

ESSENTIALS OF MINISTRY 
OPEN DOOR FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH

OPEN DOOR FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
8301 NORTH 19TH AVENUE
PHOENIX ARIZONA 85021
WWW.ODFCHURCH.ORG
602.242.4414

CLASS SCHEDULE 2017

CLASS INTRO – *Relationship of Grace*

Devry Faddis – 9/10/17

STATEMENT OF FAITH / PRIMACY OF GOD'S WORD

Stewart Black – 9/17/17

VISION & OUTREACH

Sam Hill & Tom Rychener – 9/24/17

FOR, NOT AGAINST

Chris & Julie Tinard – 10/1/17

LEADERSHIP & FAMILY

Bill Thrall – 10/8/17

SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH ONE

Phil Walberer – 10/15/17

CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS

Louise Sedgwick – 10/22/17

WORSHIP

Sue Sawyer – 10/29/17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	page 3
Background of ODF	page 4
Statement of Faith	page 5
Essentials of Ministry:	
- Primacy of God’s Word	page 8
- Christian Essentials	page 9
- The Family	page 15
- The Significance of Each “one”	page 17
- Relationships of Grace	page 20
- Leadership	page 22
- Worship	page 25
- For, Not Against	page 27
- Vision – It’s Structure & Expression	page 29
- Outreach	page 31
Summary	page 33
Doctrine	page 34
Appendix: Scripture verses (NASB)	page 35

Essentials of Ministry for Open Door Fellowship

“Open Door” ... that’s it, the door is *OPEN*. Come *IN*.

We are all about community, experiencing God’s grace and truth in and through relationship. We’ve been risking this way of life for 40 years; some of us have been here all along, many have gathered along the way.

WHO: You, me, us, them, He, WE. Yep, you. No membership, no dress code, no partisan preference, no experience necessary. We’re in all stages of this life with God. We’re all ages, all walks of life. We’re wide open to whoever wanders through these doors. We long to include, not exclude. To give time for healing, discovery; not rushing you ahead of where you are. If this is where you show up, we already consider you family. Welcome.

WHAT: Love, Trust, Truth, Grace, Relationship, Life-Application, Community, Laughter, Safety, Fellowship, Passionate Teaching and Worship...God’s life in us. We are exceedingly intentional about learning and trusting in who God says we are in Him, and discovering His expression of love through us for the benefit of others.

This Open Door is wide open; for some it’s an invitation to come and rest, regroup, heal and be known. And wide open to also go “beyond the door,” moving in and amongst our neighborhood, city, nation, and world in the outpouring of grace and love we richly experience in Jesus.

Purpose

God has given the elders a vision of His purpose for Open Door Fellowship (ODF). This statement is intended to communicate the fundamental elements of this vision and to strengthen leadership’s commitment to them.

Proverbs 29:18.

Background

In 1973, the elders developed a number of ministry convictions based on a vision of God's purpose for ODF. Some of these convictions, quite naturally, were reactions to individual church experiences, both positive and negative. Some convictions are rooted in relationship dynamics that occurred during the formation of ODF. These convictions helped further define the elders' vision.

ODF has adhered to these essentials of ministry throughout its history. The elders believed then and continue to believe that God is going to do some very significant things with and through us.

It is difficult to translate the essence of these convictions into words. In doing so, we fear we won't be able to fully communicate our mutual deep sense of conviction regarding the essentials of vision for ODF. The elders maintain a strong personal commitment to these ministry essentials and are prepared to defend them, if necessary, at great personal cost. Nothing is more important than honoring with our lives that which God has given us to do, which for us, is to see these essentials developed and implemented.

Please read carefully the essentials that follow. Each essential is fundamental to the vision God has given us, and in the expression of ODF's identity. They are not listed in priority because each item is a vital part of the vision.

We believe the future of ODF depends on our present leadership understanding this vision. Without your involvement, evaluation and commitment to these ministry essentials, we believe the heart of ODF's purpose for us could be lost.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe...

THE WORD OF GOD: II Timothy 3:16

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original documents and of final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

THE TRINITY: 1 Timothy 2:5, John 1:1-3, Matthew 28:19, Matthew 3:16-17

There is one God, eternally existent in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and He is all-knowing, all-powerful, just, merciful, wise, unchangeable and gracious.

THE PERSON OF CHRIST: Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-3, Matthew 1:18-25

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man, fully God and fully Man – born of a virgin, perfect in His Person and eternal in His being.

[STATEMENT OF FAITH CON'T]

MANKIND: Genesis 3, Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 5:6

We believe that mankind was created in the image of God and was originally without sin. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, all of mankind are now sinners both by nature and by choice and are unable to remedy their own lost condition.

THE WORK OF CHRIST: Romans 5:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:1-19, 1 John 2:1-2

Jesus Christ died on a cross to rescue us from our helpless state – paying the penalty for our sin – and He rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into Heaven, and now sits at God’s right hand as our Mediator.

THE CHURCH: Matthew 16:13-20, Acts 2, Acts 5:11

The Church, consisting of God’s elect, began with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the believers at Pentecost.

SALVATION & THE SPIRIT: 1 John 5:13, Ephesians 1:11-14

By God’s grace, those who trust in the work of Christ for their salvation inherit eternal life and are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

[STATEMENT OF FAITH CON'T]

ETERNAL SECURITY: John 10:27-29, Ephesians 2:4-10

Because salvation is a work of God's grace, believers are eternally secure and released from relying on their own abilities and merits to earn acceptance from God and others.

MIRACLE OF GRACE: II Timothy 1:5-7, 1 Cor. 12:4-7 & 12-14

The miracle of God's grace frees believers to love as Christ loved, leading to unity, greater knowledge of Christ, maturity and the expression of gifting for the benefit of the Church.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST: Titus 2:11-14, Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:41 & 46, Revelation 20:15

The Lord Jesus Christ will return soon, and there will be a resurrection of the saved to eternal life, and of the lost to eternal and conscious judgement.

1. PRIMACY OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE SAYS:

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

I Peter 1:22-23

Also based on these Bible verses: Ephesians 4:14-15, II Timothy 3:16, Psalm 119, II Peter 1:20-21, I Timothy 4:6-8, Isaiah 55:11 & James 1:19-25 (see appendix for full verses)

THEREFORE, as a ministry essential ...

We are absolutely convinced that the Bible is God's Word. Our vision and practices are based on this conviction, and protect us from following “experience” and popular theological fads.

NOTES:

2. CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS

These Christian essentials must not be prioritized, for they are all vital to who we are as believers, but they should be balanced. We are committed to balancing:

- Our Christian practices, such as prayer, esteeming God's Word, worshipping, witnessing, fellowship, etc.
 - Our Christian truths, like faith, submission, obedience, authority, love and understanding needs.
-
-
-

LIVED OUT, these essentials mean that Open Door is a body who:

- **THROUGH FAITH**, is Christ centered and Christ dependent. The fruit of that faith will lead Open Door to a worshipful appreciation of our God and Father.

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. 13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and

[CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS CON'T]

on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

Colossians 1:9-20

- **THROUGH LOVE**, places all relationships above programs and practices and that the fruit of this love will produce a high degree of servantness in the heart of each believer.

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

I Corinthians 13:1-13

- **THROUGH OBEDIENCE**, places the Gospel above self-interest. The fruit of this obedience will be a great zeal for the lost.

“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— 2 for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you.”

Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”— 3 giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, 8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; 9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.”

II Corinthians 6:1-10

- **THROUGH SUBMISSION**, places a premium on spiritual headship (authority). The fruit of submission is that God’s truth can penetrate our hearts. Men learn knowledge without submission, but men cannot learn truth without submission. Christians who are unwilling to honor Biblical authority in God and in God’s designated leaders (roles) will never mature spiritually because truth will never penetrate their heart.

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ²shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,”

I Peter 5:1-6

[CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS CON'T]

- **THROUGH PRAYER**, expresses its needs and appreciations to God. A fruit of this prayer will be an effective healthy Body.

“pray without ceasing; ¹⁶ in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:17-18

- **THROUGH THE WORD**, is committed to spiritual maturity, a fruit of this Word dependency will be mature individuals committed to ministry, understanding principles and living them out.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17

3. THE FAMILY

SCRIPTURE SAYS:

“that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),³ SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:27-6:4

In addition to these Bible verses: *I Tim. 3:5 & 12, I Cor. 6 & 7, Proverbs 31:10-31, I Tim 5:8, Col. 3:12-21, I Peter 3:1-12, I Cor. 11:9, Titus 2:4,5 (see appendix for full verses)*

THEREFORE, as a ministry essential ...

The priority of our families is never in competition with the vision God has given us for Open Door Fellowship. Rather, the role of our family and its members are seen as an essential part of this vision. Our family members must know that they are vital in the fulfillment of what God has called us to do. Making essential God-honoring family decisions is an expression and vital part of the ministry vision.

Honoring the headship of every individual home is vital to the vision of Open Door Fellowship. As taught in

[THE FAMILY CON'T]

Ephesians, the husband is the head of the wife and his family, and because this is true, he Biblically has the primary responsibility for his wife and children. No church leader must ever allow himself to take that primary role. We, as elders, will not violate a man's headship with his family. We will not minister to a man through his wife and will not minister to a wife without her husband's knowledge and blessing.

As a vital part of our vision, we will never violate the priority of the home. We will never violate another man's role by using our role as a leader to influence a family against him. We must be willing to teach the roles and functions of the family as critical to family health and to the health of the family of Open Door Fellowship. We must teach ODFers to be godly men and women who have a Biblical understanding of the importance of the home and all of its parts. We must be careful to never teach that our ministry decisions have to be weighed against what is best for our family. We must teach that what is best for our family is that we are, in fact, are committed to ministry as a lifestyle.

NOTES:

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH “ONE”

SCRIPTURE SAYS:

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26-28

As well as these Scripture verses: James 2:1-9, Col. 3:9-17, Eph. 4:1-16, I Peter 2:4-10, I Cor. 12:4-6, Romans 8:13-17, Heb. 4:14-5:10, Romans 14, I Cor. 12:23b-26, Romans 12:3-5, Gal. 6:1-6 (see appendix for full verses)

THEREFORE, as a ministry essential ...

It is our God who has declared that we are all priests, all one in Christ. Therefore, our vision underlines the significance God has placed in each person.

- To see in the God’s potential for their lives.
- To see that each person is encouraged and challenged to the opportunities of God’s grace to have its impact on them and through them.
- To see that no one be more honored because of their status in this world or dishonored because of lack of status.

It is most significant to say that people must be allowed to be who they are, and if changes need to be made,

that time and truth and an environment of love be available for those changes to happen. This process must allow for the freedom to fail. Failures are not produced in an environment where people are free to fail. The environment where failure is possible produces a hope in God's grace to do what only God can do – change us.

In order for people to be free to be who they are and free to grow, we must never develop a mold. Individuals can express this freedom in a variety of ways:

- The way they choose to dress.
- The way they choose to raise their family.
- The way they choose to minister as God gifted them.
- The way they share, sing, or participate in service.

An individual's spiritual growth is possible because this essential places an emphasis on effective discipleship, nurturing, pastoring, gift identification, etc. We have no room for clergy/laity dogma. This aspect of our vision declares that God has the freedom to help us become who He wants us to be. It declares that we have a confidence that God has a plan for each individual life and that Open Door Fellowship is a vehicle to seeing His plan realized. In this vision, there are no molds, no super saints, and no higher truths.

see Colossians 2:6-23

[THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH “ONE” CON’T]

We are highly motivated:

- To see God’s grace through the work of our Lord Jesus, come alive in people’s lives.
- To effectively teach that people have needs and to find God’s biblical response of love to meet those needs.
- To nurture each of God’s children to His potential for them.

We must be convinced that Open Door Fellowship belongs to each of us. It is as much yours as mine. The part that any one of us plays is not alone significant. What is significant is that each plays a part.

NOTES:

5. RELATIONSHIPS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE SAYS:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

In addition to these Bible verses: (All of Romans & Galatians with emphasis on starred verses) *Galatians 5:1-26, I Peter 4:8, *Romans 1:16-17, I Peter 1:3-5, *Romans 3:21-31, Ephesians 2:8-10, *Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 4:7, *Romans 6-8, I John 3:11-20, *Romans 9:15,16 (see appendix for full verses)

THEREFORE, as a ministry essential ...

Our understanding of God’s grace as part of our vision gives us tremendous hope. It is in God’s grace that we find and experience the miracle of His love. It is in this truth we initially learned and then experienced; the awesome reality of the commitment of love to one another. We deeply love each other. Jesus taught us this. Praise Him. A love that creates a commitment:

- That we sacrificially will work for each other’s best. *I Corinthians 12:21-26*
- That we will do all to the glory of God and through us to the benefit of the unsaved and the unchurched. *Matthew 28:18-20*
- That our love will be like the love of our Lord Jesus.

We must understand, that commitment (an expression of our love learned through His grace) is a vital, essential part of what has made Open Door what it is. When individuals lack commitment, separation is possible and convenient for a multitude of wrong

[RELATIONSHIPS OF GRACE CON'T]

reasons. When commitment is realized, verified, and honored, we will grow together dependent on each other. Our relationships – built upon principles of love (commitment) will always win over issues of practice, programs, or personalities.

NOTES:

6. LEADERSHIP

SCRIPTURE SAYS:

*“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ 36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.” **Acts 20:27-36***

In addition to these Bible verses: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 2:1-5, Acts 6:1-7, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:27-36 (see appendix for full verses)

THEREFORE, as a ministry essential ...

A foundational truth in the vision of Open Door Fellowship is our commitment to the New Testament dynamic of the plurality of elder leadership. A leadership:

- Committed to unity (free, open elder discussion on any issue with only issues of unity presented to the body of Open Door and each elder being careful to not defend his own personal views with any individuals within the body).

[LEADERSHIP CON'T]

- Committed to sacrificial shepherding.
- selected on the basis of giftedness, capacity, and character.
- Committed to a God honoring protection, not a lording- over the people of God.
- Understanding servant-ness.
- Involved and functional, (not a board that sets policy, but a group of men who believe they are called of God to be elders for and with the people that God has placed under their care).

Elders of the local church represent men who are called of God to an office. The staff of Open Door Fellowship is not our designated leadership. Elders are our leaders. Staff members may be elders. Any staff role is commissioned by the elders.

The pastors in the Body, i.e. home group leaders, children's ministry leaders and pastors on staff, function out of their giftedness. Even though pastors shepherd through their giftedness, the elders are responsible to shepherd the flock of God. The role of pastor is not synonymous with the role of elder.

The aspect of our vision makes Open Door a church led by elders, not a constitution or a charter, the congregation or a hierarchy of committees. We believe that this essential will not work out in practice unless there is a commitment to principles of accountability, headship (authority), servanthood and submission.

7. WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42, 46-47

In addition to these Bible verses: *1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 16:8-15, 1 Corinthians 1:4, Matthew 22:37, John 4:24 (see appendix for full verses)*

THEREFORE as a ministry essential...

The essence of our worship is:

- To recognize God as our Father and to know, love and honor Him in all that we do and say.
- To place the person of Christ, God’s Son, our Savior and Lord, His Word, and purposes at the forefront of all we do and say.
- To declare that the Holy Spirit is God and in agreement with Jesus’ own words, that our dependence on the Holy Spirit will draw us only to significantly honor Jesus Christ as Lord. The ministry of the Holy Spirit does not draw attention to the Holy Spirit.

8. FOR, NOT AGAINST

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.”

Galatians

5:22-26

In addition to these Bible verses: Psalm 139, I John 4:1-11, Romans 12:18, I Cor. 3:1-11 (see appendix for full verses)

THEREFORE as a ministry essential...

We teach truth from a positive conviction, not as a statement against the convictions of anyone else. Though our convictions will be in disagreement with others and probably in total opposition to some, we have chosen to not be anti-other Christian convictions. We are, however, absolutely anti-cult, anti-secular humanistic and anti-world's system in our convictions.

For example:

- We are not charismatic, because our understanding of the New Testament does not require charismatic convictions. Yet, we are careful to not be “anti” charismatic.
- We are not infant baptizers, because our understanding of the New Testament does not require infant baptism. Yet, we are careful to not be “anti” infant baptizers.

However,

- We are anti-abortion, because it is secular humanistic and non-Biblical, for the Bible places a high regard for sanctity of life beginning at conception.
- We are anti-cults, because they are heresy and demonic and deny the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

NOTES:

9. VISION – ITS STRUCTURE AND EXPRESSION

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

“And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

“The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,”

8 and,

“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

1 Peter 2:4-10

***In addition to these Bible verses: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
1 Corinthians 12 (see appendix for full verses)***

THEREFORE as a ministry essential...

Open Door Fellowship is a structure (living organism) with people, programs, and services to express itself and to meet the needs of those involved.

[VISION- ITS STRUCTURE AND EXPRESSION CON'T]

Programs and services at any one moment are not the total expression of the structure. Nor does the structure, at any one moment, express the essence of its vision. In understanding these principles we will ensure that programs and services do not become an end-unto-themselves, or ever develop into something in contradiction to the vision. We will be careful to not spiritualize our programs. We believe that the vision and the present structures will take us into our tomorrows.

NOTES:

10. OUTREACH

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions. 25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

Colossians 1:24-29

In addition to these Bible verses: Matthew 28:18-20, I Corinthians 9:16-27 (see appendix for full verses)

THEREFORE as a ministry essential....

Outreach is a vital essential of who we are, and as such, we believe that outreach should be a natural expression of a healthy Christian and a healthy body of Christians. The Gospel is preached on the streets and through our lives and not in a building. Evangelism requires a constant sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Our future is dependent on our constantly working against being ingrown.

SUMMARY

The essentials have made us who we have been and they will be the foundation for who we will be – every new ministry, every outreaching expression will need a deep understanding and agreement and commitment to these essentials.

We believe that the essentials we have shared are the truths God has given us to do. Read them and search them carefully. We think they are the basis of who we are at Open Door Fellowship.

DOCTRINE

The Bible consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original documents and of final authority in all matters of faith and practice. There is one God, eternally existent in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and He is all-knowing, all-powerful, just, merciful, wise, unchangeable and gracious. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man, fully God and fully Man – born of a virgin, perfect in His Person and eternal in His being.

We believe that mankind was created in the image of God and was originally without sin. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, all of mankind are now sinners both by nature and by choice and are unable to remedy their own lost condition. Jesus Christ died on a cross to rescue us from our helpless state – paying the penalty for our sin – and He rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into Heaven, and now sits at God’s right hand as our Mediator. The Church, consisting of God’s elect, began with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the believers at Pentecost.

By God’s grace, those who trust in the work of Christ for their salvation inherit eternal life and are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Because salvation is a work of God’s grace, believers are eternally secure and released from relying on their own abilities and merits to earn acceptance from God and others. The miracle of God’s grace frees believers to love as Christ loved, leading to unity, greater knowledge of Christ, maturity and the expression of gifting for the benefit of the Church. The Lord Jesus Christ will return soon, and there will be a resurrection of the saved to eternal life, and of the lost to eternal and conscious judgment.

APPENDIX: SCRIPTURES (New American Standard Bible)

1. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “PRIMACY OF GOD’S WORD”

“By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

II Timothy 3:16

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even Christ...*” -

Ephesians 4:14, 15

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.”

I Peter 1:22-23

“How blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the Lord.

²How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,
Who seek Him with all *their* heart.

³They also do no unrighteousness;
They walk in His ways.

⁴You have ordained Your precepts,
That we should keep *them* diligently.

⁵Oh that my ways may be established
To keep Your statutes!

⁶Then I shall not be ashamed
When I look upon all Your commandments.

⁷I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart,
When I learn Your righteous judgments.

⁸I shall keep Your statutes...” *{& con't entire chapter}*

Psalms 119

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a *matter* of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

II Peter 1:20-21

“In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.”

I Timothy 4:6-8

“So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

“*This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

James 1:19-25

2. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS”

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. 13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

Colossians 1:9-20

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek

its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

I Corinthians 13:1-13

“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— 2 for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you.”

Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”— 3 giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, 8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; 9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.”

II Corinthians 6:1-10

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,”

I Peter 5:1-6

“pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:17-18

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17

3. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “THE FAMILY”

“that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER

AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:27-6:4

“(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)...¹² Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, and ¹³good managers of *their* children and their own households.”

I Timothy 3:5 & 12

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to [d]constitute the smallest law courts? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? 4 So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, 6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor

idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. 14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "The two shall become one flesh." 17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

7 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. 3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command. 7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. 9 But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband 11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. 15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. 18 Was any man called when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God. 20 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called.

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. 22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.

25 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is

trustworthy. 26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. 29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; 30 and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; 31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

32 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; 33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

36 But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin daughter, if she is past her youth, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry. 37 But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin daughter, he will do well. 38 So then both he who gives his own virgin daughter in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better. 39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 6-7

An excellent wife, who can find?
For her worth is far above jewels.
¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her,
And he will have no lack of gain.
¹² She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
¹³ She looks for wool and flax
And works with her hands in delight.
¹⁴ She is like merchant ships;
She brings her food from afar.
¹⁵ She rises also while it is still night
And gives food to her household
And portions to her maidens.
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;
From her earnings she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷ She girds herself with strength
And makes her arms strong.
¹⁸ She senses that her gain is good;
Her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hands grasp the spindle.
²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor,
And she stretches out her hands to the needy.
²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household,
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.
²² She makes coverings for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³ Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.
²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells *them*,
And supplies belts to the tradesmen.
²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she smiles at the future.
²⁶ She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children rise up and bless her;
Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*:
²⁹ "Many daughters have done nobly,
But you excel them all."

³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

³¹ Give her the product of her hands,
And let her works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:10-31

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

I Timothy 5:8

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

Colossians 3:12-21

“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ² as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³ Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 10 For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 “He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. 12 “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

I Peter 3:1-12

“for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake.”

I Corinthians 11:9

“so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

Titus 2:4-5

4. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH ONE”

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? 7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

James 2:1-9

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you

were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:9-17

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8 Therefore it says,

“When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.”

9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each

individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:1-16

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26-28

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

“The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,”

8 and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

I Peter 2:4-10

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

I Corinthians 12:4-6

“for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

Romans 8:13-17

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

CHAPTER 5: For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself. 4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was. 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him,

“You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You”;

6 just as He says also in another passage,
“You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek.”

7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

“Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. 7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.” 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way. 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

sRomans 14

“and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

I Corinthians 12:23b-26

“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Romans 12:3-5

“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load.

6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.”

Galatians 6:1-6

5. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “RELATIONSHIPS OF GRACE”

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither

circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. 10 I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is. 11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. 12 I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another."

Galatians 5:1-26

“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”

I Peter 4:8

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith.’”

***Romans 1:16-17**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

I Peter 1:3-5

“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. 28 For we maintain that a

man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

***Romans 3:21-31**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” ***Romans**

5:1-2

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

Ephesians 4:7

***Romans 6-8** (*read full chapters 6, 7, 8*)

“For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things."

I John 3:11-20

"For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy."

***Romans 9:15-16**

6. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR "LEADERSHIP"

"It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." †

Timothy 3:1-7

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

I Peter 2:1-5

“Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.”

Acts 6:1-7

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”

Ephesians 4:11-12

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

I Peter 5:1-4

7. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “WORSHIP”

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

I Corinthians 11:23-26

“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will

take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

John 16:8-15

“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,”

I Corinthians 1:4

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

Matthew 22:37

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:24

8. SCRIPTURE BASIS FOR “FOR, NOT AGAINST”

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down,

And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

5 You have enclosed me behind and before,

And laid Your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
10 Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
12 Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.
13 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully
made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.
17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.
19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.
20 For they speak against You wickedly,
And Your enemies take Your name in vain.
21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.
23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalms 139

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

I John 4:1-11

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

Romans 12:18

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? 4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men?

5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:1-11

9. SCRIPTURE FOR "VISION – ITS STRUCTURE & EXPRESSION"

"And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

"The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,"

8 and,

"A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense";

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

I Peter 2:4-10

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

Romans 12:4-8

"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. 23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it."

I Corinthians 9:19-23

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God

says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more

presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

And I show you a still more excellent way.

I Corinthians 12

10. SCRIPTURE FOR "OUTREACH"

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. 17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. 18 What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. 23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

I Corinthians 9:16-27