



Foundations

The Faith Family Church Culture



May 1, 2008

Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8

This document was produced by the pastor of a local church for the use in his church. It is only intended to help members understand the culture of their church. It is not an in-depth expository nor a standard.

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The text of the actual Tenets of Faith are adopted from the Tenets of Faith of Rhema Bible Church in Broken Arrow, OK. The explanations of those tenets are those of Faith Family Church.

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These are the fundamental truths which define our core beliefs

This chapter covers the following:

- Why it is important to study doctrine
- Our Tenets of Faith
- Our view of certain popular beliefs

Why it is important to study doctrine

Doctrine to the believer is what bones are to the body. The Bible is God-breathed truth. By understanding the scriptural principles upon which we stand you will better be able to connect with other believers in our body.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness... 2Ti 3:16

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. 1Ti 4:16

Understanding what we believe will strengthen you for the rest of your life. Christ is 'the Word' and it is upon Him that we build. Doctrine is really all about getting to know God. God's word is life, and you will find that as you take the time to really think on these truths they will become alive in you.

The Word of God - The Scriptures

The author of the Bible is God. But in His wisdom He chose to pen His word through the hands of men.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2Ti 3:16

Because the Bible was written by God we can say that God's word, or the Scripture, is God-breathed. It is truth and it is life.

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. Joh 17:17

The Bible has an Old Testament and a New Testament. Inside the Old Testament is the Old Covenant and inside the New Testament is the New Covenant. Jesus introduced the New Covenant and His death and resurrection instituted this New Covenant. For that reason we accept the New Testament as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine. Under the Old Covenant men had to continually sacrifice in order to be accepted by God. Under the New Covenant Jesus was God's perfect sacrifice and there's no longer a need for us to sacrifice.

Our Tenet of Faith - The Scriptures

The Bible is the inspired word of God, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant (recorded in the New Testament) is what we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine.

Ref: 2Ti 3:16; 2Pe 1:21; 1Th 2:13

The Godhead - Our God is One

Perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of Christianity is that our God is one, manifested in three persons; The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

Our God is One. Deu 6:4

How can three be one? Here's an illustration that may help. Our church owns a salt water aquarium with three interconnected tanks; one 125 gallon, and two 20 gallon tanks. It is one body of water in three tanks. What you add to one tank, you have added to all three. When you take water out of one tank, you have taken from all three. In this sense our aquarium is one and yet three tanks, one of which is greatest.

God the Father

The Father is greater than all.

"My Father is greater than I" - Jesus in Joh 14:28

Jesus the Son

The Son is the Word – flesh covered, the One Begotten, and has existed with the Father from the beginning.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Joh 1:14

The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God is our Helper, Comforter and Guide. He leads and guides us. He indwells believers just as He indwelt Jesus when He was on earth. The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own initiative, but rather He speaks what He hears from God.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever..” Jesus in Joh 14:16

Our Tenet of Faith - The Godhead

Our God is one, manifested in three persons, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, being co-equal. God the Father is greater than all; the Sender of the Word (Logos) and the Begetter. The Son is the Word flesh-covered, the One Begotten, and has existed with the Father from the beginning. The Holy Spirit proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal.

Ref: Deu 6:4, Phi 2:6, Joh 14:28, Joh 16:28, Joh 1:14, Joh 14:16, Joh 15:26

Hell and Eternal Retribution

It's important to never forget that there is a real heaven and a real hell that follow this life and these are the only two places a person can spend eternity. Because it is so important, Jesus often spoke about each of them. The good news of the Gospel is that every person can go to heaven through faith in Jesus Christ. We must firmly grasp the great importance of our divine purpose on earth and why it is that our life is about much more than the car we drive, where we will vacation and the square footage of our home. Both heaven and hell are real. The Bible is quite clear that the one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost. This is a very sobering thought which we must never forget. We must allow this difficult truth to keep us focused.

Salvation may only be accepted in this lifetime.

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...Heb 9:27

The Book of Revelation speaks about an event which will surely occur. It involves a Throne and a Book. You must be sure your name is written in that Book of Life.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:11,12,15

Our Tenet of Faith - Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire and, therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the gospel or repenting. The lake of fire is literal.

Ref: Heb 9:27, Rev 19-20

Man, His Fall and Redemption

The Bible is the story of man, his fall and God's redemption of man. It is the story of God seeking man. It is crucial to understand the need for salvation and the importance of walking in that salvation. The Bible says that all have sinned:

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Rom 3:23

and that not one person is righteous before God:

There is none righteous, no, not one... Rom 3:10

What this means is that everyone needs a Savior. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil and He gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God. That is why He died for you and me - so that we could be restored back into a right relationship with God.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 5:1

Jesus not only restored us back into a right relationship with God, but He came to destroy the works of the devil.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1Jo 3:8

Salvation cannot be earned. To try to earn your salvation is to reject the salvation already paid for by Jesus Christ. Salvation cost the life of God's only Son, Jesus, and that which cost much is offered as a free gift to everyone.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph 2:8-9

Our Tenet of Faith - Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. The Bible says, "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," and "...There is none righteous, no, not one" Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God. Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God.

Ref: Rom 3:23, Rom 3:10, Rom 5:14, 1Jo 3:8, Eph 2:8-10

Eternal Life and the New Birth

Jesus said, "You must be born again." This is called the "new birth" and this new birth produces eternal life - the very life of God. True repentance is necessary in order to gain this new birth.

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2Co 7:10

When we are born again we are not just improved, we are made brand new. We are not repaired, we are recreated. We have received eternal life. We do not go to heaven because we are sin free, but because we have received the eternal life of God.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1Jo 5:12

Our Tenet of Faith - Eternal Life and the New Birth

Man's first step toward salvation is godly sorrow that produces repentance. The new birth is necessary to all men, and when experienced produces eternal life.

Ref: 2Co 7:10; 1Jo 5:12; Joh 3:3-5

Water Baptism

Water baptism is all about Lordship. Although water baptism is not required in order to be saved, it is a direct commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ who Himself was baptized. It is important to follow Jesus' example and command. Because baptism is about Lordship, we suggest a minimum age of about 8 years old for children to help ensure they will remember this important day.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Mat 28:19

Water baptism is a public demonstration of an inward decision. It's a symbol of how we identify with the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

...therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom 6:4

Our Tenet of Faith - Water Baptism

Baptism in water is by immersion, is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Ref: Mat 28:19; Rom 6:4; Col 2:12; Act 8:36-39

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Baptism means to "be immersed" and the Bible mentions several different kinds of baptisms. Water baptism is very important, but perhaps even more important than being water baptized is to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers. The first baptism in the Holy Spirit is what happened on the day of Pentecost and it is the promise of the Father that Jesus told the disciples to wait for.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." - Jesus to His disciples in Act 1:8

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for every born again believer.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call. Act 2:38-39

In the Bible, every time the Holy Spirit fell on the people and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit the people spoke in other tongues.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Act 2:1-4

Speaking in tongues is different, no doubt about it. But praying in tongues is extremely important because it is perfect prayer, given by the Holy Spirit. Just how important is speaking in tongues? Here's what the Apostle Paul said:

I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all... 1Co 14:18

And Paul explained what happens when a believer prays in tongues:

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 1Co 14:14

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is received after salvation and 1 Corinthians 14 is the most comprehensive explanation of tongues in the Bible. When a person is born again the Spirit of God indwells the believer. When the believer is Baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God overflows the believer. That is why Jesus instructed His disciples to wait until they received the great spiritual power that came with this experience.

Our Tenet of Faith - The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the new birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance.

Ref: Mat 3:11; Joh 14:16,17; Act 1:8; Act 2:38,39; Act 19:1-7; Act 2:1-4

Sanctification

When we are born again our spirits are made brand new. Our physical features are unchanged and our minds..well; they may need a lot of work. Our minds may have become corrupted and conformed to the world's way of doing things rather than God's way of doing things. This process of making choices that agree with God's word is called sanctification. Sanctification literally means: To set apart. Holy things are things we set apart for God. So really, holiness is simply living a life in which you set yourself apart to follow the Lord. It's much easier to just cross the line and live for God.

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. Heb 12:14

Here's what the Apostle Paul said about his walk with the Lord:

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phi 3:12-14

Here is what we need to do with our minds. We need to renew them to God's way of thinking. You will either be conformed to this world or be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Something that is transformed is changed into another form.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:2

Our Tenet of Faith - Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return.

Ref: Heb 12:14, 1Th 5:23, 2Pe 3:18, 2Co 3:18, Phi 3:12-14, 1Co 1:30

Divine Healing

Everyone will quickly agree that God can heal a person. The question is: Will God heal a person and can we as people move in a degree of faith that will result in physical healing? In a way it's kind of like the difference between lightning and a wall switch.

Both lightning and the wall switch each cause electricity to flow, and both will light up a room. But lightning strikes randomly and we have no ability to determine when or where it will hit. But if we want to light up the room we don't have to wait for lightning. Instead we just flip the wall switch the lights come on. We know that sometimes people are healed by God for no apparent reason. But the question is: Must the believer simply wait and see if God will heal them or is it possible for the believer to initiate healing by faith?

As a church, we do not subscribe to the thought that every sickness is the direct result of someone's sin. Nor do we subscribe to the thought that the only way to be healed is by divine healing. Jesus Himself said that people will need physicians:

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." Luk 5:31

We also do not believe, teach or encourage the thought that: "You are only sick because you don't have enough faith." The bottom line is that God and doctors are trying to achieve the same end. We encourage believers to get the best from God and from doctors.

Is Healing God's Will?

We see God's perfect will in three places:

- In the Garden of Eden before the fall of man
- In the ministry of Jesus on earth
- In heaven

In each of these places sickness is either absent or it was removed. Jesus never once put sickness on a person with the thought that this would somehow help the person. Every time Jesus encountered sickness He healed the person. If sickness is a part of God's plan for man, then Jesus was helping people get out of God's plan. In reality, sickness is the enemy of God. There will be no sickness in heaven and sickness only exists because of the devil. Here's what Jesus said the believers would do:

"...they [the believers] will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mar 16:18

And again, believers are commanded to pray for the sick:

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. Jam 5:14-15

So when someone is sick it is not our responsibility to heal them. Only God can heal. But it is our responsibility to build faith and to pray. In fact it's a direct commandment. Jesus died on the cross not only for your sins, but also that you might be healed.

Surely He has borne our griefs, And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isa 53:4-5

Our Tenet of Faith - Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today.

Ref: Mar 16:18, Jam 5:14-15, 1Pe 2:24, Mat 8:17, Isa 53:4-5

The Resurrection of the Just and the Return of the Lord

Jesus died and then returned - just as He promised. Anyone can create a new religion. Anyone can write a book. Anyone can claim to be a prophet. But only Jesus proved that He had power over death through His resurrection. The Bible is very clear that Jesus will return. When Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels said:

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Act 1:11

And that's not all. If you're alive at that time, be prepared to go flying:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1Th 4:16-17

Our Tenet of Faith - The Resurrection of the Just and the Return of the Lord

The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "...This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, "...the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air ..." Following the Tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings, and Lord of Lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years.

Ref: Act 1:11 1Th 4:16-17, Rev 5:10, Rev 20:6

Our View of Certain Popular Beliefs

So why this section?

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 1Co 14:26

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Joh 3:6*

We want to be a church that is scriptural, spiritual and stable. We want people to meet the Lord in our fellowship, in our worship, in the word and through times of refreshing from the Presence of the Lord. While desiring this freedom we also feel it is important to attempt to define the limits of that freedom in a responsible way. Our individual liberty should not interfere with the ability of others to meet God. All things should be done for edification and people are edified when they get closer to God. So our foundational principle in determining what types of conduct we want in the worship service becomes: “Is this action helping *the body* move closer to God?” If the answer is “yes,” then we want it. If the conduct instead interferes with the ability of the body to connect to God, then the action would not be love. That which is born of God will tend to cause people to glorify God while that which is born of the flesh will tend to cause people to look at people.

In similar fashion we feel it is prudent to address certain teachings which tend to circulate and define our church position on those teachings. While it is not our desire to act as policemen for the Body of Christ nor to infer that we are the “one true beacon of truth,” once again, we feel it is important to explain what we believe.

Our view of generational curses

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me Exo 20:5

A generational curse is a curse that is passed down from one generation to the next. It is an Old Testament concept that really doesn't apply to New Testament believers.

The intent is good: To find freedom for the believer by searching out the root causes for iniquity in their present circumstance. But here is why we do not believe in generational curses. When a person is born again, they become a new creation. They have a new heritage, a new generation and God is their Father. We do not believe that any curse is stronger than the blood of Christ. Of course there are doors we can leave open which will cause us great distress but the issue is us, not something our grandparents did.

We do accept that there are many things which are transferred down through generations. Our physical appearance, attitudes, and mannerisms can all be passed down from generation to generation. We also believe that if parents do not stand against demonic activities in the home and instead yield to them, wicked spirits that have dominated the parents can easily begin to dominate the children and as a result you see certain types of sin passed down generation to generation. But if the problem is a spirit, let's deal with the spirit instead of blaming some distant curse. The born again believer is not under a curse, the born again believer is under the blessing of Abraham.

Our view of the hundred-fold return

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. Mat 19:29

There is a truth that God promises a hundredfold return to those who have left houses, family, children or lands. But nowhere except on Christian TV does God say that He will give back to you 100 times the money you give at church or to a preacher. If the people who preach this really practiced what they preached, they would ask for your address to send you the money so they could receive the hundredfold return, but we've not heard of anyone doing that as yet.

We strongly believe that God desires to prosper His people. We just as strongly oppose the notion that blessing and money mean the same thing. Nowhere in scripture is the promise that when you give, bags of money will start arriving at your home. The Bible does promise that when we give God's blessings will be poured out. Of course, God's blessings can and often do include money, but His blessings are not limited to money.

When you give according to the Spirit, sometimes the return is much greater than one hundredfold. In 1998 Faith Family Church sowed all of our savings of \$20,000 into buying a tent for evangelists traveling the former USSR. In 2008 that seed had returned three hundred and forty five fold as our land which we owned free and clear appraised at \$6.9 million. We didn't give only to gain, we gave because the Spirit of God led us to give.

Our view of warring praise

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Col 3:16

Sometimes people say they are going to “war in praise.” The thought is that we can fight spiritual darkness by praising. To stand against the devil is good. But praise and worship should be times of intimacy with the Lord. These are the times when God’s children express their love to Him. Can you imagine what a wife would think if her husband took her out to dinner not to spend time with her, but to irritate someone else? Talk about a war... When we worship and praise, our focus should be on God, not on some devil.

Our view of warring tongues

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, 1Co 14:2

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 1Co 14:14

This is another expression of the same idea. The intent is to war against the devil in tongues. Of course we are supposed to stand against the devil. Of course we need to put on the whole armor of God. Yet the Bible clearly states that when we pray in an unknown tongue we pray to God. The Bible clearly teaches that when we pray in tongues we will not understand what we are saying. We may have impressions, but impressions are subject to the filters of our emotions and mind sets and our impressions can be very wrong. A person’s emotions do not direct the prayer that is birthed in the heart of God. We do not direct the Spirit of God when we pray, instead we yield to His direction.

Our view of “every Christian needs continual deliverance”

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love... Col 1:13

The thought here seems to be that every Christian has spirits assigned against them and that only through continual deliverance can they be made or kept free.

Of course we believe in deliverance. And without doubt every Christian encounters demons. But the answer to this is not continual prayer lines but rather to walk in our God-given authority and obedience to God’s word. Demons are inferior spirits who are absolutely helpless against the believer who walks in his or her authority but they can plant thoughts, and they can attempt to steal, kill and destroy. The answer is truth, acted upon in faith, and it is this which truly makes the believer free. Ultimately we need to understand our authority in Christ and to walk in obedience to His word.

Our view of spiritual gifts on demand

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1Co 12:11

Without doubt spiritual gifts may be transferred by the laying on of hands as the Apostle Paul said to Timothy. But it is as the Spirit wills. Anointings can be transferred even on cloths as recorded in the Book of Acts. That which is Spirit is spirit. No person has the ability to decide to transfer a spiritual gift to anyone else that they choose. God can direct that prayer is made so that a gift is transferred but it is the Lord who is directing this prayer. This gimmick is seen on TV when they promise to send special anointing oils, water from the River Jordan, etc., to you for a donation. Water from the River Jordan is no more effective than water from the Salt River. Oil from olives in Jerusalem is no more effective than oil bought at Bashas. We actually heard of a “minister” who would sell the suits he “ministered” in for \$1500 to \$2500. People would buy these suits, somehow thinking that the anointing would transfer to them. Faith and obedience bring the anointing, not money spent on suits. The only thing that transferred was their money.

Our view of breaking the curse of poverty

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1Ti 6:10

You see people on TV tearing up their bills and dropping them in a fire as the minister “breaks the curse of poverty.” In this recreation of an Old Testament ceremony, burning up the bills is supposed to get rid of them. Burning up your bills doesn’t get rid of bills. Learning to budget and spend within your means does. The believer is not under any curse of poverty. The purpose of the Kingdom of God is not in money or possessions. The treasure of the Church is souls. Any church or ministry that continuously talks about money has lost sight of the big picture. True prosperity is about building the Kingdom.

Our view of the role of a New Testament prophet

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Rom 8:14

Under the New Covenant the Holy Spirit of God leads believers. In the Old Testament the prophet provided God’s word to the people because the Spirit of God was not in them. Under the New Covenant, the prophet highlights that which is already inside the believer. It’s like using a hi-lighter on words in your Bible. Highlighting doesn’t create the words, it only illuminates that which is already there. While we strongly believe and move in prophecy it will cause believers to remain spiritual children if they continually seek guidance through a prophet rather than spending time learning the ways and leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Faith Family Church has a culture. This chapter is designed to help you understand who we are.

This chapter covers the following:

- Our Vision: Raising Up Disciples to Reap the Harvest
- Our Culture: One Another
- Our Community: OneGroups
- Our Worship: About Our Worship Services

Our Vision: Raising Up Disciples to Reap the Harvest

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Mar 16:15

"The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!" Jer 8:20

A fundamental of Faith Family Church is that we want you to succeed from God's point of view. There will come a time when each of us will stand before the Lord to give an account of what we have done in this life. When you are asked, "What did you do...," here's a great response: "I helped raise up disciples to reap the harvest." And that's why "Raising Up Disciples to Reap the Harvest" is our vision statement.

Because we want you to succeed on an eternal scale, from God's point of view, our focus is on helping you move forward in your walk with the Lord. Our purpose is not entertainment. Our purpose is not to comfort the saints but to challenge the saints.

Because we are called to reach the harvest we support world evangelism in our own personal worlds and across the global world. We support other churches. We support multiplier ministries which have the ability to generate and transform ministries and ministers.

Our Culture: One Another

At the last supper as recorded in John 17, Jesus prayed:

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one...that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.”

It is significant that at the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus didn't pray for miracles, for great knowledge, or for big churches. Jesus was about to leave them and so He prayed that we would be one. That means that we would be united, tight, complete. Over 50 times the New Testament tells us to 'one another - each other.' For example:

- Love one another,
- Serve one another,
- Teach one another,
- Admonish one another,
- Have fellowship with one another,
- Be kind to one another,
- Pray for one another,
- Bear with one another,
- Have peace with one another.

This is so different from the prevailing world culture which is “look out for #1.” God's purpose is best served when we are one. The devil's purpose is best served if we are divided. Because we want to succeed from God's point of view, we need to 'one another - each other.' Spiritual maturity recognizes that God works through the body of believers. The truly spiritually mature believer recognizes that they don't need a special minister or a particular pastor to pray for them because it is God who works through all the believers in His body.

So...ehhh...what does that mean???

It means we have to accept that as humans, we will be less than perfect. It means everyone else will be less than perfect. It means we are going to need to get along with all these less-than-perfect people. So our church will be a less-than-perfect-people-church-serving-a-perfect-God. It means we're going to have to refuse to be offended. It means we need friends. It means we need to be connected. We have a 95/5 rule which goes like this: “If you can be normal 95% of the time, we will let you flip out 5% of the time and not count it against you.” Love does not require perfection.

Our Community: OneGroups

Here's a secret: We can't succeed on our own.

We are called the Body of Christ, not the Body Parts of Christ. No part of your body exists for itself. What is the brain by itself? Or the heart? What purpose has an eye by itself? And if you were the eye, wouldn't you get tired of looking in the same direction? Without the body you couldn't blink. You couldn't even turn to see what was behind you.

Here's another secret: We were deliberately created flawed.

We were created in such a way that we cannot succeed on our own, for our entire purpose will only be found in supplying what others lack and receiving from others what we lack. We complete each other.

Ephesians 4:11-16

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

God's plan is that we join and knit together by what every joint supplies. We are effective when every part does its share. And that's why we have: **OneGroups**.

We have OneGroups so you can connect with the friends you don't know yet.

OneGroups - Three Flavors

Have you ever noticed that it's almost impossible to make good friends on Sunday morning? There are too many people and it's all happening too quickly. The early church had the same problem so here's what they did:

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart... Act 2:46

The temple by itself just would not do so they began to meet, house to house. Because they were Christians they had food. OneGroups are where we cultivate a One Another culture. It's where you meet your friends. And of course in keeping with Christian tradition...it's probably where you eat.

Flavor One - Community OneGroups

These are small groups of friends that have something in common, hence the name - Community. What they may have in common is almost unlimited. They may live close together, or they may have the same interests, they may be commonly interested in parenting or perhaps commonly focusing on building an even stronger marriage. They may have a common interest in quilting, in singing or in signing. They may have the interests of seniors and pray for grandchildren or they may be Bereans who want to learn Greek.

There are no established end dates for Community OneGroups although that does not mean that a Community OneGroup is eternal. It's friends helping friends take the next step and just as tumbling stones polish each other and become beautiful, you will too.

Flavor Two - Target OneGroups

These are groups that target a specific topic or activity. They are short term, eight to twelve weeks in duration. They may cover a specific teaching course, or be an introduction to cooking. They may teach a series on Ephesians or be a get-together down at the mall to have a cup of coffee and read a book together.

Flavor Three - Ministry OneGroups

These are specific ministries whose purpose is to serve God together. The goal here is not simply to serve together, but to build relationships while serving together. The church was created to be a family, not an organization, and Ministry OneGroups seek to create strong Christ-centered relationships while serving the body.

Perhaps You Want To Start a OneGroup.

We sure hope so. We have a leadership track in place for those who want to take the next step and start a OneGroup. Member Services can help you.

Our Worship - About Our Worship Services

Faith Family Church describes who we are. First we are a family of believers. Next our goal is to build faith into people. And we are a New Testament Church and so the very things you read about in the Bible occur in our services. The New Covenant was established by Jesus and it hasn't changed. People still need to be healed, so God heals them. People still need to be freed so God still delivers them from oppressions. People still need the strength of the Lord, so God gives them joy. People still need to be able to pray in the Spirit so God gives them tongues. While this may be new to you, it is all firmly grounded in God's word. The following are some of the things you might experience in our services. We really do have specific reasons for what we do.

Why do people raise their hands?

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD. Psa 134:2

I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting... 1Ti 2:8

The simple answer why people raise their hands is because they want to. But you don't have to. The Bible encourages people to lift their hands in praise. Lifting up your hands helps you focus your attention, and just as veterans are proud to raise the flag, many are proud to raise their hands up just as they lift their hearts towards God.

Why do people sometimes kneel?

Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Neh 8:6

Once again, people kneel not because they have to, but because they want to. It's a sign of great respect, honor and reverence. It's something people in the Bible did.

Why do they sing the same song over and over?

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." Joh 7:38

For the same reason you keep on sipping on the most wonderful and refreshing ice water on a hot day. When you learn to relax and plug in, worship is cool refreshing water for the spirit and soul. And just as the thirsty man doesn't want to stop drinking, so too, the true worshipper desires to continue worshipping God.

Why so many announcements?

...and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. Exo 18:13

Actually there could be a lot more but we trim them down. One of the main reasons we do events is to give our members opportunities to invite their friends and family to something nice. Events are where people meet and make friends. The announcements/dedications/celebrations are each a part of a healthy church community.

Why does the band sometimes play the wrong chords, I mean, don't they practice???

Of course they practice, and they are very good, but our desire is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in our services. And so on most weeks at the direction of the Pastor, the musicians only know the first few songs that they will be singing and after that they are just moving by the direction of the Holy Spirit. That means that sometimes they are playing songs some of the musicians and singers have never heard before or haven't played in years. The reason the Presence of God is so strong in our services is that the Holy Spirit leads the services. They would rather play a wrong chord than miss God.

Are tongues really necessary?

What if I bring a guest and someone prays in tongues???

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 1Co 14:39

God thought tongues were really necessary because tongues are perfect prayers prayed without interference by the believer. God can get His perfect will prayed out on the earth when people pray in tongues. Please understand that the Pastor submits himself to the leading of the Spirit of God. If you bring someone to church and someone prays in tongues..relax. It may be new to them but the Spirit of God will witness within them that it's OK, even if it is different.

We've had many experiences where a person left the service with no intention of ever coming back and yet six months later they wind up back in the church. There was a time when it was new to each of us but there was something that brought us back. That "something" was the Spirit of God. No spiritual gifts operate in the services without the Pastor's direction. It is his responsibility to perceive what the Lord wants to do in the service and to obey that leading. If someone asks you what that was all about, just smile and tell them it's in the Bible - in 1 Corinthians 14. Your Bible knowledge might impress them :)

What are tithes and offerings about?

Here mortal men receive tithes but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Heb 7:8

Because God so loved the world He gave His only Son so that mankind could be restored back to Him. To continue that work of restoring the world back to Him, the Lord established the Church with Jesus as its Head. God still “so loves the world” that He has set the Church in the world to continue to restore man back into a right relationship with Him. God could have chosen to reach the world by angels. He could have chosen to reach the world through visions of Jesus in the sky, but instead He chose to reach the world through His Church. And that’s us.

Spreading the Gospel requires provision. God could have set it up so that every week angels appeared bringing God’s provision into each church. Instead God chose that His provision would come through the faithfulness of His people. This faithfulness He promises to eternally reward. The concept of provision sees God as the source of all things with man as the steward, or distributor, of God’s provision. God’s provision is clearly seen in the Bible from the beginning to the end. It is called sowing and reaping, giving and receiving, seedtime and harvest. It is called tithes and offerings. It is seen before the Old Covenant with Abraham; it is seen in the Old Covenant with Moses; it is seen in the Gospels with Jesus; and it is seen in the letters to the Church - the Epistles; and it is seen after the end of the earth in the Book of Revelation.

So what does tithe mean?

Tithe means tenth. A tithe of anything is one-tenth of it. Here’s an interesting verse that reveals an unchanging principle:

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD. Lev 27:30

The important principle in understanding the tithe is that one tenth of our increase already belongs to God. So really, it’s not our tithe, it’s God’s tithe – it belongs to Him. So really, we just return to God what is already His.

God promises something wonderful to those who tithe:

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Mal 3:10

This verse points out that:

- The tithe goes to our spiritual storehouse, the place where we are spiritually fed. This is our local church which we attend.
- The tithe is God's provision so that the church can do that which God purposed.
- God's promise to the person who returns the tithe is that they won't be able to contain the blessing that comes.

Blessings may include finances, but blessings go far beyond what money can buy in our lives, in our children's lives, in our marriages, in our careers and can even extend beyond our lifetimes as even today, we are still receiving the blessings of Abraham.

This promise is so great that it should be clear that there's a huge downside in missing out on what God has promised – blessings that cannot be contained as the windows of heaven are opened up as God's tithe is returned to the storehouse.

Am I required to tithe?

Members are not required to tithe. We would not want a person to give for any reason other than because of their love for, faith in, and passion for the Lord. Of course our stated goal is to help people succeed from God's point of view. We will not be able to tithe when we get to heaven – this is our only chance. Therefore we highly encourage everyone to take this step and boldly walk faithfully in these promises of God. You will be eternally glad that you did!

Is anyone required to tithe?

Tithing builds and reveals a level of understanding, responsibility and spiritual character. Tithing strengthens us. When a person steps into leadership in a church they will encounter spiritual opposition which could topple the one who is not strengthened spiritually. Our repeated experience is that those who are not strong enough to handle God's tithe prove to be unable to handle the spiritual opposition that will come against them as spiritual leaders. For this reason we only consider those who have reached this level of spiritual maturity for certain levels of leadership in the church.

What are offerings?

Then they faithfully brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things... 2Ch 31:12

Quite simply offerings come from what is ours – from the remaining 90%. When we want to support a mission, a special project or a guest speaker we do this from what is ours and these are called offerings. The reality of sowing is that you are not only doing God's will in this earth, but you are laying up for yourself treasure in heaven. And that's real good. Here's a great quote that we like: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." - Jim Elliot, missionary, martyr.

It's important that we don't lose sight of the big picture: The purpose of tithes and offerings is to build God's Kingdom. God's plan to reach people through His Church will not change. His way of providing provision through His people will not change. We have been entrusted with a stewardship. Our goal is that on that Day, God will find each of us faithful.

Why do people sometimes lay hands on people when they pray?

Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Mat 8:3

Sometimes you will see people put their hands on the head or shoulder of the person they are praying for. A reasonable question would be: Why? Well for one thing, Jesus touched people when He prayed for them and He told His disciples to do the things He had done.

One more good reason is because laying on of hands is one of the foundational doctrines of Christ as recorded in the Book of Hebrews.

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands... Heb 6:1-2

And one more good reason would be that by the leading of the Holy Spirit, gifts can be bestowed through prophecy and the laying on of hands.

*Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
-The Apostle Paul to Timothy in 1Ti 4:14*

The Lord said that His ways were higher and different from our ways and we just have to accept that's true. Laying on hands was just the normal way of doing things in the New Testament, the Testament in which we still live today. It may be new, but it's normal.

Why do some people fall when they are prayed for?

When the priests had come out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the Lord's house, So the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. 1Ki 8:10-11

Many times when someone is being prayed for the very power and presence of God flows into them. When prayed for, some people fall, some do not, and either is OK.

When Solomon was dedicating the Temple the glory and power of God was so strong that the priests could not stand to minister because God's glory filled the temple.

Today we are the temple. In the New Testament, a woman who had been sick for years pushed through the crowd that was pressing Jesus on all sides and touched Jesus. When she touched Him, she was instantly healed. Here is what happened:

Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' Mar 5:29-31

Obviously the disciples did not understand it at that time. Believe it or not, when one believer is praying for another, God's power will often transfer through hands.

What happens to the people when they sometimes fall over when they are being prayed for? Did they faint?

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, Act 3:19

Well the quick and easy answer is: They are being blessed in the presence of God. They are not unconscious or in a trance and really, in most cases it is the person's willingness to yield to the power of the Lord that causes them to go down. Prayer is not answered because a person goes down nor hindered if they stay standing up. It's more a matter of yielding. It's just easier to lay in the presence of the Lord than to try to stay standing up. Sometimes you may see a minister ask someone to be seated so they don't fall over. Either way it's good that people want to be in God's presence.

Ushers stand behind those being prayed for in order to catch them and lay them down carefully. Because we're not perfect, we don't want anyone to get hurt. Female attendants will help to maintain modesty with cloths - it's just a practical issue. No big deal.

When someone is lying on the floor we allow the Holy Spirit to minister to them as only He can. We do not want others to interfere at this time by touching them or interjecting prayer or distracting them. God is their source and their help. They are with Him and it's best to leave them alone. Our ushers will assist those who need help getting up.

What about people who get so emotional in worship???

And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. Mar 12:30

You can be assured that the Lord is not upset because someone is excited about Him. Some people are just naturally more expressive and some are more conservative. Both are OK. So it's just fine if one person dances while the other taps his toes. Let each person worship in their own way as long as they are not interfering with the body.

Who gets to speak on the mic?

For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does. Joh 5:20

Anyone that the Lord shows to the Pastor. When the Pastor is ministering the Lord sometimes shows him a person who is to speak. When this happens the Pastor will ask that person to come forward to speak.

Can anyone just start giving a message in tongues?

That's not the best. The Holy Spirit is not going to conflict with Himself. A primary responsibility of the Pastor is to interpret the move of God's Spirit in the service. He is very aware and very capable of knowing when a tongue will come forth and He will direct the service when this happens. It would not be the best order for a person to begin to give a message in tongues without the Pastor's direction. Occasionally the Pastor will clearly state that someone is to give a tongue and that he does not know who it will be. If you feel that you have that tongue, you would be in order in giving a tongue at that time. If someone makes a mistake, relax – it's OK. It's good that they are trying.

Why do people laugh?

“Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Neh 8:10
Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh. Luk 6:21

There is a move of God which will cause people to overflow with joy to the point of laughing. It's great fun but it's just another way that God helps his children. Relax. It's OK that people are happy. By the way, they don't know what's so funny either.

Why do people run or dance? Is that really necessary?

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe. Pro 18:10

Occasionally you may see someone actually run or dance in church. This is way high on the “different” scale. In the Bible, King David danced through the city before the Lord with all his might (2Sa 6:14) wearing only a loincloth! God really liked that, and we are clearly more subdued than King David. It's about getting free, and that's good. You'll find there is great freedom in obeying the Lord if He directs you to do so. Even if you don't understand all of it yet, why not do what the Bible says and just rejoice with those who rejoice.

Are there any boundaries in the worship service?

Let all things be done decently and in order. 1Co 14:40

Our border is love. While we have a lot of freedom in the service, it's actually quite well thought through. There are some things we won't allow because they cause confusion. Decently and in order doesn't mean that everything is necessarily lined up perfectly in nice tidy rows. And it's possible to organize God right out of the service. Many times in the early parts of the service you will see the Pastor communicating changes to staff as the Lord shows him things. We are adjusting to the leading of God's Spirit.

In a general sense we are interested in God's Presence, not in performance. Worship looks at God while performance looks at man. We want people to look at God. And so we accept any kind of worship which does not interfere with the ability of the body to worship or which does not hinder the body from worshipping. At the same time the church is a place where we learn and people cannot learn without making mistakes. If someone in their zeal goes a bit beyond, relax: It's OK. Brother Hagin used to say, "I'd rather have a little wild fire than no fire at all." We couldn't agree more. Although we have great freedom in Christ but we don't want to get to the place where our personal liberty is hindering another from receiving from the Lord.

Here are some thoughts about loving boundaries in our worship services:

- If a person gets unnecessarily loud to the point of distracting others from worshipping this would not be love.
- If a person draws attention to themselves and it causes people to stop focusing on the Lord, this would not be love.
- The Bible says to know those who labor among us and therefore we do not allow people we don't know to prophesy, minister in prayer or speak to our church body. Part of what we do is to protect the flock and we must first know the character of the minister.

What do I do with questions?

There are plenty of people who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Pastor Don, Assistant Pastor, is especially interested in answering any questions you may have about the Spirit of God and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Michelle Robinson, Member Services, is happy to assist you with any questions or comments regarding membership or OneGroups.

Pastor Andy White, Senior Pastor, is always available to any member who wants to meet with him or who has any unresolved problems or concerns.

Our staff is here to assist you, to encourage you and to help you find success in the sight of God. More than anything we want you to hear "Well Done!" when your short time on earth is over. Our prayer is that you go very, very far. **It's your one chance in all of eternity to walk in the exploits of the Lord. Why not go for it?**

God's plan for church relationships - One Another

This chapter covers the following:

- All of the verses in the New Testament that show us how to 'one another each other.' Each verse is there for a reason, and each has something important to say.
- All of the verses in the New Testament that tell us what *not* to do to one another.

God's plan for us

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. John 13:34

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Joh 13:35

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Joh 15:12

These things I command you, that you love one another. Joh 15:17

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love... Rom 12:10a

...in honor giving preference to one another... Rom 12:10b

Be of the same mind toward one another. Rom 12:16

Owe no one anything except to love one another... Rom 13:8

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. Rom 14:13

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus... Rom 15:5

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Rom 15:7

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Rom 15:14

Greet one another with a holy kiss. Rom 16:16

Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 1Co 11:33

...that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 1Co 12:25

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Gal 5:13

...with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love... Eph 4:2

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. Eph 4:25

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Eph 4:32

...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord... Eph 5:19

...submitting to one another in the fear of God. Eph 5:21

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds... Col 3:9

...bearing with one another... Col 3:13b

...and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. Col 3:13b

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Col 3:16

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you... 1Th 3:12

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another... 1Th 4:9

Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1Th 4:18

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. 1Th 5:11

...but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Heb 3:13

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works... Heb 10:24

...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb 10:25

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Jam 5:16

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart... 1Pe 1:22

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous... 1Pe 3:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1Pe 4:8

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 1Pe 4:9

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1Pe 4:10

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 1Pe 5:5

Greet one another with a kiss of love. 1Pe 5:14

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1Jo 1:7

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another... 1Jo 3:11

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 1Jo 3:23

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1Jo 4:7

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1Jo 4:11

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 1Jo 4:12

And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. 2Jo 1:5

What NOT to do to one another

Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? 1Co 6:7

But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! Gal 5:15

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Gal 5:26

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. Tit 3:3

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. Jam 4:11

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! Jam 5:9

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

[Ephesians 4:11-16](#)