

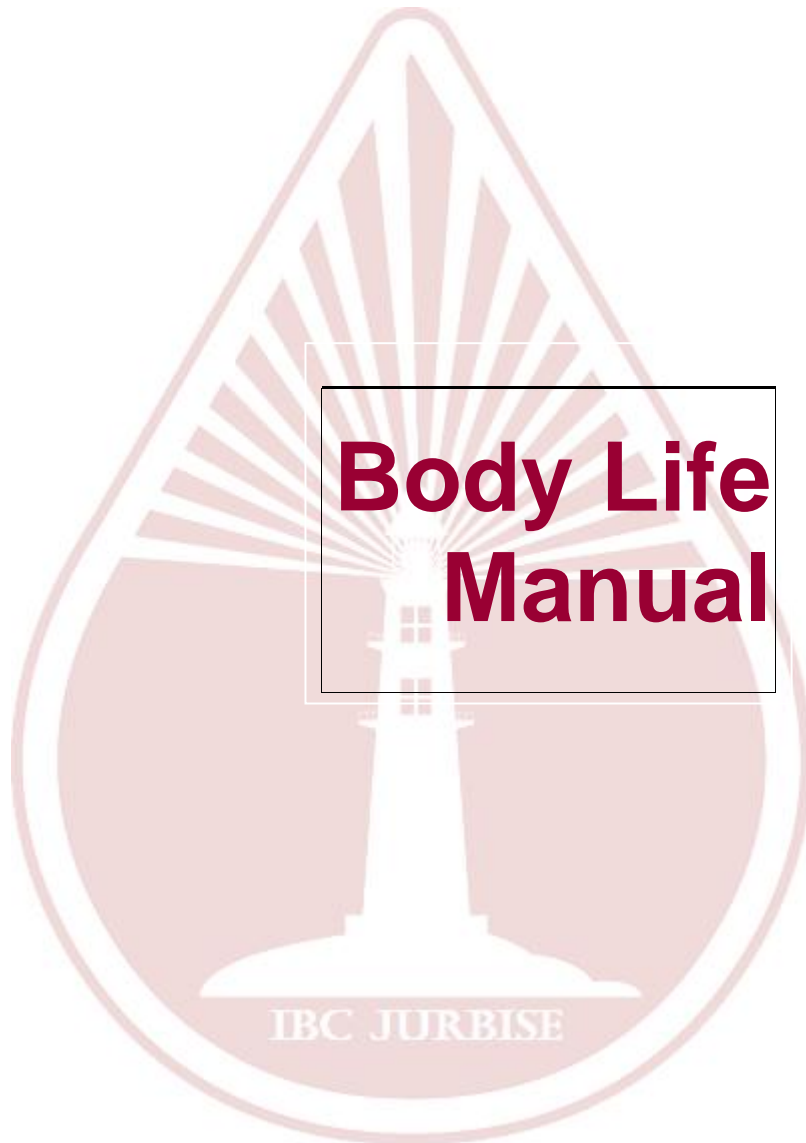


International
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Church
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Pastor:
Al Weeks



Where The Nations Come To Worship

Welcome to International Baptist Church

As your pastor, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the IBC family. God continues to add many people to our fellowship who have a desire to advance His kingdom. The IBC Family is anxious to minister to you and equip you to minister to others. You will find IBC to be a friendly and loving fellowship of believers who will welcome you warmly.

Let me encourage you to complete the Body Life class. After completion, we will assist you in finding a ministry where you can grow and serve.

God has given you a place at IBC. We want to help you find your place to worship, grow, and serve.

The Body Life Manual is designed to help us:

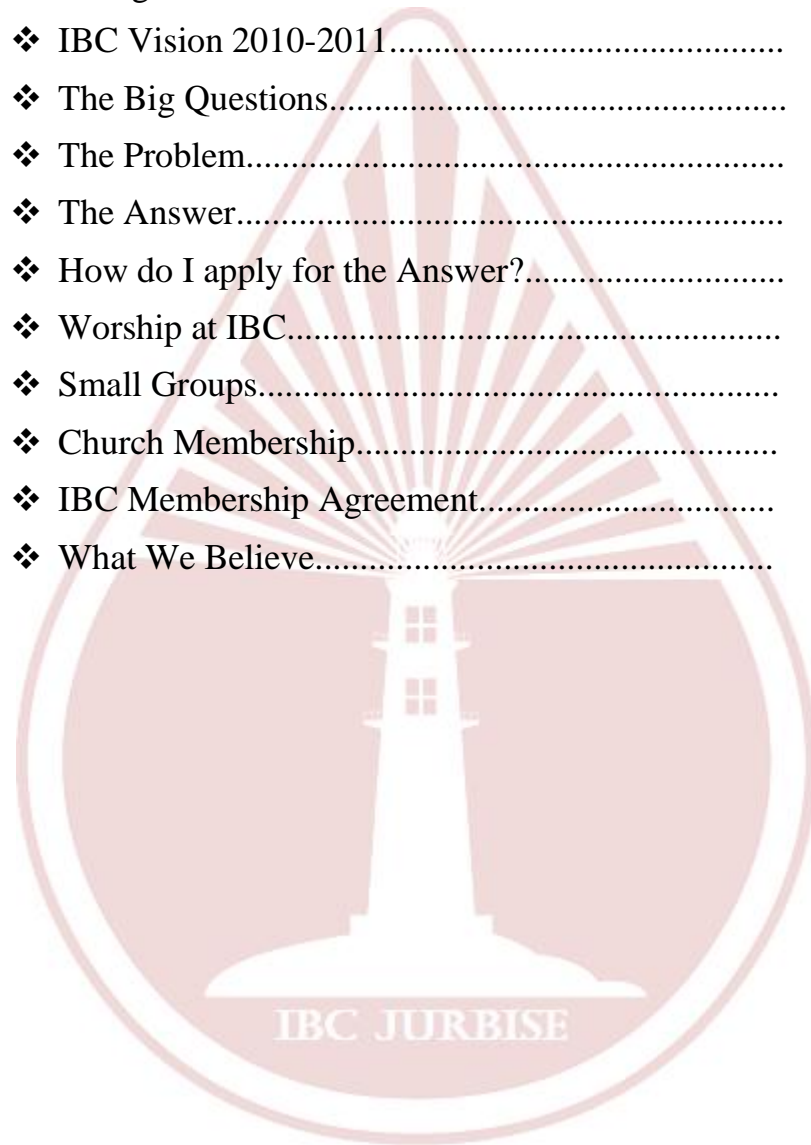
- meet in Christ
- mature in Christ
- minister in Christ

Again, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the family of IBC

In Christ,
Rev. Al Weeks
Pastor

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The Purpose of this document

This document is to provide information on IBC, on orthodox Christian doctrine and to provide the information needed to make a decision on becoming a member of IBC.

Who is this for?

This is for the Christian believer who is seeking to learn more about IBC and being a member.

It assumes you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour and are familiar with Christian terminology.

Background to IBC

IBC Jurbise was founded to meet the needs of English speaking Christians living and working in this part of Belgium.

IBC Jurbise has attracted;

- Families, small and large, young and old
- Christians who are looking for a deeper level of teaching than is commonly provided in the other programs
- Families who are looking to work in a ministry/s where their contribution will make a tangible difference
- Christians concerned about missions, including the mission of reaching the local population of Belgium
- Christians disaffected or dissatisfied with the status quo in church life
- New believers looking for a Personal Walk with Jesus

The Church Motto is :

“Glorifying God, Edifying the Body, and Reaching the Lost”

All ministries, when determining their concerns and needs, must ask themselves how they are to best reflect these concepts.

The overall vision is found in Acts 1:8 :

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My Witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Combined with the great commission found in Matthew 28: 19-20:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

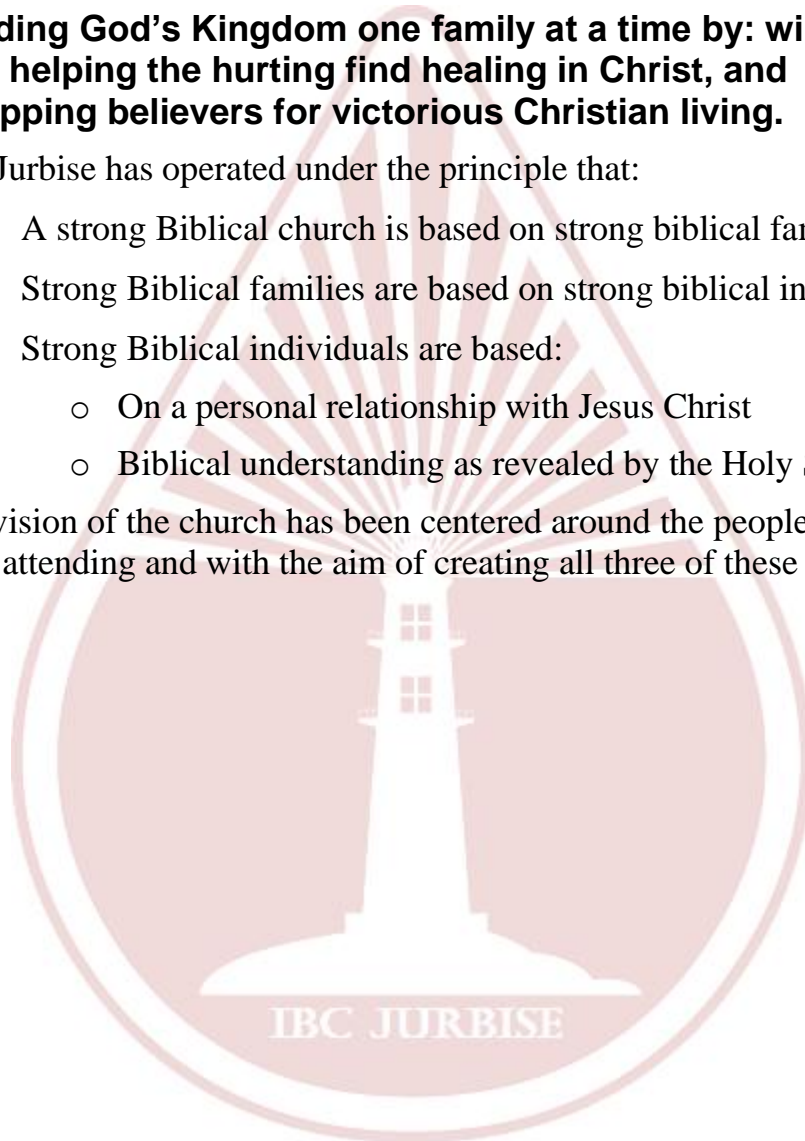
These form the foundation of all the Ministries here at IBC Jurbise and is best summed up in this phrase:

Building God's Kingdom one family at a time by: winning the lost, helping the hurting find healing in Christ, and equipping believers for victorious Christian living.

IBC Jurbise has operated under the principle that:

- A strong Biblical church is based on strong biblical families
- Strong Biblical families are based on strong biblical individuals
- Strong Biblical individuals are based:
 - On a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Biblical understanding as revealed by the Holy Spirit

The vision of the church has been centered around the people who have been attending and with the aim of creating all three of these points.



IBC Vision for 2010-2011

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

Engage and Connect (Ephesians 5:15-21)

Connecting with the local body and engaging in worship there highlights the importance of worship, prayer, and fellowship in your everyday life. It reminds us that building positive, long-lasting relationships with people at work, school, the PTA, and even in your home is vastly important.

Enlarge and Thrive (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Growing "in spirit and in truth" should be the goal of all Christians. The best way to enlarge your life in Christ and thrive in His plan for us is knowing God's Word. Using the Word of God to learn how to make a difference in our day-to-day lives is key to a balanced life. Enlarging our knowledge of God is vital, but it's about more than just words on a page, it is truly embracing the life of a disciple and seeing Jesus come alive in your life and the life of your family.

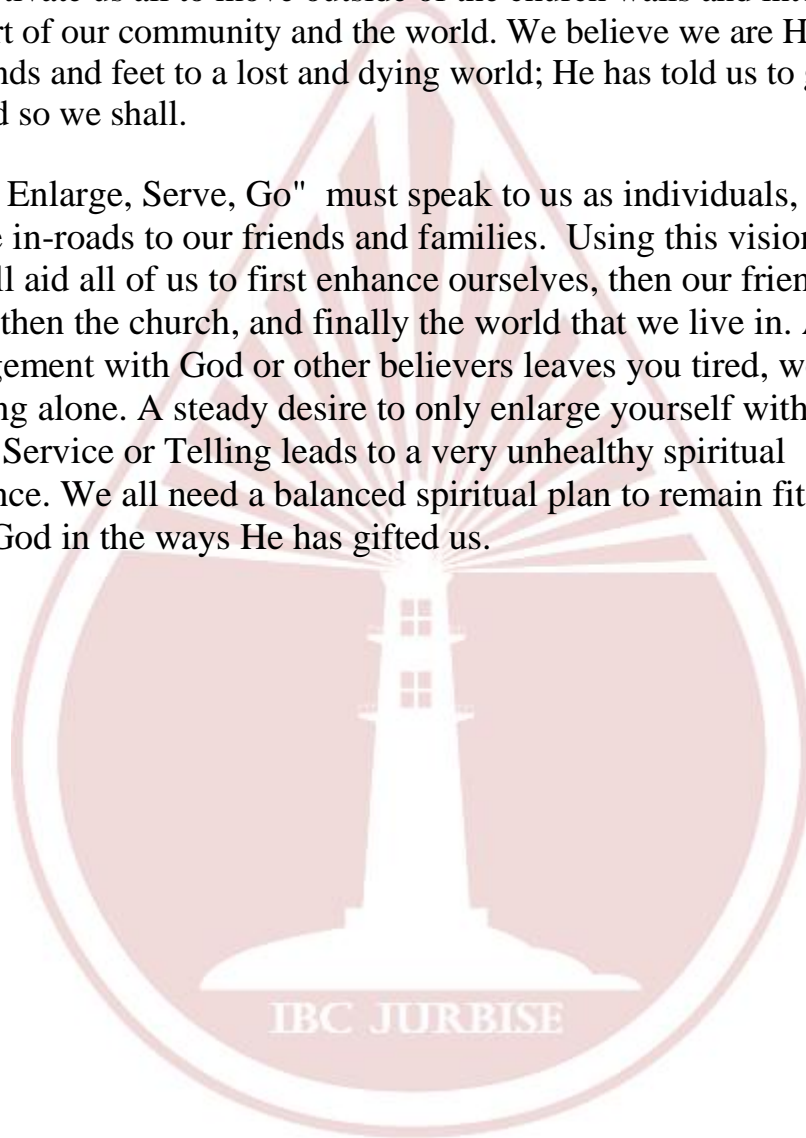
Serve and Avail (James 1:27)

Serving God by availing ourselves first to the Holy Spirit then to one another is foundational in Scripture and it truly feeds our souls. It takes all of us working together for the church to function as God intended. He empowers us to serve, and multiplies our efforts in exponential ways.

Go and Tell (Matthew 28:19-20)

Moving outside our comfort zones to engage the world around us is the ultimate goal of all discipleship programs. All the learning in the world is meaningless if we do not replicate it in others. Our goal is to motivate us all to move outside of the church walls and into every part of our community and the world. We believe we are His chosen hands and feet to a lost and dying world; He has told us to go and tell, and so we shall.

"Engage, Enlarge, Serve, Go" must speak to us as individuals, before it can make in-roads to our friends and families. Using this vision, we feel that it will aid all of us to first enhance ourselves, then our friends and families, then the church, and finally the world that we live in. All Go and no Engagement with God or other believers leaves you tired, worn out and feeling alone. A steady desire to only enlarge yourself without the action of Service or Telling leads to a very unhealthy spiritual indifference. We all need a balanced spiritual plan to remain fit and able to serve God in the ways He has gifted us.



The Big Questions

Who Am I?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing "**who they are.**" They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives.

The most basic question a person can ask is, "**Who am I?**"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- happiness in possessions
- happiness in pleasures
- happiness in prestige and power

However, real happiness comes from understanding our purpose in life.

Why am I Here?

God made us to love us! "...*I have loved you with an everlasting love!*" (Jeremiah 31:3). We were created to enjoy a personal intimate relationship with God!

The Problem...

Man has a natural desire to be boss and ignore God's principles for living. "If it feels good, do it."

The Bible calls this attitude sin. Every one of us has done this. "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*" (1 John 1:8).

Sin breaks our relationship with God that He created us to have! When our relationship with God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives -

- marriage
- career
- relationships

The Answer...

Jesus Christ said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me!*" (John 14:6).

Jesus came to earth to bring us back to Himself. The penalty of sin is death; and Jesus, who never sinned, died for our sins and rose from the

dead! He has provided your forgiveness because He was willing take your punishment for you!

God has already done His part to restore our relationship with Him. Now, He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

How do I apply the answer?

- **Admit** that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive you of your sins.
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9).
- **Believe** that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again and is alive today.
"That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9).
- **Commit** to Christ your life and heart, and submit to His leadership in your life.
"To all who receive Him He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! - not a physical birth - but from the will of God!" (John 1:12-13).

"Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13 LB).

Worship at IBC

Worship Is...

Worship is expressing our love to the Lord.

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." (Matthew 4:10).

Although Worship is thought of as what happens in a Service, the widest definition of worship is much more. It is what we do as a body on Sundays; it is our attitude toward work, play, finances etc.

Worship Is Not...

Worship is not about what **you** get out of the service; it is what **God** gets out of the service. It is all about Him! If you go away from a worship time and ask yourself, "What did I get out of that worship service?", then you missed the point. It is all about HIM.

Some examples of worship include (but are not limited to):

- singing (Ephesians 5:19)

- commitment (Romans 12:1-2)
- praying (Psalms 95:6)
- hearing the Word (John 17:17)
- giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- baptism (Romans 6:3-4)
- meditation (Habakkuk)
- the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

IBC's Worship Style

Our 10:30 a.m. service is a blend of the traditional and contemporary worship styles. After the worship portion of the service, children's church is available for ages four through six.

- Celebration (fun - Psalms 122:1)
- Inspiration (filling - Isaiah 40:31)
- Preparation (fit and ready for Monday - Ephesians 4:11-12)

Small Groups

The teaching of God's word in small groups is an integral part of IBC. Examples of these groups are:

- AWANA Clubs
- Youth Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Spiritual Gift Workshops
- Leadership Training
- Prayer Groups

"Assemble the people - men, women, and children, and the aliens living in your towns - so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 31:12 NIV).

IBC JURBISE

Church Membership

At IBC, we believe that membership in a church is an important commitment, and we take that commitment very seriously.

Why Is Church Membership Important?

We believe that the concept of church membership is Biblical. While the term "church member" is never used, the concept is implicit throughout the New Testament. Believers clearly identified themselves

with a specific local body and were challenged to become devoted participants.

Church membership defines who can be counted on to build and sustain the ministries of the church. Membership defines our family. Each week we have very regular attendees, but membership goes a step further in letting the rest of the church know who is committed to the family.

Church membership is an antidote to our non-committal society. In a culture where commitment is no longer highly valued, recognizable membership is an important step that moves each of us out of the vague clouds of good intentions and into the clear light of committed participation. Membership is a commitment not only to Christ, but also to a community of believers. It is saying, **"I want to help all of you serve and grow in God, and I want all of you to help me do the same. I am committed to you."**

What are the benefits of Church Membership?

- Church Membership gives us a spiritual family for support and encouragement.
"Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).
- Church Membership gives us a place to discover and use our gifts in life and ministry. It allows us to start down that road to true life fulfillment.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-27).
- Church Membership places us under spiritual protection of godly leaders.
"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." (Hebrews 13:17).
- Church Membership gives the accountability to each other that we need in order to grow.
"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21).
- Church Membership gives us the right to influence the key decisions of the church.
- Church Membership gives us priority for facility usage.
- Church Membership allows us to serve in leadership position for which membership is a prerequisite.

Why become a Church Member?

The greatest reason to become a church member, however, is not to gain a personal advantage, but to identify ourselves as believers in the community at large, in our families, and with other believers.

Expectations of Membership

We do not expect our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what God expects every Christian to do.

Requirements

- A personal commitment and relationship with Jesus Christ
- A willingness to submit to His Lordship over your life
- Baptism by immersion as a believer

IBC Membership agreement

While the door of the church is open to anyone to attend, the standard is raised at membership. This membership agreement is a commitment to God and His Church, not to IBC. It is simply a written version of what should have already happened in your heart.

- To protect the unity of IBC
 - By acting in love toward other members (Romans 14:19; Romans 15:5; 1 Peter 1:22)
 - By refusing to gossip (Proverbs 17:4)
 - By following leaders (1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 13:17)
- To share the responsibility of IBC
 - By praying for its growth (1 Thessalonians 1:2)
 - By inviting the un-churched to attend (Luke 14:23)
 - By warmly welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7)
- To serve the ministry of IBC
 - By discovering our gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
 - By being equipped to serve the ministry of the church. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - By developing a servant's heart (Philippians 2:4-7)
- To support the testimony of IBC
 - By attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)
 - By living a godly life (Philippians 1:27)
 - By giving regularly (Leviticus 27:30; 1 Corinthians 16:22)

For further details Baptist Faith and Message 2000, available as a separate document

What we Believe

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 substance. Therefore, all Scripture is completely true and trustworthy.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (2 Tim 3:16)

God

There is One and only One living and true God, Eternal and equally co-existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all-powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

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.

He reigns over His creatures and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise.

God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

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.

Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities, and identifying Himself completely with humankind yet without sin.

He honored the divine law by His personal obedience; and in His substitutional death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of all men from sin.

He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples and to as many as 300 people.

He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man.

He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.

He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine.

He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures.

Through illumination, He enables men to understand truth.

He exalts Christ.

He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration.

Now of regeneration, He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.

He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church.

He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption.

His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image.

He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation.

In the beginning, man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice, man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherits a nature and an environment

inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation.

Only the grace of God can bring man back into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. 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 full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, Who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.

In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

God's purpose of Grace...

Election or pre-destination of the believers is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

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. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

The Church

The church is a body.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27).

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 offices of pastor and deacon is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages: believers from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

A church is a family.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship." (Acts 2:42)

"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3:8).

A high priority in a family is harmony and unity.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3).

The five purposes of the church are given in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40):

- Worship
- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Ministry
- Fellowship

Our mission is to help each person with whom we come in contact to:

- Meet Christ
- Mature in Christ
- Minister Christ to the world

We (IBC) will operate within the purpose and mission of our church as led by God.

Baptism

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. 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 believer's resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony

to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

- To follow the example set by Christ and identify ourselves with Him.
"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9).
- Because Christ commands it.
"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:19-20).
- It demonstrates that I really am a believer.
"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3).

Baptism by Immersion?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." (Matthew 3:16).

The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptizo" means "to dip under the water. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection. First Christ's burial and resurrection,

"Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

and second, Our burial and resurrection.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, and new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Who Should Be Baptised?

Every person who has believed in Christ and accepted Him as their Saviour.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized..." (Acts 2:4).

Some denominations practice infant baptism (often known as a Christening). This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. We believe this is different from the baptism referred to in the Bible. The purpose of a believer's baptism is to confess publicly a personal commitment to Christ.

At IBC, we wait until our children are capable of believing and understanding the true meaning of baptism before we baptise them.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking in the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipating His second coming.

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His sacrifice. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper, as an object lesson, represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

At IBC, you can expect us to observe the Lord's Supper at least once per quarter and more often than not once a month.

What Is The Lord's Supper?

- It is a reminder of Christ's sacrifice.
(1 Corinthians 11:24)
- It is a symbol of Christ's body and blood, spilled out for us.
(1 Corinthians 11:25)
- It is a statement of faith.
(1 Corinthians 11:26)

The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day.

It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

It makes no claim of circumventing or becoming the "Sabbath Day" (the last day of the week for the Jews). It is the day mentioned in Scripture that we meet, as the first century church did, and worship.

Just as God asks of us our first fruits in all aspects of life, it is only fitting we give Him the first day of the week.

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Specifically, the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, child-like commitment to Jesus Christ.

Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and that God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

End Times

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end.

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.

The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment.

The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Outreach - Reaching the Lost

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:13-14).

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations.

The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others.

Outreach effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness under girded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Why IBC Must Never Stop Reaching

- God loves people.
"The Lord...is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)
- God commands us to reach out.
"Then the master told his servants, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'" (Luke 14:23)
- Growth is God's will.
"He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows and God causes it to grow." (Colossians 2:19)

Marriage and the Family

God has ordained Marriage first and the family second as the foundational institutions of human society. Family is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church, and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to Biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

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 the 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. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle, example, and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

The Priesthood of the Believer

The church body needs every member to do the part God has called him or her to do. God has designed each member uniquely, and we recognize that individuals are to serve the church according to that design. **One inactive member cripples the church.**

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith." (Romans 12:5-6).

Spiritually Empowered by Prayer

Believing that all ministries must have prayer as its foundation, we will seek to incorporate all facets of an intercessory prayer ministry. The Nehemiah Project is the prayer ministry of IBC. We commit to pray for our elected officials, our spiritual overseers, for one another, and for our lost world. We further covenant to teach, preach, and practice prayer.

"...pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

"For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the people." (Isaiah 56:7).

Leadership Training

All members of IBC who are in leadership or are considering entering into leadership will be thoroughly trained and equipped to perform with excellence.

"He also told them this parable: 'Can a blink man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.'" (Luke 6:39-40).

Nature of Acceptance

We cannot expect non-believers to act like believers until they are believers. We have unity in the essentials and liberty in the non-essentials. We try to use language that is easily understood by non-believers or un-churched people.

"Accept one another, then, for the Glory of God, as Christ has accepted you." (Romans 15:7).

Preaching will be practical and helpful for daily living, recognizing that it is not enough to know God's Word, but that it must be applied individually.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22).

Discipleship and Ministry

"And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature." (Ephesians 4:13).

"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12).

"This second most important is similar: 'Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.'" (Matthew 22:39).

Every member is a minister.

Every task is important.

Every member is a "10" in some area.

It is important to highlight the importance of offering your gifts and talents as soon as you feel able and called. Unlike churches which have a more static congregation, the members of IBC rarely stay more than three years, sometimes less, because of the nature of military duties.

As a result, IBC does not have the luxury of waiting for you to offer your talents. If you wait too long, it may be too late and you have to move on.

The other side of this is that you should consider your time with IBC as training in discipleship for your next situation.

Fellowship

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer." (Hebrews 25:10).

"...you are now citizens together with God's people and members of the family of God." (Ephesians 2:19b).

"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3:8).

The church is a family. Adults today are not looking for a friendly church; they are looking for friends. A Christian without a church family is an orphan.