbidden positions, they must immediately take a non-combatant role and actively pursue exit from that service. They can be baptised and fellowshipped while they are doing this. While it is not forbidden to do Jury Service, it is recommended that an exemption be sought if called up.
36. No modification to any of the above rules shall be made unless notice in writing has been given to the Recording Brother. The alteration to be advised to all members and time for discussion made. Changes can only be carried after a vote of the whole ecclesia is taken.

Appendix A

Statement of the Faith forming our basis of Fellowship

THE FOUNDATION; That the book currently known as the Bible, consisting of the Scriptures of Moses, the prophets, and the apostles, is the only source of knowledge concerning God and His purposes at present extant or available in the earth, and that the same were wholly given by inspiration of God in the writers, and are consequently without error in all parts of them, except such as may be due to errors of transcription or translation.

- Nehemiah 9:30
- John 10:35
- 1 Corinthians 2:13
- 1 Corinthians 14:37
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Hebrews 1:1
- 2 Peter 1:21

Appendix A1 Truth To Be Received

1. That the only true God is He who was revealed to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, by angelic visitation and vision, and to Moses at the flaming bush (unconsumed) and at Sinai and who manifested Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ, as the supreme self-existent Deity, the ONE FATHER, dwelling in unapproachable light, yet everywhere present by His Spirit, which is a unity with His person in heaven. He hath, out of His own underived energy created heaven and earth, and all that in them is. **Deuteronomy 6:1-4, 1 Kings 8:30-39, 43, 49, 1 Chronicles 29:11-14, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Nehemiah 9:6, Job 9:4, 26:13, 28:24, 34:21 36:5, chapters 38, 39 and 40, Psalm 33:13-14, 44:21, 62:11, 92:5, 94:9, 104:24, 123:1, 124:8, 139:7-12, 145:3, 146:6, 147:4-5, 148:5, Proverbs 15:3, Isaiah 3-43, 26:4, 28:29, 40:3-27, 44:6-8, 45:5, 46:9-10, Jeremiah 10:12-13, 27:5, 28:24, 32:17-25, 51:15, Amos 9:2-3, Matthew 6:9, Mark 12:29-32, Acts 14:15, 17:24, 17:27-28, Romans 16:27, 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, Ephesians 4:6, 1 Timothy 1:17, 2:5, 6:15-1.**
2. That Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, begotten of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, without the intervention of man, and afterwards anointed with the same spirit, without measure, at his baptism. **Isaiah 7:14, 11:2, 42:1, 61:1, Matthew 1:18-25, 3:16-17, Luke 1:26-35, John 3:34, 7:16, 8:26-28, 14:10-24, Acts 2:22-24, 2:36, Galatians 4:4, 1 Timothy 3:16.**
3. That the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the earth was necessitated by the position and state into which the human race had been brought by the circumstances connected with the first man. **Genesis 3:19, Romans 5:12-19, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:19-21.**
4. That the first man was Adam, whom God created out of the dust of the ground as a living soul, or natural body of life, "very good" in kind and condition, and placed him under a law through which the continuance of life was contingent on obedience. **Genesis 2:7, 2:17, 18:27, Job 4:19, 33:6, 1 Corinthians 15:46-49.**
5. That Adam broke this law, and was adjudged unworthy of immortality, and sentenced to return to the ground from whence he was taken, a sentence which defiled and became a physical law of his being and was transmitted to all his posterity. **Genesis 3: 15-19, 22-23, Psalms 51:5, Job 14:4, John 3:6, Romans 5:12, 6:12, 7:18-24, Galatians 5: 16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:22, 2 Corinthians 1:9, 5:2-4.**
6. That God, in His kindness, conceived a plan of restoration which, without setting aside His just and necessary law of sin and death, should ultimately rescue the race from destruction, and people the earth with sinless immortals. **John 1:29, 3:16, Romans 3:26, 2 Timothy 1:11:10, Titus 1:2, 1 John 2:25, Revelation 21:4.**
7. That He inaugurated this plan by making promises to Adam, Abraham, and David, and afterwards elaborated it in greater detail through the prophets . **Genesis 3:15, 21:18, Psalms 33:5, 89:34-37, Isaiah 25:7-9, 51:1-8, Jeremiah 23:5, Hosea 13 : 14.**
8. That these promises had reference to Jesus Christ, who was to be raised up in the condemned line of Abraham and David, and who, though wearing their condemned nature, was to obtain a title to resurrection by perfect obedience, and, by dying, abrogate the law of condemnation for himself and all who should believe and obey him. **Psalms 2:6-9, Jeremiah 23:5, Daniel 7:13-14, Zechariah 14:9, Matthew 25:21, Mark 16:16, John 5:21-22, 5:26-27, 14:3, Acts 13:34-39, Romans 1:3, 3:22, 5:19-21, 6:9-10, 8:3-4, 1 Corinthians 15:45, Galatians 1:4, 4:4-5, Ephesians 1:9-10, Hebrews 1:9, 2:14-17, 2:15, 5:3-9, 7:27, 9:26, Revelations 1:18, 2:7, 3:21, 11:15.**
9. That it was this mission that necessitated the miraculous begetting of Christ of a human mother, enabling him to bear our condemnation, and, at the same time, to be a sinless bearer thereof, and, therefore, one who could rise after suffering the death required by the righteousness of God. **Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35, Romans 1:3-4, 8:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 4:4, Hebrews 2:14-17, 4:15.**

Appendix A1 Truth to be Received Continued

10. That being so begotten of God, and inhabited and used by God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was Emmanuel, God with us, God manifest in the flesh - yet was, during his natural life, of like nature with mortal man, being made of a woman, of the house and lineage of David, and therefore a sufferer, in the days of his flesh, from all the effects that came by Adam's transgression, including the death that passed upon all men, which he shared by partaking of their physical nature. **Matthew 1:23, Galatians 4:41, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 2:14, 2:17.**
11. That the message he delivered from God to his kinsmen the Jews, was a call to repentance from every evil work, the assertion of his divine sonship and Jewish kingship ; and the proclamation of the glad tidings that God would restore their kingdom through him, and accomplish all things written in the prophets. **Matthew 4:17, 5:17, 5:20-48, 19:28, 21:42-43, 23:38-39, 25:14 to the end, 27:11-42, Mark 1:15, Luke 4:43, 13:27-30, 19:11-27, 22:28-30, 24:44, John 1:49, 9:35, 10:24-25, 10:36, 11:27, 19:21.**
12. That for delivering this message, he was put to death by the Jews and Romans, who were, however, but instruments in the hands of God, for the doing of that which He had determined before to be done, that is, the condemnation of sin in the flesh, through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all, as a propitiation to declare the righteousness of God, as a basis for the remission of sins. All who approach God through this crucified, but risen, representative of Adam's disobedient race, are forgiven. Therefore, by a figure, his blood cleanseth from sin. **Matthew 26:28, Luke 19:47, 20:1-6, 22:20, 24:26, 24:46-47, John 11:45-53, 14:6, Acts 4:12, 4:27-28, 10:38-39, 13:26-29, 13:38, Romans 3:25, 8:3, 8:25, 15:8, Galatians 1:4, 2:21, 3:21-22, 4:4-5, Hebrews 7:27, 9:14-15, 9:26-28, 15:7, 10:10, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 John 1:7.**
13. That on the third day, God raised him from the dead, and exalted him to the heavens as priestly mediator between God and man, in the process of gathering from among them a people who should be saved by the belief and obedience of the truth. **Acts 2:24-27, 10:40, 13:30-37, 1 Corinthians 15:4.**
14. That he is a priest over his own house only, and does not intercede for the world, or for professors who are abandoned to disobedience. That he makes intercession for his erring brethren if they confess and forsake their sins. **Proverbs 28:13, Luke 24:51, John 17:9, Acts 5:31, Ephesians 1:20, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14-15, 10:26, 1 John 2:1.**
15. That he sent forth apostles to proclaim salvation through him, as the only name given under heaven whereby men may be saved. **Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 24:46-48, Acts 1:8, 4:12, 26:16-18.**
16. That the way to obtain this salvation is to believe the gospel they preached, and to take on the name and service of Christ, by being thereupon immersed in water, and continuing patiently in the observance of all things he has commanded, none being recognised as his friends except those who do what he has commanded. **Matthew 28:20, Mark 16:16, John 15:14, Acts 2:38-41, 8:12, 10:47, 13:48, 16:31, Romans 1:16, 2:7, 6:3-5, Galatians 27-29.**
17. That the gospel consists of "the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. **Acts 8:12, 19:8, 19:10, 19:20, 19:28, 19:30.**
18. That the things of the kingdom of God are the facts testified concerning the Kingdom of God in the writings of the prophets and apostles and definable as in the next twelve paragraphs.
19. That God will set up a kingdom in the earth, which will overthrow all others, and change them into " the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. **Isaiah 2:3-4, 11:9-10. Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14, Revelations 11:15.**

Appendix A1 Truth to be Received Continued

20. That for this purpose God will send Jesus Christ personally to the earth at the close of the times of the Gentiles. **Psalm 102:16-21, Daniel 7:13, Acts 1:9-11, 3:20-21, 2 Timothy 4:1.**
21. That the kingdom which he will establish will be the kingdom of Israel restored in the territory it formerly occupied, viz., the land bequeathed for an everlasting possession to Abraham and His seed (the Christ) by covenant. **Genesis 13:14-17, Leviticus 26:42, Jeremiah 23:3-8, Ezekiel 37:21-22, Amos 9:11-15, Micah 4:6-8, 7:20, Galatians 3:16, Hebrews 11:8-9.**
22. That this restoration of the kingdom again to Israel will involve the ingathering of God's chosen but scattered nation, the Jews; their reinstatement in the land of their fathers when it shall have been reclaimed from " the desolation of many generations " ; the building again of Jerusalem to become "the throne of the Lord" and the metropolis of the whole earth. **Isaiah 11:12, 24:34, 51:3, 60:15, 62:4, Jeremiah 3:17, 31:10, Ezekiel 36:34-36, Joel 3:17, Micah 4:7-8, Zechariah 8:8.**
23. That the governing body of the kingdom so established will be the brethren of Christ, of all generations, developed by resurrection and change, and constituting, with Christ as their head, the collective " seed of Abraham", in whom all nations will be blessed, and comprising "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets", and all in their age of like faithfulness. **Daniel 12:2, Matthew 24:34-46, Luke 13:28, 14:14, John 5:28-29, 6:39-40, 29:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, Revelations 11:18,**
24. That at the appearing of Christ prior to the establishment of the Kingdom, the responsible (namely, those who know the revealed will of God and have been called upon to submit to it) dead and living, obedient and disobedient, will be summoned before His judgement seat "to be judged according to their works" and "receive in body according to what they have done, whether it be good or bad". **Romans 2:5, 6:16, 14:10-12, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 11:18.**
25. That the unfaithful will be consigned to shame and "the second death ", and the faithful, invested with immortality, and exalted to reign with Jesus as joint heirs of the kingdom, co-possessors of the earth, and joint administrators of God's authority among men in everything. **Psalms 37:9-38, 49:7-9, Proverbs 10:25-29, Daniel 7:27, 12:2, Malachi 4:1, Matthew 5:5, 7:26, 8:12, 25:20, Luke 22:29-30, John 10:28, Romans 2:7, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, 2 Corinthians 5:1-4, Galatians 5:21, 6:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:12, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:12, Hebrews 10:26-28, James 1:12, 2 Peter 1:11, 2:12, Revelation 3:21, 5:9-10, 21:8.**
26. That the Kingdom of God, thus constituted, will continue a thousand years, during which sin and death will continue among the earth's subject inhabitants, though in a much milder degree than now. **Isaiah 65:20, Ezekiel 44:22-25, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, Revelation 20:4-8, 12:15,**
27. That a law will be established which shall go forth to the nations for their " instruction in righteousness", resulting in the abolition of war to the ends of the earth ; and the " filling of the earth with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea." **Isaiah 2:4, 11:1-5, 42:4, Micah 4:2, Habakkuk 2:14.**
28. That the mission of the Kingdom will be to subdue all enemies, and finally death itself , by opening up the way of life to the nations, which they will enter by faith, during the thousand years, and (in reality) at their close. **Isaiah 25:6-8, 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, Revelations 21:4-20, 12:15.**
29. That at the close of the thousand years, there will be a general resurrection and judgment, resulting in the final extinction of the wicked, and the immortalization of those who shall have established their title (under the grace of God) to eternal life during the thousand years. **1 Corinthians 15:24, Revelations 20:11-15.**
30. That the government will then be delivered up by Jesus to the Father, who will manifest Himself as the " all-in-all;" sin and death having been taken out of the way, and the race completely restored to the friendship of the Deity. **1 Corinthians 1:28.**

Appendix A2 Doctrines To Be Rejected

1. That the Bible is only partly the work of inspiration – or if entirely so, contains errors which inspiration has allowed (**2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21**).
2. That God is three persons (**Luke 24:49, John 1:14, 1 Timothy 2:5**).
3. That the Son of God was co-eternal with the Father (**John 1:1, Galatians 4:4**).
4. That Christ was born with a “free life” (**Galatians 4:4, 1 Timothy 2:6, Hebrews 9:12**).
5. That Christ’s nature was immaculate (**Hebrews 2:14**).
6. That the Holy Spirit is a person distinct from the Father (**Luke 24:49**).
7. That man has an immortal soul.
8. That man consciously exists in death (**Ecclesiastes 3:19, Psalm 49:17-20**).
9. That the wicked will suffer eternal torture in hell (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**).
10. That the righteous will ascend to the kingdoms beyond the skies when they die (**John 3:13**).
11. That the devil is a supernatural personal being (**1 Peter 5:8, Revelations 20:10**).
12. That the Kingdom of God is the church (**Isaiah 2:2-5**).
13. That the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ merely (**Galatians 3:8**).
14. That Christ will not come till the close of the thousand years (**1 Corinthians 15:24-29, Revelations 20:6**).
15. That the tribunal of Christ, when he comes, is not for the judgement of saints, but merely to divide among them different degrees of reward (**Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10**).
16. That the resurrection is confined to the faithful (**John 12:48, 9:39-41, 15:22, Acts 15:24**).
17. That the dead rise in an immortal state.
18. That the subject-nations of the thousand years are immortal (**Isaiah 65:20**).
19. That the law of Moses is binding on believers of the Gospel (**Hebrews 8:13**).
20. That the observance of Sunday is a matter of duty (**1 Corinthians 11:25**).
21. That baby-sprinkling is a doctrine of Scripture (**Mark 16:16, Acts 8:12**).
22. That “heathens,” idiots, pagans, and very young children will be saved (**Acts 8:12**).
23. That man can be saved by morality or sincerity, without the Gospel (**Acts 10:1-6**).
24. That the Gospel alone will save, without the obedience of Christ’s commandments (**Matthew 7:26, 28:20, Galatians 6:2, 2 Peter 2:21, Revelation 22:14**).
25. That a man cannot believe without possessing the Spirit of God.
26. That men are predestined to salvation unconditionally (**Ephesians 2:8**).
27. That there is no sin in the flesh (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).
28. That Joseph was the actual father of Jesus (**Luke 1:35**).
29. That the earth will be destroyed (**Numbers 14:21, Psalm 37:11**).
30. That baptism is not necessary to salvation (**Acts 2:38**).
31. That a knowledge of the truth is not necessary to make baptism valid (**Acts 8:12**).
32. That some meats are to be refused on the score of uncleanness (**Mark 7:15, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Colossians 2:16**).

Appendix A2 Doctrines To Be Rejected Continued

33. That the English are the ten tribes of Israel, whose prosperity is a fulfilment of the promises made concerning Ephraim (2 **Peter** 1:1, **James** 1:1).
34. That marriage with an unbeliever is lawful (**Mark** 10:8-12, **1 Corinthians** 7:39).
35. That all divorce is lawful.
36. That we are at liberty to serve in the armed forces, in the police force, due jury service, be involved in politics, or recover debts by legal coercion (**John** 17:16).
37. That Holy Spirit Gifts are available today (**1 Corinthians** 13:8-10).
38. That the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ was not required for the cleansing of his sin nature (**Hebrews** 2:14, 7:27, 9:12).
39. That the Bible account of creation is figurative, or parabolic, of a type of organic evolution in which all living things evolved from simpler varieties.

Appendix A3 The Commandments of Christ

Concerning God

1. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul, and all thy strength, and all thy mind (**Matthew 22:37**).
2. Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna (**Matthew 10:28**).
3. Glory in the Lord and not in man (**1 Corinthians 3:21, 2 Corinthians 10:17**).
4. Be imitators of God; be like Him in His kindness to the undeserving (**Matthew 5:45-48, Ephesians 5:1**).
5. Pray to God always and faint not (**Matthew 7:7, 26:41, Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Timothy 2:8, Hebrews 4:16**). Pray with brevity and simplicity (**Matthew 6:7**). Pray secretly (**Matthew 6:6**).
6. Have faith in God; cast your care upon Him: He knows your need and will provide. (**Matthew 6:25, Mark 11:22, Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 5:7**).
7. Give yourselves to His service without reserve, recognizing that you cannot serve God and Mammon (**Matthew 6:24, Romans 12:1**).
8. In everything give thanks to Him for this is His will and pleasure concerning you (**Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Hebrews 13:15**).
9. Recognize Him in all your ways, saying concerning your purposes "if the Lord will" (**Proverbs 3:6, James 4:15**).
10. Come out from the world and be separate unto Him, as His sons and daughters (**2 Corinthians 6:14-17**).

Concerning Christ

11. Let Christ dwell in your heart by faith (**Ephesians 3:17**).
12. Give him a higher place than father, mother, husband, wife, children, relations, houses, or lands (**Matthew 10:37, Luke 14:26**).
13. Set your affections upon him, and not upon the present world at all (**Colossians 3:1-4, 1 John 2:15**).
14. Take him for an example and follow in his steps (**John 13:15, 1 Peter 2:21-23**).
15. Abide in him: do not let him slip from your memory and affections (**John 15:7, Hebrews 2:1**).
16. Call him to remembrance every first day of the week in the breaking of bread, as he has appointed (**Matthew 26:26-27, Acts 2:42, 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:24-26, 16:2**).
17. Be not ashamed to confess him before men (**Mark 8:38, Luke 12:8, 2 Timothy 1:8**), at the same time taking care to expose not your holy things to the profane (**Matthew 7:6**).
18. Aim to be in a state of continual readiness for his coming. With this in view, be on your guard against the engrossments of business, the cares of life, and the allurements of pleasure (**Matthew 24:14, Luke 12:35-37, 14:26, 2 Peter 3:14**).
19. Endure to the end, submitting to hardship if it is a necessary consequence (**Matthew 24:13, 2 Timothy 2:3**).
20. Hold fast your confidence and rejoicing in him till you die or he come (**Hebrews 3:14, Revelations 2:10-25**).

Appendix A3 The Commandments of Christ Continued

Concerning Brothers and Sisters

21. Love one another with a pure heart fervently (**John 13:34, Romans 12:10, Ephesians 5:2, Colossians 3:14, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, Hebrews 13:1, 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8, 1 John 3:14-19**).
22. Brethren should not exercise lordship over one another; the greatest is to be as the youngest and he that is chief as he that doth serve. Christ's example is the perfect illustration of what is meant (**Matthew 23:11, Luke 22:26-27, John 13:13-17**).
23. Do not be angry without righteous cause, and take care lest anger, even in that case, lead to sin (**Matthew 5:22, Ephesians 4:26, Colossians 3:8**).
24. In case of breach, we are to seek reconciliation and exercise forgiveness to the utmost extent (**Matthew 5:24, 18:35, Colossians 3:13**).
25. In case of sin (known or heard of) speak not of it to others but tell the offending brother of the matter between thee and him alone, with a view to recovery (**Matthew 18:15, Galatians 6:1, James 5:19-20**).
26. Grudge not, judge not, condemn not one another (**Matthew 7:1, Romans 14:13, 1 Corinthians 4:5, James 4:11**).
27. Shut not your ear to the needy and relieve the afflicted (**Acts 20:35, Romans 12:13, James 2:16, Galatians 6:10, 1 John 3:17**).
28. To seek not your own welfare only, nor bear your own burdens merely, but have regard to those needs and burdens of others (**1 Corinthians 10:24, Galatians 6:2, Philippians 2:4**).
29. Be of one mind and follow the things that make for peace (**Romans 14:19, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Corinthians 13:11, 1 Peter 3:8**).
30. Confess your faults one to another (**James 5:16**).

Concerning the stranger

31. Let your light shine before men (**Matthew 5:16, 10:32-33**). Hold forth the Word of Life (**Philippians 2:16**). Say to the perishing, Come. (**Revelations 22:17**).
32. Agree with your adversary quickly, submitting even to wrong for the sake of peace. (**Matthew 5:25, Romans 12:18-19, 1 Corinthians 6:7**).
33. Do good to all men as opportunity may allow. The Samaritan succoured a stranger in distress; "Go thou and do likewise." If even thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirsts, give him drink (**Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27-28, 10:37, Romans 12:20, Galatians 6:10**).
34. Pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you (**Matthew 5:44**).
35. Recompense to no man evil for evil (**Romans 12:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:15**), render not evil for evil or railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing (**1 Peter 3:9**), bless, and curse not. (**Romans 12:14**).
36. Resist not evil. Compel not the restitution of stolen goods. Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath (**Matthew 5:39-40, Luke 6:29-30, Romans 12:19**).
37. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good (**Romans 12:21**).
38. As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also so to them (**Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31**).
39. Walk not as other Gentiles walk (**Ephesians 4:17**). Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (**Ephesians 5:7-11**). Be not conformed to this world (**Romans 12:2**). Come out from among them and be ye separate (**2 Corinthians 6:17**).
40. Walk honestly toward them that are without and give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. Be blameless and harmless as the sons of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (**1 Thessalonians 4:12, 1 Timothy 5:14, Philippians 2:15**).

Appendix A3 The Commandments of Christ Continued

Concerning Your Own Character

41. Be ye holy in all manner of conversation (**1 Peter 1:15-16**), as without holiness, no man shall see the Lord (**Hebrews 12:14**).
42. Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves (**Matthew 10:16, Philipians 2:15**). Be not a fool (**Ephesians 5:15-17**). Be gentle, meek, kind-hearted, compassionate, merciful, and forgiving (**Matthew 18:35, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12, 2 Timothy 2:24, Titus 2:2**).
43. Both old and young are to be sober, grave, sincere and temperate (**Philipians 4:5, Titus 2:2,7, 1 Peter 1:13, 5:8**).
44. Be hearty in everything "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men" (**Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:23**).
45. Be watchful, vigilant, brave, joyful, courteous, and manly (**1 Corinthians 16:13, Philipians 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:6,8,10, 2 Peter 1:5-7**).
46. Be sympathetic with others both in their sorrows and in their joys (**Romans 12:5**).
47. All of you be clothed with humility, not proud, minding not high things, but condescending to men of low estate (**Luke 14:11-13, Romans 11:20, 12:3-16, Philipians 2:3; Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 5:5-6**).
48. Be patient towards all, especially the weak and erring (**Romans 12:10, 14:1, 15:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:14**). Put away anger, wrath, bitterness, and all evil speaking (**Ephesians 4:31; 1 Peter 2:1**).
49. Follow after whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseful (**Philipians 4:8**). Abhor evil and abstain from its appearance (**Romans 12:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:22**).
50. The things not to be named, still less practised, among saints include adultery, fornication, uncleanness, drunkenness, covetousness, wrath, strife, sedition, hatred, emulation, boasting, vain glory, envy, jesting, foolish talking (**Ephesians 5:3-4, Galatians 5:19-21**).

Concerning Your Actions

51. Do all to the glory of God (**1 Corinthians 10:3, Colossians 3:17**).
52. Live no longer the rest of your time in the indulgence of the lusts of the flesh, but in doing the will of God (**1 Peter 4:2**). Reckon yourselves dead to sin but alive to righteousness (**Romans 6:11**), doing the will of God from the heart (**Ephesians 6:6**). Henceforth live not unto yourselves, but unto him who died for you and rose again (**2 Corinthians 5:15**).
53. Be zealous of good works, always abounding in the work of the Lord, wearying not in well doing (**1 Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:9, 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Titus 2:14, Hebrews 6:11**).
54. Beware of false teachers. (**Matthew 7:15, Philipians 3:2, 1 John 4:1**).
55. Beware of covetousness, lay not up treasure upon earth, and be ready to do every good work (**Matthew 6:19, Luke 12:15, Titus 3:1, Hebrews 13:5**).

Appendix A3 The Commandments of Christ Continued

56. Give to him that asketh, and to him that is in need, visiting the fatherless and the widow in their afflictions; and give liberally and cheerfully, remembering that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and is well pleased with such sacrifices (**Matthew 5:42, Romans 12:13, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Hebrews 13:16, James 1:27**).
57. Do not your alms before men, to be seen of them; let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth (**Matthew 6:1-4**).
58. Labour not to be rich: having food and raiment, be content (**Matthew 6:19, John 6:27, 1 Timothy 6:8**).
59. Riches are dangerous if they come to your hand, turn them into safeguards and friends by using them liberally in the Lord's service, whose stewards we are (**Luke 12:18-21, 16:9-13, 1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19, 1 Peter 4:10**).
60. Walk in the spirit. Walk worthily; putting off the old man of the flesh and putting on the new man renewed in knowledge after the divine image (**Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 4:24, 5:8-19, Colossians 3:9**).
61. Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. Your bodies are members of Christ, and God's temple; if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy. (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:15-20, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:3**).
62. Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord (**Romans 12:18, 14:19, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14**).
63. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification, even as I (Paul) please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many that they might be saved (**Romans 15:2, 1 Corinthians 10:33**).
64. Do all things without murmuring and disputing (**Philippians 2:14**).
65. Speak evil of no man. Be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness to all men (**Titus 3:2**).
66. Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (**James 1:19**).
67. Depart from all iniquity. Let none of you suffer as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters (**2 Timothy 2:19, 1 Peter 4:15**).
68. If any man suffers according to the will of God, let him commit the keeping of his soul to Him in well-doing, not rendering evil for evil, but rejoicing that he is a partaker of Christ's sufferings (**1 Thessalonians 5:15, 1 Peter 4:13, 19**).
69. Drive away youthful lusts, but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart (**1 Timothy 6:11, 2 Timothy 2:22**).
70. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, desire it with the ardour of a new-born babe for its mother's milk, meditate on these things and give thyself wholly to them (**Colossians 3:16, 1 Timothy 4:15, 1 Peter 2:2**).
71. Pay your debts. Owe no man anything, but to love one another (**Romans 13:7-8**).
72. Be subject to rulers and obey magistrates. Submit to every law and ordinance of man, except where they come into conflict with the law of Christ (**Acts 4:19, Romans 13:6, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13-17**).

Appendix A3 The Commandments of Christ Continued

Concerning Your Thoughts and Speech

73. The harbouring of unlawful desire is divinely reckoned as guilty action and is forbidden (**Matthew 5:27-28**).
74. Mortify therefore (or hold in subjection), your members which are upon earth (**1 Corinthians 9:27, Galatians 5:24, Colossians 3:5**).
75. Remove all causes of spiritual stumbling, or hindrance, from your path, even at the risk of pain and loss (**Matthew 5:29, Hebrews 12:1**).
76. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt. Let no filthy communication proceed out of your mouth, but sound speech, with gravity, sincerity, and simplicity. (**Matthew 5:37, Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8, 4:6, Titus 2:7-8**).
77. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracle of God (**1 Peter 4:11**).
78. Speak every man truth with his neighbour; lie not one to another (**Ephesians 4:25, Colossians 3:9**).
79. Swear not at all. Let your communication be yea, yea, and nay, nay (**Matthew 5:34 James 5:12**).
80. Out of the same mouth ought not to proceed blessing and cursing (**James 3:10**).

Concerning Matrimonial Relations

81. You are at liberty to marry whom you will, but only in the Lord (**1 Corinthians 7:39**).
82. Husbands and wives are not to separate except for adultery (**Matthew 19:6-9, 1 Corinthians 7:10**). The act of which will exclude from the Kingdom of God (**1 Corinthians 6:9**).
83. A husband or wife becoming a believer without the other is not to leave the other if he or she consent to a peaceable life (**1 Corinthians 7: 12-15**).
84. Husbands to love, honour, and cherish their wives (**Ephesians 5:25, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7**).
85. Wives to love, submit to, and obey their husbands as the head (**Ephesians 5:23-24, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1**).

Concerning Parents and Children

86. Parents are to bring up their children in the enlightenment of the Truth and have them in subjection with all gravity (**Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21, 1 Timothy 3:3-4**).
87. Children are to obey their parents in all things (**Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20**).

Concerning Masters and Servants

88. Masters are to be kind, just, and considerate (**Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 4:1**).
89. Servants are to be obedient in all things to their masters, not with eye service as men pleasers, but with all faithfulness as unto Christ, even if the master happen to be a bad one (**Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22, 1 Timothy 6:1-2, 1 Peter 2:18**). However, servants are at liberty to leave (**1 Corinthians 7:21**).
90. If the master be a brother, the servant (also a brother or sister), instead of rendering a slacker service on that account, is to show a greater measure of obedience (**1 Timothy 6:2**).

Appendix A3 The Commandments of Christ Continued

Concerning Disobedient Brethren

91. If any man obeys not the apostolic commands, the brethren are to have no company with him. (**2 Thessalonians 3:14**).
92. Avoid those brethren causing divisions (**Romans 16:17**).
93. We are to withdraw from everyone walking disorderly, or not in accordance with apostolic precept (**2 Thessalonians 3:6**).
94. We are to put away wicked persons (**1 Corinthians 5:11**).
95. We are to reject (or receive not into fellowship) those who consent not to the doctrine or the commandments of the Lord Jesus (**1 Timothy 6:3-5**, **Titus 3:10**, **2 John** verses 8-10).
96. If any will not work, he is not to be relieved (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**, **1 Timothy 5:8**).

Concerning The Assemblies of the Brethren

97. All things are to be done decently and in order (**1 Corinthians 14:40**).
98. All things are to be done in love and in mutual submission (**1 Corinthians 16:14**, **1 Peter 5:5**).
99. Sisters are to keep silence in the Ecclesia (**1 Timothy 2:11-12**) and are to dress modestly and with sobriety (**1 Timothy 2:9**, **1 Peter 3:3-4**).
100. The brethren are at liberty on all questions of eating and drinking, and the observance of feasts, Sabbaths, and holy days (**Romans 14:5-7**, **1 Corinthians 10:25**, **Colossians 2:16**), except that they are not at liberty to do anything inconsistent with holiness, or the glory of God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**, **1 Peter 1:15-16**, **Hebrews 12:14**). Also, love your enemies and do good to them that hate you (**Matthew 5:44**).

Appendix B Version Comparison Document

1886/1908	2024	Category	2024	1886/1908
1	1	Membership	1	1
2	2		2	2
3	3		3	3
4	6		4	5
5	4		5	New
6	14	Meetings	6	4
7	18		7	21, 22
8	15		8	23
9	16		9	New
10	17		10	New
11	18		11	12, 13, 14, 15, 17
12	11		12	New
13		13	New	
14		Appointment and Removal of Serving Members	14	6
15			15	8
16	16		9	
17	11		17	10
18	21		18	7, 11
19	22		19	38
20	23		20	28, 29
21	7	21	18	
22		22	19	
23	8	Duties of Serving Members	23	20
24	Refer Section 6		24	16, 32
25	27		25	33
26	Refer Section 6	Matters of Conduct	26	30, 37
27	Deleted		27	25
28	20		28	New
29			29	New
30	26		30	New
31	32		31	34, 35
32	24		32	36
33	25		33	New
34	31		34	New
35			35	New
36	32	36	New	
37	26			
38	19			