

The Articles of the Faith

We, the members of the New Testament Baptist Church, have comprised this document in an effort to provide clarity and unity regarding the beliefs that we claim to hold dear. Above all, we believe that the Bible is the FIRST and LAST word on every question or circumstance that we have, will or can ever face. We believe the beliefs stated in this document to be the closest understanding we have of the Word of God and the truth regarding those statements. We believe that this document, as it is fully backed by scripture, to be an agreed upon resource which the Church can use as a reference of Biblical beliefs.

Furthermore, we do acknowledge that as our faith and study continues, so does our understanding of the scripture change and grow. Therefore, this document (unlike the Bible) is subject to change that we may closer align ourselves with God's Word.

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Jesus

- Jesus is our Savior. (Matt. 1:20-21, Phil. 3:20-21, John 14:6, John 3:16)
- Jesus is life. (1 John 5:11, John 14:6)
- Jesus is the Word made flesh. (John 1:14)
- Jesus is our hope. (1 Tim. 1:1)
- Jesus the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 2:2, 1 John 4:10)
- Jesus is the all powerful, eternal God made flesh. (Matt. 28:18, Gen. 1:26, John 1:1 & 14)
- Jesus lived a sinless life here on earth. (Heb. 4:15)
- Jesus is the Son of God. (Matt. 3:16-17)
- Jesus was born of virgin. (Luke 1:30-36, Matt. 1:22-23)
- Jesus was a Nazarene not a Nazarite. (Matt. 2:23)
- Jesus has many roles and names like Advocate, Deliverer, Good Shepherd, High Priest, Light of the World, Lamb of God, Chief Corner Stone, etc. (1 John 2:1, 1 Thess. 1:10, John 10:11, Heb 4:14, John 8:12, John 1:29 & 36, 1 Peter 2:6)

Jehovah God

- God is the Only god. (Ps, 86:10, Ps. 47:7, Deut. 10:17, Deut. 6:14-15)
- God is eternal. (Ps. 90:2, Rev. 1:8 & 22:13)
- God is the Creator of all things. (Ps. 33:6, Gen. 1:1, John 1:1-3)
- God is all-powerful, all-knowing and everywhere. (Rev. 19:6, Ps. 60:3, Is. 46:9-10, Is. 55:8, Ps. 139:7-8, Heb. 13:5)
- God is holy. (1 Sam. 2:2)
- God is sovereign. (Dan. 4:34-35, Ps. 115:3)
- God is the merciful. (Ps. 136:2, Eph. 2:1-5)

The Holy Spirit

- The Spirit is a gift of God. (Acts 2:38, Acts 10:44-45, John 15:26-27)
- The Spirit is eternal. (Gen. 1:2, Isaiah 63:10-11)
- The Spirit is a member of the God-head. (Acts 13:2, 1 John 5:7)
- The Spirit will bear witness. (Romans 8:15-16, Heb. 10:15-16)
- The Spirit intercedes on our behalf. (Romans 8:26-27)
- The Spirit is a teacher. (John 14:26, Eph. 3:4-5)
- One can be filled with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 9:17)
- One can be ignorant of the Spirit. (Acts 19:2)

- The presence of the Spirit in one's life will yield fruit. (Eph. 4:22-28)
- The Spirit can be grieved. (Eph. 4:30)
- The Holy Spirit has many names and jobs like Comforter and Truth. (John 14:16-18,20; 1 John 5:6)

The King James Version Bible

Why it is the correct version and what it says of itself

The books of the KJV (King James Version) Bible stands up to canonicity. Canonicity is a book's right to be in the Bible because God determined it to be so and Man recognized it was inspired by Him. Man understands the canonicity of a book by asking 5 questions of the book.

- *Does the book in question have the authority or power of God behind it?* Use of phrases like "thus saith the Lord" and "the Word of the Lord came" are good indicator that the book does have the Power of God behind it.
- *Was the book written by a man of God?* (e.g. a prophet or an apostle)
- *Does the book reveal the Lord's truth?* The book does not offer up falsehoods such as praying for the dead, presents truths, and agrees accurately with the rest of the scripture.
- *Does the book have the power of God to change lives?* "But continue thou in the things which thou hast

learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” - 2 Timothy 3:14-15

- *Was it received, used and preserved by the people of God?* 2 Peter 3:15-16 indicates that were immediately accepted as canonical: “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

The KJV Bible holds up to the scrutiny of non-spiritual tests. The historical and scientific community has repeatedly tried to discount the scriptures only to have later discoveries align with the Word. In 1861, the French Academy of Science published a brochure that proposed 51 scientific errors in the KJV Bible. Today not one scientist holds these supposed “errors” to be true. Historians believed the Hittites to be mythic, despite the Bible’s numerous mentions of them. In 1906, Hugo Winkler of Berlin began an excavation 90 miles east of

Ankara and discovered cuneiform tablets covered in the Hittite language.

The KJV Bible was translated from something called the Received Texts. This means that the KJV was translated from texts passed down by believers and they are consistent throughout. Other translations, use something called with Critical Texts. These documents were contrived by modern liberal scholars, mainly from four ancient manuscripts that had been set aside due to their doctrinal omissions and errors. They were left unused, so they lasted longer. They are corruptions from start to finish.

Westcott & Hort were two non-Christian Greek experts that subtly crafted the Alexandrian Texts (the combined "Critical Text") into a competitor to what the believers had always copied and used among themselves down through the centuries, passed down from the original Hebrew and Greek. From these texts many false versions were spawned.

What does the KJV Bible say of itself?

- It is inspired.* (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, John 1:1, Isaiah 55:9-11)
- It is eternal. (Psalms 119:89, Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8, Psalms 12:6-7, John 10:35)
- It is true. (John 17:17, Psalms 33:4)

- It is complete. (Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelations 22:18-19, 2 Peter 1:20-21,
- It is a dynamic, living text that serves as a Christian's guidance, sustenance, weapon and so much more. (Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 55:9-11, Psalms 119:105, Psalms 18:30, Romans 15:4, Ephesians 6:17, Matthew 4:4)
- It is more powerful than opposing forces. (Acts 19:20 & 12:24)
- It is the seed of salvation. (Romans 10:17, Luke 8:11)
- It is a reproach to the lost. (Jeremiah 6:10)

Salvation

- Salvation is by grace. (Eph. 2:5,8; Titus 3:5-7)
- Salvation is a holy calling. (2 Tim. 1:9)
- Salvation is from God. (Jonah 2:9, Matt. 16:16-18)
- Salvation is for everyone ie. any race, tongue or creed. (Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13)
- One must believe to be saved. (Acts 16:30-32, John 3:16, Heb 10:39)
- We must be saved from our sin. (Romans 6:23)
- Salvation is kept by the power of God. (1 Pet. 1:5)
- Salvation is paid with the blood of Christ. (Heb. 9:11-12)

- Salvation is from God through Jesus. (Romans 5:6-11)
- Sin entered through Adam and grace entered through Christ. (Romans 5:15-21)
- Salvation is initiated by God. (Acts 16:14)
- Those that are elected* are saved. (Eph.1:4-7, 2 Tim. 1:9)
- Salvation is not of works. (Eph. 2:9, Titus 3:5)
- There is a single mode of Salvation. (Jude 3)
- Baptism is not necessary for Salvation. (Luke 23:39-43)

* see "Election" on page --

Baptism

- Baptism is defined by the meaning of the greek word baptizo (bap-tid'-zo) from which the english word is derived. Baptizo means to make whelmed (engulf, submerge, or bury), that is, fully wet. Therefore, we believe that Baptism is to full immerse an individual who is being baptized. (Acts 8:36-39)
- Baptisms are performed to remember the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:4)
- A baptism is a testimony of a saved person's faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (Acts 8:36-39)

- We believe that Baptisms are to be administered in the name of The Father, The Son and the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Baptisms can be administered by any saved man. (Acts 8:36-39, 1 Corinthians 1:12-16)
- We believe that Baptism is needed to become a member of the Church but baptism does not make one a church member. (Acts 2:41, 8:36-39)
- Baptism is not for salvation. (1 Peter 3:21, John 3:13-17, Ephesians 2:9)

The Lord's Supper

- The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to call to remembrance Christ Jesus and his death. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- Partaking of the Lord's Supper requires preparation. (1 Corinthians 11:26-29)
- The Lord's Supper descends from the Hebrew tradition of Passover. (Exodus 12:1-28, Matthew 26:17-30, 1 Corinthians 5:8-7)
- The first element of the Lord's Supper is unleavened bread. The bread represents body of Christ. (Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:17, Matthew 26:26)

- The second element of the Lord's Supper is wine. The wine represents the blood of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:20-21, Acts 2:13, Matthew 26:29)
- Christ left us the example to partake of the wine from a single cup communally. (Matthew 26:27-28)
- The Lord's Supper is not a meal. (1 Corinthians 11:33-34)

Basic Beliefs Regarding The Church

- The Church was started by Christ. (Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 2:20)
- The Church's purpose is to spread the gospel, teach and baptize. (Matthew 28:17-20, Ephesians 3:21)
- For one to become a member of the Church, we believe there are some requirements to be met. The prospective Church member must be: Saved, have been or be properly baptized (see Baptism pg. --), agree to the doctrines and beliefs of the Church, and (if applicable) a letter of recommendation from their previous Church. (Acts 18:8, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Ephesians 4:3, Romans 12:4-5, Romans 16:2)
- We believe that the church should meet on the "First Day of Week" or Sunday. (John 20:19, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2)

Offices of the Church

- The Biblically sanctioned offices in the church are: Apostles, Pastors (Bishops*), Deacons and Teachers. (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Acts 6:1-5, Philippians 1:1, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:28)
- The office of the Apostle is dead and unable to be filled by any one in the modern day based on the qualifications. (Matthew 10:1-4, Acts 1:21-22)
- To be a pastor or bishop* of one of the Lord's churches, you must meet certain requirements. They must be: a man, blameless*, never had a bill of divorce and (if married) married to only one woman, serious, not goofy, have good behavior, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunk, non-confrontational, not greedy, patient, not a fighter, vigilant, in control of his home, knowledgeable, have a good public reputation, and not desirous of the possessions of others. (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)
- To be a deacon in one of the Lord's churches, you must meet certain requirements. They must be: a man, serious, honest, not a drunk, not greedy, knowledgeable of the faith, not double tongued, proved or examined, children in subjection, never had a bill of divorce and (if married) married to only one woman, and blameless*. The wife of a deacon must

also meet certain criteria. They must be: grave, not slanderous, sober, and faithful in all things. (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

- Teachers in the church need to be knowledgeable of the scripture. (Hebrews 5:12, 1 Timothy 1:6-7)
- Those that preach the gospel need to be called by the Lord to that work. (2 Timothy 1:11, 1 Timothy 2:7, Romans 10:14-15)

How The Church Makes Decisions and Does Business

- We believe that a unanimous vote is the best way for a church to make decisions. (Acts 6:1-5, 2 Corinthians 8:17-19)
- We believe that women are not to vote in the assembly. Women are to allow their “heads” (see The Order of the Home pg. --) to make those decisions. Widows or women that don’t have a husband or male family member that are members of the church to vote their interest are to make their vote and voices heard through a deacon or the pastor. (1 Corinthians 14:34-35, 1 Timothy 2:12, Acts 6:1-5)

The Doctrine Of Election?

- God has always known who are his people. (2 Timothy 2:19)
- God has chosen who will be his people by his own counsel and will. (Ephesians 1:4-5, 11)
- No action of a person or quality within that person from the start to the end of life will affect whether God has chosen that person or not. (Romans 9:11-16)

The End Times

- We are not sure when Jesus will come to take his people home to be with him and we never will. We were given some “signs” to look for though. (2 Thessalonians 2:3, Matthew 24:36-39 & 42)
- We believe the Bible teaches that we will be removed from this earth in a “catching away” or “rapture” before the end time seven year tribulation. (Revelation 14:14-20, Genesis 7:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, Revelation 4:1-2, Genesis 9:15-25, John 14:1-4)
- At some point, there will a judgement of the saved by grace known as the Judgement Seat of Christ. We are not given an exact time when this will take place but we do believe it will take place after the rapture. (2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Romans 14:10-12)

- We believe that there will be a Great Tribulation and it will last a literal 7 years. (Revelation 11:1-3, Revelation 12:13-14, Daniel 9:24-27)
- Who are the 144,000? We believe the Bible may have left some clues about who they may be. First, we do not believe that they are: The Russellite or “Jehovah’s Witnesses” cult and we do not believe them to be Jews that are dwelling in the earth at the time. The possible explanation is that they are the male children who died in Herod’s purging in an attempt to kill the young Jesus. For more on this theory, we would direct you to this youtube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZZ7ZFTFmR8 We would like to say we do not necessarily believe everything this gentlemen does nor do we vouch for his doctrine. His explanation of the theory is better than anything we could write here. (Revelation 7:2-8, Revelation 14:1-4)
- We do believe some form of redemption is possible during the Tribulation. It will be hard won. Among good works we believe these people will have not taken the mark of the Beast and also will have not worshiped the Beast or the Image of the Beast. (Revelation 14:9-13, Revelation 12:7, Revelation 15:2-5, Revelation 20:4)
- Sometime before the Battle of Armageddon and the after the Rapture of the saved the wedding of Jesus

and “The Bride” will take place. (Revelation 20:2,7; 21:9)

- We believe the Bride to be the saved, faithful, members of Christ’s Church. (2 Corinthians 11:2-3, Hebrews 10:1, Revelation 19:7-8, 1 Corinthians 3:14-15, Ephesians 5:22-32, Hebrews 12:23, below at the request of the church we have included the article that Brother Jarrett Watson wrote on the faithful being the Bride of Christ)
- There will be a battle that Jesus will fight and win to establish his kingdom and 1000 year reign. This Battle is known as Armageddon. (Revelation 16:16-21, Zechariah 12:8-11, Revelation 19:11-16)
- We believe that Christ will establish a kingdom here on earth that will last 1000 years. This is fulfillment of God’s promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:16-17. We do not believe that this 1000 year reign is figurative. In Revelation 20:2 the word year is from the Greek word “etos” literally meaning “year” as in a calendar year. (Revelation 20:1-6, Luke 1:31-32)
- At the End of the 1000 Year Reign, Satan will be loosed for a little season. He will rally the armies of earth against Jesus and his people in Jerusalem for one last battle. (Revelation 20:7-10, Joel 1:3)
- We believe there will be a Great Judgement at the White Throne at the end of time. We believe based on wording of the scripture that this will be where all the

lost and fallen of all time and the “redeemed” (living and dead) people from after the rapture will be judged. (Revelation 20:1-15)

- We believe that the city known as New Jerusalem is the home that Jesus is currently preparing. (John 14:2-5, Revelation 21:9-10)

Why the Bride is the Faithful of the Church

By Brother Jarrett Watson

We are currently betrothed/espoused to Christ (2 nd Corinthians 11:2-3)

Notice in the text that Paul (who is writing to the church of God which is at Corinth) says “that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” Chaste meaning pure and clean. But in v. 3 he was afraid that they might not appear chaste before Christ, so it appears that some will not appear as chaste before Christ even though they are in the church.

Under the law (which was a shadow of things to come – Hebrews 10:1), a bride was required to be faithful during the betrothal period.

Deuteronomy 22:13-21 describes where a man took a woman to be his wife who he thought was a virgin and it came to pass that if she was not a virgin, she was to be stoned.

If you recall, Joseph (being a just man) intended to divorce Mary privately instead of making it a public affair when he found out she was with child while they were still betrothed/espoused. (Matthew 1:18-19)

Again in Deuteronomy 22:23-24 describes a woman who is betrothed and willingly has a relationship with a different man. In that situation both offenders are to be put to death.

Then in Revelation 19:7-8, we see the bride dressed in fine linen, clean (which can also mean pure) and white. It says the linen is the righteousness of the saints. That word righteousness is different than most.

other uses of the word righteousness in the scriptures. It is only used four times as righteous (the other three being in the book of Romans) and it means righteous acts or righteous deeds. So then, here garment is her “good works.” We know some will be saved only “so as by fire” because their works are burned up (1 st Corinthians 3:15).

They have no good works; they just skimmed by if you will, but in v.14 we see that others will receive a reward because of their works.

I think we're all familiar with Ephesians 5:22-32 which describes the church as the bride of Christ. The word "church" here is still "ekklesia" which is church, congregation, assembly (translated 110 times as "church"). To say that Paul means all of the saved here would be to change the very meaning of the word "church." Hebrews 12:23 differentiates between the "general assembly" and the "church."

One last point, also from Ephesians: in the first verse of Ephesians, Paul addresses his letter to the "saints" AND to the "faithful." That must mean there is a difference between the "saints" and the "faithful," for he addresses them separately (to the saints, and to the faithful). This seems to indicate further that bride is the faithful of the church.

Landmarkism

- There has always been a TRUE church since Christ's establishment. (Matthew 16:18, Daniel 2:44-45, Hebrews 3:1-6)
- Churches send out missionaries that carry the teaching and beliefs of the sending church to pass on to the place and people the Lord has led them. (Acts 13:1-3, Acts 16:4-5)
- Christ is the head of the Church. (Hebrews 8:1-5, Ephesians 5:23)
- A true church will uphold the truth. (Psalms 23:10-12 & 22-24, 2 Corinthians 11:2-4, 1 Timothy 3:15)
- Teaching and the Ordinances are given to the church only. (Matthew 28:16-20)
- We believe that the establishment of a new church requires 2 things: a sending church of like faith and

order and a missionary carrying the same gospel and doctrines. (Romans 10:14-15, Acts 13:1-3, Acts 16:4-5)

Biblical Christian Living: Separation

What is the doctrine of Separation?

Separation means to be a set apart and distinct people, following after the attitude and actions of Christ. (Romans 12:13, 2 Cor. 6:14-18, John 17:16, 1 Peter 2:9, Acts 11:26, 1 John 2:15-17, Colossians ch. 3)

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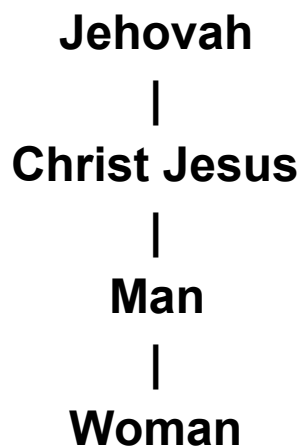
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The Order of the Home

In the Bible we are given an authority order that a Godly home should follow. Jehovah God is the head (authority) of Christ, Christ is the head of Man, Man is the head of Woman. (1 Cor. 3:23, 1 Cor. 11:3)



The Roles of the Man, the Woman, and the Children in the Home

Man	Woman	Child
Men are the providers. (1 Timothy 5:8)	Women are to be submissive. (Col. 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1-4)	Children are to be obedient to their parents. (Eph 6:1, Ex. 20:12)
Men are teachers. (Titus 2:2)	Women are to teach the young women through Godly manner. (Titus 2:3-5)	Children are to honor their parents. (Eph 6:2, Ex. 20:12)

Men are to discipline the children. (Pro. 23:13-14, Pro. 22:15)	Women are to discipline the children. (Pro. 23:13-14, Pro. 22:15)	Children are to be attentive to the instruction of their parents. (Pro. 1:8)
Men are to love their wives. (Eph. 5:33)	Women are to be virtuous. (Pro. 31:10-27)	
Men are the spiritual leaders of the home. (Josh. 24:15)	Women are to revere their husbands. (Eph. 5:33)	
Men are to rear the children. (Eph. 6:4)	Women are to attend to the physical needs of their husbands. (1 Cor. 7:3-5)	
Men are to attend to the physical needs of their wives. (1 Cor. 7:3-5)	Women are to be keepers at home. (Titus 2:5)	
Men are to honor their wives. (1 Peter 3:7)		

Biblical Child Rearing

- The teaching, correction and discipline of children starts at an earliest of age. This early attention to their training shapes the person they will become. (Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6:5-8, Proverbs 6:20-22)
- The rod* is the instrument of correction and punishment for wrongdoing with children. (Proverbs 29:15-17, 22:15, 23:13-14, 10:13)
- The disciplining of a child shows your love and care for that child. This discipline should mirror the love

and care the Lord has for us as Christians when He chastises us. (Proverbs 3:12, 19:18, 13:24, 29:17)

- When it comes time to correct your child, remember the way and manner which you do it. You are to discipline not abuse. (Ephesians 6:4)

Biblical Dress

What is nakedness?

Nakedness is the exposure of the flesh of the torso, loins, and/or thighs. (Isaiah 47:2-3, Psalm 147:10, John 21:7, Mark 14:51-52, 1 Timothy 2:8-10, Exodus 28:42)

What is the proper garment for a man or woman?

The proper garment for a man or woman is a culturally identified garment that highlights your gender, promotes biblical modesty (see modesty below), and covers one's nakedness (see nakedness above). (Deut. 22:5)

What is the mode of dress?

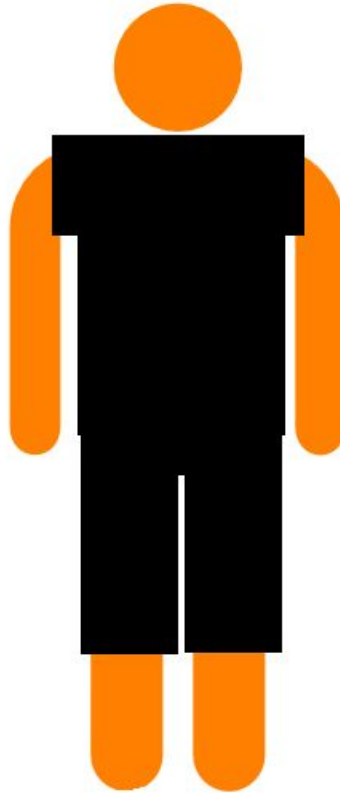
1 Timothy 2:9 states that the mode of dress is modest. A modest garment would be one that is orderly and does not attract attention to one's self. (ie overly tight clothing exposing one's form)

The Purpose of Clothing

- To glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- To allow the inner man to shine (1 Peter 3:3-4)
- To cover nakedness (Genesis 3:21)

What is Biblical dress?

Biblical dress is the wearing of a God glorifying, inner man promoting, orderly, modest garment for a man or woman that is a culturally identified garment that highlights your gender and covers at least the flesh of the torso, loins, and thighs.



Areas covered in black are areas that must be covered to cover nakedness.

Substance Abuse and the Bible

- The Bible allows for the use of some alcoholic beverages and, by extension, drugs for medicinal use. (1 Timothy 5:23)
- The Bible does warn that though many things are “lawful” (allowed) to Christians not all things are “expedient” (helpful) to Christian life. Alcohol, drugs, etc. can be consumed by Christians but its use can cause problems in our lives. (1 Corinthians 10:23)

- The Bible states the body we are given is a temple and we are supposed to glorify God with it. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- The Bible warns Christians to avoid gluttony of all kinds. (Proverbs 23:20-21, Proverbs 23:2, Philippians 3:18-19)
- Christians should avoid the excessive use of alcohol. (Proverbs 23:29-30, Proverbs 20:1, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
- Christians should avoid the use of drugs in a non-medicinal capacity COMPLETELY. The Bible calls it witchcraft and sorcery.* (Revelation 9:21, Revelation 18:23, Galatians 5:20)

Sexual Relations and the Bible

- Sex is for the propagation of mankind. (Genesis 1:28)
- Sex between a married man and woman is the only acceptable sexual relations between two people. (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, Matthew 19:4)
- For a married couple, withholding sex from your husband/wife is wrong. (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
- The Bible states, that to lust (have sexual desires) for an individual is the same as having sex with that person. (Matthew 5:28)

- The Bible gives us clear instruction on what is not acceptable concerning sexual relations. (Leviticus 18:6-24, Romans 1:26-32)
- Fornication or sexual acts outside of the marriage bond with another person is wrong. (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 1 Corinthians 6:18)
- Adultery (having sexual relations) with a married person you are not married to is a sin. (Exodus 20:14)
- Marriage and sexual relations after divorce is, by the Bible, considered adultery. (Matthew 19:9)
- Polygamy or a man/woman with multiple wives/husbands is wrong. (Matthew 19:5, Genesis 2:21-25, Mark 10:8)

Homosexuality and the Bible

- The sin of homosexuality or sodomy, the Biblical word for homosexuality, is an abomination. (Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Genesis 13:13, 1 Kings 14:24)
- There is punishment for sodomy. (Romans 1:26-28, Genesis 19:1-28, Jude 1:7, 2 Peter 2:6)

Christian Department in the World

“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” - Luke 6:31

- A Christian should present a Christ-like character and example to the world. (1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Peter 2:11-25, Romans 12:14-21, Matthew 5:38-48, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33)
- A Christian should possess and practice charity (love in action). (1 John 3:17-18, Luke 10:29-37, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8)
- A Christian should be honest and straightforward. (Psalm 34:13-14, Romans 13:13-14)
- A Christian should be content in whatever they have or whatever state they find themselves in. (Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:6-8)
- A Christian should not be lazy. (Proverbs 20:13, Proverbs 6:6-8, Proverbs 31:13-32, Romans 12:11, 2 Thessalonians 3:10, 1 Timothy 5:8)
- A Christian should not use foul language/curse. (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- A Christian should not swear an oath to anyone or anything. (James 5:12, Ecclesiastes 5:5, Matthew 5:33-37)

Christian Deportment in the Church

- Members of a church body are encouraged to come to church as often as possible for encouragement, instruction and feeding from the Word. (1

Thessalonians 5:11, Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 5:12-14, Ephesians 4:11-16, Proverbs 27:17, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

- Christians should display brotherly love to their brothers and sisters. (Romans 12:10, Romans 13:8, 1 John 3:14)
- Christians should be unified with their brothers and sisters in the Church. (1 Peter 3:8, 1 Corinthians 12:26, Philippians 2:2)
- Christians should be charitable (see charity*) to their brothers and sisters. (James 2:13-16, 1 John 3:16-18)
- All members old and young have responsibilities to each other. (Galatians 6:1, James 5:16, Titus 2:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15)
- A Christian should be respectful of their brothers and sisters. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
- A Christian should practice forgiveness and patient self-control with their brothers and sisters. (Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13)
- Christians should not engage in gossiping or backbiting with each other. (James 4:11, Galatians 5:13-14, 2 Corinthians 12:20)
- Christians should refrain from judging one another. (Romans 14:13)
- A Christian should conduct themselves in such a manner as to not be an offense or cause to fall

(stumblingblock) to their brothers and sisters.

(Romans 14:13, 1 Corinthians 8:13, Matthew 18:6-9,
1 Corinthians 8:9,

- Christians are instructed to greet one another in many different ways. (Galatians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 13:12-13)
- Women are to keep silent in the assembly of the Church. (1 Corinthians 14:34, 1 Timothy 2:11-12)
- Men should lift holy hands. (1 Timothy 2:8)
- Men should affirm with amens in the assembly of the Church. (2 Corinthians 1:18-20, 1 Chronicles 16:36)

Christian Courtship (Dating)

- When you take romantic interest in another person, a Christian must make sure they choose the right person. (2 Corinthians 6:14, Amos 3:3)
- During the relationship, a christian must strive to maintain a good testimony by keeping themselves from suspect situations and circumstances. For example, this can be achieved with the presence of chaperones as witnesses. (1 Thessalonians 5:22, Proverbs 14:25, Deuteronomy 19:15)

- If a potential situation for temptation arises, a Christian and their romantic interest remove themselves from this situation immediately. (Matthew 26:41, James 1:14-15)
- A Christian should not touch their romantic interest in a manner of strong sexual desire. (1 Corinthians 7:1-2)
- A Christian should never engage in sexual activity with a romantic interest. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, Proverbs 7:6-27)

Biblical Hair Length

- Men are to have short hair. (1 Corinthians 11:14)
- Women are to have long hair. (1 Corinthians 11:15)

Holidays

“Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.” -Galatians 4:8-10

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Thanksgiving

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever: The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever: The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever: And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever: With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever: And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever: But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever: And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever: Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever: And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever: And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever: Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever. Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever: And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever. Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.” - Psalms 136

- The Bible speaks endlessly of giving thanks to God. (Psalm 92:1, Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalms 95:1-2)
- Christians should share their thankfulness to God with others. (Psalms 26:7-8)
- The Word of God tells us that His people observed a harvest time festival of thanks to God. (Exodus 34:22, 23:16)

- There is Biblical precedent for celebration and feasting when you are thankful for an event or circumstance in your life. (Luke 15:20-24)
- Christians should take time to reflect on the blessings of God. (1 Samuel 12:24)
- Being thankful and giving thanksgiving to God should be a characteristic of every Christian. In the Old Testament, there was a man who was actually appointed specifically to give thanksgiving to the Lord. (Nehemiah 11:16-17)

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday. Its roots are grounded in thankfulness for the bounty of a harvest and God sending aid to people who would have surely died. Below is a portion of an article from History.com on the origins of Thanksgiving:

“Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower’s original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees,

catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the historic banquet's exact menu, the Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow wrote in his journal that Governor Bradford sent four men on a "fowling" mission in preparation for the event, and that the Wampanoag guests arrived bearing five deer. Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations.

Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 to mark the end of a long drought that had threatened the year's harvest and prompted Governor Bradford to call for a religious fast. Days of fasting and thanksgiving on an annual or occasional basis became common practice in other New England settlements as well. During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year, and in 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States; in it, he called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the happy conclusion to the country's war of independence and the successful ratification of the U.S. Constitution. His successors John Adams and James Madison also designated days of thanks during their presidencies.

In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday; each celebrated it on a different

day, however, and the American South remained largely unfamiliar with the tradition. In 1827, the noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hale—author, among countless other things, of the nursery rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb”—launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians. Abraham Lincoln finally heeded her request in 1863, at the height of the Civil War, in a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.” He scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939, when Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt’s plan, known derisively as Franksgiving, was met with passionate opposition, and in 1941 the president reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.”

History.com Editors (2009, October 27). Thanksgiving 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving>

New Testament Baptist Church does not agree with all the views, beliefs or articles of History.com and have included the above information believing it to be an accurate account of the true origins of the holiday.

Christmas

- Many Christians believe that Christ’s birthday is to celebrated on Christmas. The biblical noted birthday celebrations are of the enemies of God and no where in scripture are we told celebrate the birth Christ. (Genesis 40:20, Mark 6:21, Matthew 14:6-8, Job 1:4)

- Pagans used decorated trees (like the Christmas tree) in false worship and ceremonies. (Jeremiah 10:1-5, Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 4:15-19, 2 Kings 17:10)
- Santa Claus is a mythic being that is rooted in paganism, branded by Catholicism and co-opted by billions for the sins of lying and idolatry.
 - Santa Claus claims powers and attributes to himself that belong only to God. (Isaiah 42:8, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 23:24, Job 34:21, Hebrews 4:13, 1 John 3:20,)
 - Saint Nicholas was a man given the “sainted” status by the Catholic church and then folded into the Santa Claus myth. The term “saint” is not a status of how holy or good you are it is a term for saved individuals. (Romans 1:7)
 - Santa Claus is a lie that has been perpetrated by many to generations of children. Lying is a sin. (Proverbs 6:16-17, Proverbs 12:22, John 8:44)
- The term Christmas descends from the old english words Crīstes mæsse literally meaning Christ Mass, a Mass of course referring to the Catholic service. Even Christmas’ very name is something associated with false Christianity.

The biggest problem with Christmas is in its pagan and idolatras origins. Below we have attached an excerpt from an article from History.com:

“The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many peoples rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on fire. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days. The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new pig or calf that would be born during the coming year.

The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.

In Rome, where winters were not as harsh as those in the far north, Saturnalia—a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture—was celebrated. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continuing for a full month, Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, slaves would become masters. Peasants were

in command of the city. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could join in the fun.

Also around the time of the winter solstice, Romans observed Juvenalia, a feast honoring the children of Rome. In addition, members of the upper classes often celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on December 25. It was believed that Mithra, an infant god, was born of a rock. For some Romans, Mithra's birthday was the most sacred day of the year.

In the early years of [Catholic] Christianity, Easter was the main holiday; the birth of Jesus was not celebrated. In the fourth century, church officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a holiday. Unfortunately, the Bible does not mention date for his birth (a fact Puritans later pointed out in order to deny the legitimacy of the celebration). Although some evidence suggests that his birth may have occurred in the spring (why would shepherds be herding in the middle of winter?), Pope Julius I chose December 25. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival. First called the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century. By the end of the eighth century, the celebration of Christmas had spread all the way to Scandinavia. Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.

By holding Christmas at the same time as traditional winter solstice festivals, church leaders increased the chances that Christmas would be popularly embraced, but gave up the ability to dictate how it was celebrated. By the Middle Ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religion. On Christmas, [Catholic] believers attended church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to today's Mardi Gras. Each year, a beggar or student would be crowned the "lord of misrule" and eager celebrants played the part of his subjects. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their

best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined “debt” to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens.”

History.com Editors (2009, October 27). History of Christmas. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas>

New Testament Baptist Church does not agree with all the views, beliefs or articles of History.com and have included the above information believing it to be an accurate account of the true origins of the holiday.

Halloween

- Originally and even today, Halloween is a celebration of Death and God deems it an enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:25-26, Mark 5:1-5)
- Halloween has always been celebrated in the darkness and for the dark. Christians are to have no association with darkness or the workers of it. (Ephesians 5:11 & 4:27, Isaiah 5:20, 1 Corinthians 10:21-23, John 12:46)
- Dressing up on Halloween as a evil creature, demon, monster, witch or any of the forces of evil is wrong. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- The monsters, undead and creatures associated with Halloween are rejected by the Scripture.
 1. Witches (Leviticus 20:6 & 27, 1 Samuel 28:1-11, Galatians 5:19-21)
 2. Vampires (Leviticus 17:10-11, Deuteronomy 12:23)

3. Undead and those who raise them (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)

Among all the issues with Halloween that are listed above, its pagan roots should lead one to abstain from the practice of this holiday. Below we have excerpt from an article on History.com:

“Halloween’s origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other’s fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By 43 A.D., the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic

lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of “bobbing” for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.”

History.com Editors (2009, November 18). Halloween 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>

New Testament Baptist Church does not agree with all the views, beliefs or articles of History.com and have included the above information believing it to be an accurate account of the true origins of the holiday.

Easter

- Easter gets its name from a goddess of spring and renewal called Eostre. We should not be associated with pagan deities in the slightest. (Judges 2:11-14, Ezekiel 8:12-16)

“...in English-speaking countries, and in Germany, Easter takes its name from a pagan goddess from Anglo-Saxon England who was described in a book by the eighth-century English monk Bede. Eostre was a goddess of spring or renewal and that's why her feast is attached to the vernal equinox,' Professor Cusack said." [1]

- The eggs and the hares (or rabbit) associated with the celebration of the Easter holiday are pagan fertility symbols of Eostre. Similarly, the children of Israel rose to “play” before the golden calf which was Aaron’s appropriation of the Egyptian fertility goddess Hathor. The Lord was wrathful against Israel for this and we shouldn’t be involved with similar things. (Exodus 32:1-10, Romans 1:25)

“Eggs, as a symbol of new life, became a common people's explanation of the resurrection; after the chill of the winter months, nature was coming to life again,” Professor Cusack said.

Rabbits and hares are also associated with fertility and were symbols linked to the goddess Eostre.” [1]

“Hathor, in ancient Egyptian religion, was goddess of the sky, of women, and of fertility and love. Her principal animal form was that of a cow...” [2]

1.

Penny Travers (2017, April 14). Origin of Easter. Retrieved from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-15/the-origins-of-easter-from-pagan-roots-to-chocolate-eggs/8440134>

2. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (1998, July 20) Hathor Egyptian goddess. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hathor-Egyptian-goddess>

New Testament Baptist Church does not agree with all the views, beliefs or articles of the cited websites and have included the above information believing it to be a accurate account of the true origins of the holiday.

Abortion

- Abortion is murder because the unborn child is a living soul in the eyes of God. (Jeremiah 1:5, Psalms 127:3-5, Isaiah 49:15)
- God a Mother’s and Child’s life of equal value. (Exodus 21:22-24)
- God creates each life for a purpose. (Galatians 1:15-16)

Glossary of Terms

Bishop - *as used in 1 Timothy 3:2 comes from the Greek word episkopos (ep-is-kop-os) meaning a superintendent, that is, Christian officer in general charge of a church or an overseer. The modern term for this is a pastor.*

Blameless - as used in 1 Timothy 3:2 comes from the Greek word *anepileptos* (an-ep-eel-ape-tos) mean *inculpable or free of guilt and unrebukeable*.

Charity - as used in 1 Corinthians 13:1 comes from the Greek word *agape* (ag-ah-pay) meaning love, that is, *affection or benevolence*. This means that charity carries the mean of love in action.

Election - as used in Romans 9:11 comes from the Greek word *ekloge'* (ek-log-ay') meaning primarily the picking out or choosing. In terms of Baptist doctrine, it is used to identify a doctrine that states God, before the foundation of the world, decreed to set apart a people to Himself. These people and only these people have been, are and always will be God's.

Inspiration - as used in 2 Timothy 3:16 comes from the Greek word *theopneustos* (theh-op'-nyoo-stos) meaning *God breathed*. In terms of the above mentioned scripture, it means that the Word of God is actually part of Him and He spoke to writers as to the Word they should write. This does not mean that the writers of the scripture wrote like a secretary taking a note or mindless automatons. They were tools for the service of God. Example: A man that knows to play wind instruments can play the same song on a trumpet, a saxophone and a trombone. But even if the same song is played on each, it will sound different

from instrument to instrument despite the same “breath” of the man powering it and his fingers guiding the notes. It is the same with scriptures and the men that wrote them down. This, for example, accounts for the difference in tones and message in the Gospels but the unity of their message.

Propitiation - *as used in 1 John 2:2 comes from the Greek word hilasmos (hil-as-mos’) meaning atonement or means of appeasing. In terms of Jesus’ sacrifice for us, it means that Christ’s death was the payment for our sins.*

Rod - *as used in Proverbs 22:15 and various other places in the Scriptures comes from Hebrew word shebet (shay-bet) literally meaning stick or staff. This word in application literally holds the meaning of a stick from a tree or rod of wood.*

Sorcery - *as used in Revelation 9:21 and various other places comes from the Greek word pharmakeia meaning literally medication and the use or administering of drugs.*