

# Our Lifestyle Statement

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 101*)

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"  
(John 10:27).

**M**any people say that they believe the Bible, but beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into **ACTIONS**. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following practices ...

## **A** *attitude of submission*

The Bible teaches that every believer needs to be a faithful and committed member of a local church family, and strongly emphasizes that we must be submitted to God, to the spiritual leadership He has placed in His body, and to one another. By placing ourselves in submission to our pastoral leadership, we receive the spiritual protection and accountability we need.

*"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit." (Hebrews 13:17)*

## **P** *priesthood of every believer*

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of their vocation. We emphasize the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service in the local church. Every believer has direct, personal access to God through the Bible and prayer.

*"But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done." (1 Peter 2:9)*

## **O** *overcoming spiritual life*

We understand that the only way possible to live the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Ghost within us. So we practice the daily spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible reading, and cultivate a dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to overcome sinful thoughts and actions and do what is right.

*"So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict." (Galatians 5:16-17)*

## **S** *sole authority of the Bible*

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

*"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:15)*

## **T** *tithing to support God's work*

The Bible teaches us to practice tithing for the support of the church, its leadership and ministries. We realize that giving ten percent of our income is God's Biblical standard. Tithing is not the same as giving an offering. The ten percent tithe belongs to God already, and anything we give above that is an offering.

*"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." (Leviticus 26:30)*

## **O** *outward appearance*

Real Christianity affects every area of our lives, major and minor. When the Bible's standards of godly appearance are present in a believer's life, they indicate that a real internal change has indeed taken place. In addition to glorifying God, our personal outward holiness has the effect of testifying to others around us.

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)*

## **L** *lifestyle of evangelism*

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the good news of the Gospel with those God brings us into contact with. Witnessing is not only the words we say, but also the life we live in front of others. We should use every opportunity to influence others toward Christ and His church.

*"Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope." (1 Peter 3:15)*

## **I** *individuality of every believer*

We understand that every believer grows at a different rate, and is at a different stage of development and commitment in their life with Christ. We therefore accept each person in their diversity, while encouraging all to grow to maturity in Christ.

*“If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord’s followers whose faith is weak. We should try to please them instead of ourselves. We should think of their good and try to help them by doing what pleases them.” (Romans 15:1-2)*

### **C conduct becoming a Christian**

God requires us to avoid things that defile our minds or bodies, since sinful thoughts and actions separate us from Him. Our old nature is not eradicated but merely subdued within us, so our flesh still has the ability to commit sinful acts. We alone make the choice to yield to God’s Spirit and conduct ourselves in ways that keep us close to God and away from sin.

*“Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’ Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete purity because we fear God.” (2 Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1)*

### **Study Questions**

1. In the blanks provided beside the following Scripture references, write the lifestyle practice it supports, with a brief explanation of each.

1) Romans 15:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

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2) Leviticus 26:30 \_\_\_\_\_

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3) 1 Peter 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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4) 2 Corinthians 6:17 – 7:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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5) Hebrews 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

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6) Matthew 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

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7) Galatians 5:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

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8) 2 Timothy 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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9) 1 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Notes**

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