

Membership Packet

If you have previously been baptized through immersion as an act of obedience and personal faith we would love to have you complete this packet to take the final steps towards membership.

The Membership packet includes:

1. Statement of Faith: What we believe
2. Agreement of Faith Statement
3. Personal Testimony

1. STATEMENT OF FAITH (What The Cross Church Believes)

Section 1: General Doctrine

Section 2: The Sanctity of Human Life

Section 3: Marriage, Gender, and Human Sexuality

SECTION 1: General Doctrine

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. ...God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. ...He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. ...He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Man

Man is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. ...By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. ... The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. ...All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end.

The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. ...It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members ... memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Evangelism & Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations... to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. ...It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.

Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. ...Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly...the dead will be raised, and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. ...The righteous... will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Education

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is to coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility.

The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debt to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions.

Cooperation

Christ's people should organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. ...Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.

The Christian & the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society... in the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death...

Religious Liberty

Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. ...A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. ... The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation... Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.

SECTION 2: THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Because the Holy Bible speaks directly to God's creative acts and to His creation of human life, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what Holy Scripture teaches regarding these matters. As a Church, we believe that God has created mankind in His image (Imago Dei) and that human life begins at conception. God, in His infinite sovereignty, uniquely formed human beings and gave them a special dignity, personal freedom and individual accountability among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for a relationship with God and to be good and faithful stewards of God's creation. God created each person's "inmost being", knitting each person together in his/her mother's womb (Psalm 139:13). As God's individualized and personal creation, each person is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). God has ordained all the days of each person's life before they came into being (Psalm 139:16). Therefore, based on the infallible nature of the Holy Bible, the moral teaching of the Scriptures and the long-standing tenets of the Church as a body of Christ, we believe all the following:

- A. From the very moment of conception/fertilization, every human life is sacred because every human life has been created by God, in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:5-6; Psalm 22:10; 100:3; 139:13-16; Isaiah 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44; John 1:1-5; Galatians 1:15).
- B. From the moment of conception until natural death, every human life must be recognized, respected and protected as having the rights of a person and as having the inviolable right to life. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition of life from conception through natural death. Therefore, we are called by Holy Scripture to defend, protect and value all human life. (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12, 14; Psalm 22:10; 100:3; 127:3; 139:13-16; Proverbs 6:16-17; Isaiah 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5)

C. The right to life and the physical integrity of every unborn human being is inviolable and inalienable -- it is not a concession made by a society or by government, but is instead inherent to the unborn human by virtue of his/her creation in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; Psalm 100:3; 139:13-16).

D. Because human life begins at the very moment of conception, it is against the teaching of Holy Scripture and our religious and moral convictions to -- in any manner, directly or indirectly -- cooperate in the termination of human life (Genesis 4:8-16; 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12, 14; Deuteronomy 5:17; 30:15-20; Proverbs 6:16-17; Jeremiah 7:30-32; Ezekiel 23:36-39).

E. We are committed to the preservation and defense of all human life which compels our religious, moral and ethical duty to defend all human life from destruction, whether by surgical abortion or the use of drugs, devices or services that are designed to terminate the life of a human. (Genesis 4:8-16; 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12, 14; Deuteronomy 5:17; 30:15-20; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 6:16-17; 24:11-12; Jeremiah 7:30-32; Ezekiel 23:36-39; Matthew 7:12; James 1:27; 1 John 11-15).

SECTION 3: MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

Because the Holy Bible speaks to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what Holy Scripture teaches regarding these matters. As a Church, we are committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture, and it is our firm conviction that we should uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and enduring principles of Scriptural truth. The Holy Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct, but equally important, roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. Therefore, based on the infallible nature of the Holy Bible, the moral teaching of the Scriptures and the long-standing tenets of the Church as a body of Christ, we believe all the following:

A. God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

B. The Holy Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal "one-flesh" marital union of one man and one woman; and (2) celibacy. Either is a gift from God, given for His glory and for the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithfulness is to be celebrated and affirmed within the Church to the same extent as marriage (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6, 12; Mark 10:5-8; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9; 12:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:4).

C. The Church defines marriage as the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive and conjugal "one-flesh" union of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, with absolute marital fidelity, which was ordained by God as the basic family unit in furtherance of the moral, spiritual and public good, and which binds father, mother, and child, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-9; Mark 10:5-9; Ephesians 5:31-33).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4).

D. God has commanded that sexual acts outside of a marriage between a man and a woman are prohibited as sinful. Therefore, we believe that any form of sexual immorality including, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, same-sex acts, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, polygamy is sinful and offensive to God (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7-23; 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 15:18-20; 15:19; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 3:5).

E. God created mankind in His image -- male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, Church members must affirm their biological sex and refrain from all attempts to physically change, alter or disagree with their predominant biological sex, including, but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite or transgender acts or conduct (Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

F. Church members must affirm the intrinsic sexual complementary nature of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered (Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:2).

G. In order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to in writing, and abide by, this Article, including this Statement of Faith on Marriage, Gender, and Human Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

H. As Scripture expressly teaches us, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through confession, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ. As a result, the Church believes that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Therefore, we believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Consequently, Church members should welcome and treat with respect and compassion all who experience same-sex attractions or who confess sexually immoral acts but who are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality and conforming their behavior to the Church's Articles of Faith as set forth in this Article and the Churches Covenant set forth in The Cross Church's Constitution pursuant to Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16).

A. parts of the body. (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 12; 2 Corinthians 1:12)

B. Life investment: to seek to serve more than be served. As people of God, we are called to give our time, talents, spiritual gifts, and financial resources in service to others. (Mark 10:35-45; John 13:12-15; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:3-21; 2 Corinthians 4:5)

Statement of Faith Agreement

I have read, affirm and am willing to teach and support the articles of faith as ascribed by The Cross Church and of the Southern Baptist Convention for where its articles of faith were originated.

Name

Date

Personal Testimony

We ask that all potential members, servers, and teachers are able to share their personal testimony concerning salvation and relationship with Jesus. Please take half a page-whole page describing your story of how Jesus became your savior and Lord. If you are more comfortable sharing this story verbally one of the elders The Cross Church would love to meet with you.