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| ***This class is taught to every new person that would like to join the Velvet Ridge Church of God*** |
| http://www.vrchurchofgod.org/imagelib/sitebuilder/layout/spacer.gif |
| |  | | --- | | ***VELVET RIDGE CHURCH OF GOD***  **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**  CHURCH OF GOD TEACHINGS  *"THE CHURCH OF GOD AS STOOD,*  *AS IT AS ALWAYS STOOD, ON HOLINESS"*  *The foundation of the Church of God is laid upon the principles of Biblical Holiness. Even before the church experienced the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, it roots were set in the holiness revival of the past century. It was, & is, a holiness church. Holiness in fact & holiness in name.*  1) *The Church of God stands now, as it has always stood, for the whole Bible rightly*  *divided, & for the New Testament as the only rule for government & discipline.* It has been necessary at times for the General Assembly of the church to search the Scriptures & interpret the meaning of the Bible to arrive at what is the true & proper teaching of the church on various subjects, but always with the purpose & intention to base our teachings strictly upon the Bible.  2) For this purpose, a committee was appointed to re-post at the 1910 Assembly giving a collection of some of the teachings made prominent by the church, together with the Scriptures upon which these teachings were based; & that committee did report, & the matter contained in the report is set forth on page 47 of the printed*Minutes* of that Assembly.  3) However, the *Minutes* do not show that the report was officially adopted by the Assembly. The matters set forth in that report are simply a collection of some of the more important things that we have always believe, practiced, & taught, & is the law as set forth in the Holy Bible. *We do not now attempt, & never have attempted, to make a law, but we have merely interpreted the Scriptures,*& we have here set forth the laws that we have found there.  4) In order that there may be a record of the divine law, as set forth in the Scriptures, & as found & interpreted by the Assembly, it is now declared & reaffirmed that we accept & stand for the whole Bible rightly divided, & for the New Testament as our rule of faith & practice, & we do now declare the laws & teachings of the Bible, as set forth in the report of the said committee on page 47 of the 1910 *Minutes of the General Assembly*under the heading "Church of God Teachings" to be the official findings & Interpretations of the 1930 Assembly of the Church of God upon the teachings & subjects thereon dealt with.  5) The Supplement of the Church of God *Assembly Minutes* shall be taught in all Church of God Bible schools & colleges, & ministerial students shall be required to take an examination equal to the questionnaire used in examining applicants for the ministry.  ***DECLARATION OF FAITH***  1) In the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible.  VERBAL -- Action**.**  We do believe that if the Bible says it happen. Then it happen.  *2) In one God Eternally Existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, & Holy Ghost*.  Mat. 3,16,17 -- And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.  3) That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, Conceived on the Holy Ghost, & born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was Crucified, Buried, & Raised from the Dead. That He Ascended to Heaven & is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.  4) That all have Sinned & Come Short of the Glory of God & that Repentance is Commanded of God for all & necessary for Forgiveness of Sins.  Rom. 3,23 -- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  REPENTANCE -- Reformation. To change.  This is when I turn, & start going in the other direction. I don’t want that life any longer.  5) That Justification, Regeneration, & the New Birth are wrought by Faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ.  JUSTIFICATION -- Acquittal for Christ's sake. To show to be just, right.  REGENERATION -- Spiritual Rebirth, Spiritual Restoration.  WROUGHT -- Make happen.  You cannot have the New Birth without the Blood of the Lamb of God in your life. Justification, Regeneration can happen, but only after the Blood.  6) In Sanctification subsequent to the New Birth are wrought by Faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ.  SANCTIFICATION-- Purification, Holiness.  SUBSEQUENT -- Coming after.  You can try to live it the best you can, but it want happen un the FAITH of Jesus, & his blood.  7) Holiness to be God’s Standard of Living for His people.  1 Thes. 4,7 -- For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.  1 Pet. 1,16 -- Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.  HOLINESS -- Pure.  Let’s not look at what we think is holy, BUT WHAT GOD WILL CALL HOLY.  8) In the Baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a Clean Heart.  9) In Speaking with other Tongues as the Spirit gives Utterance & that it is the Initial Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.  To many times we look for tongues, when we should be looking at the blesser. The tongues will come as you worship God. There is more than the Evidence of the Baptism with the Speaking in Tongues.  1 Cor. 14:5,6 -- I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?  1 Cor. 14:18,19,22 -- I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.  10) In Water Baptism by Immersion, & all who Repent should be Baptized in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Ghost.  Mat. 28,19 -- Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:  11) Divine Healing is Provided for all in the Atonement.  James 5:14-16 -- Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.  ATONEMENT -- Divine favor, Reconciliation.  Healing is provided for all people. God is God, & He can heal whoever He likes to. Yet as a Child of God, then God according to His Word, has to heal, or give me strength to hold on to Him, is my time of need.  12) In the Lord’s Supper & Washing of the Saints’ feet.  A lot of people don’t have a problem with the Lord’s supper, but they do the Foot Washing. The Foot washing was done at the same time of the Lord Supper. After Jesus got through, He said do this as I have done it unto you.  John 13:4-9 -- He rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.  Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"  John 13:14,15 -- "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.  13) In the Pre-millennial second coming of Jesus.  **First:** to Resurrect the Righteous Dead & to catch away the Living Saints to Him in the air.  **Second:** to Reign on the Earth a Thousand years.  Some believe in the Pre-Tribulation, Mid-Tribulation, Post-Tribulation.  You decide for yourself. I believe in the Pre-Tribulation. One reason is look at the Early Church. They were looking for Jesus in their day.  14) In the Bodily Resurrection; Eternal Life for the Righteous, & Eternal Punishment for the Wicked.  Rev. 20,10 -- And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.  **DOCTRINAL COMMITENTS**  1) Repentance. -- "Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19"  2) Justification. -- "Romans 5:1, Titus 3:7"  3) Regeneration. -- "Titus 3:5"  4) New Birth. -- "John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9"  5) Sanctification subsequent to Justification. --  "Romans 5:2; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:12"  6) Holiness. -- "Luke 1:75; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14"  7) Water Baptism. -- "Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9,10; John 3:22,23; Acts 8:36,38"  8) Baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to cleansing; the endowment of power for service.  "Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49,53; Acts 1:4-8"  9) The speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance as the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost. "John 15:26; Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:1-7"  10) Spiritual Gifts. -- "1 Corinthians 12:1,7,10,28,31; 14:1"  11) Signs following believers. -- "Mark 16:17-20; Romans 15:18,19;  Hebrews 2:4" Fruit of the Spirit. -- "Romans 6:22; Galatians 5:22,23; Ephesians 5:9;  Philippians 1:11"  13) Divine Healing provided for all in the Atonement. -- "Psalm 103:3;  Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:17; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24"  14) The Lord’s Supper. -- "Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26"  15) Washing the Saints’ feet. -- "John 13:4-17; 1 Timothy 5:9,10"  16) Tithing & Giving. -- "Genesis 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Malachi 3:10;  Luke 11:42;  1 Corinthians 9:6-9; 16:2; Hebrews 7:1-21"  *First of all*: we are NOT money hungry. Yet it takes money to do the ministry that we do. "And that’s a fact."  There are more Scriptures on Giving money than any other topic in the bible. The only place it talks about God giving unto you, to where there is not room enough to receive it in, is after you have paid your tithes.  Mal. 3,8,10 -- Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.  2 Cor. 9:6-9 -- But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.  THE OFFERINGS  You need to know where your money is going.  Your offering will go, to where you say it to go. Yet if you don’t mark if for something. Then this is what we do with it.  Sunday School – General Fund, to buy our books.  Sunday Morning – General Fund  Sunday Night – General Fund  General Fund is to pay bills, & exc.  Wednesday Night – Goes to the youth.  THE TITHES  All monies stay in the church, expect 10% of the tithes. All other offerings stay in the church.  *Tithes* – 5% goes to the Internal offices. 5% goes to state offices. By this 100% of you money goes to support what you want it to. Such as Missionaries, or other churches.  *Tithes envelope*– mark where you want you money to go.  *Pastor*– can spend up to 100.00 without going to anyone.  *Deacon Board* – can spend up to 500.00 without going to anyone.  Any other amount has to go before the body of the church. With this we have a  CALLED MEETING – 10 days notice for the body.  **17) Restitution where possible.** -- "Matthew 3:8; Luke 19:8,9"  **18) Premillennial second coming of Jesus.**  *First:*to resurrect the dead saints & to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. "1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-52;  1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:1"  ***Second:***to reign on the earth a thousand years. "Zechariah 14:4;  1 Thessalonians 4:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 5:10; 19:11-21; 20:4-6"  **19) Resurrection.**-- "John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:5,6"  **20) Eternal life for the righteous**. -- "Matthew 25:46; Luke 18:30;  John 10:28; Romans 6:22; 1 John 5:11-13"  **21) Eternal Punishment for the wicked. No liberation nor annihilation.**  "Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 3:29; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8"  **PRACTICAL COMMITMENTS**  This is a life style that will not get you into Heaven, or Hell. But it will help you a better life for & unto God.  I: SPIRITUAL EXAMPLE  *We will demonstrate our commitment to Christ through our practice of the Spiritual Disciplines; we will demonstrate our commitment to the body of Christ through our loyalty to God & commitment to His church; & we will demonstrate our commitment to the work of Christ through our being good stewards.*  A: PRACTICE OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES  *Spiritual disciplines involve such practices as Prayer, Praise, Worship, Confession, Fasting, Meditation, & Study.* Through Prayer we express our trust in Jehovah God, the giver of all good things, & acknowledge our dependence on Him for our needs & for the of others (Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13; James 5:13-18).  Through both private & public Worship we bless God, have communion with Him, & are provided daily with spiritual enrichment & growth in grace. Through periods of Fasting we draw close to God, Meditate on the passion of Christ, & Discipline ourselves to submit to the control of the Holy Spirit in all areas of our life (Matthew 6:16-18; 9:14-17; Acts 14:23). Through Confession of our sins to God we are assured of divine forgiveness (1 John 1:9-2:2). The sharing of our confession with other believers provides the opportunity to request prayer & to bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2; James 5:16). Through meditation on & Study of the Word of God we enhance our own Spiritual growth & prepare ourselves to help guide & instruct others in Scriptural truths (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:15:23-26).  B: LOYALTY TO GOD & COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH  *The life of Christian Discipleship calls for the fulfillment of our duties to the body of Christ. We are to unite regularly with other members of the church for the purpose of Magnifying & Praising God & hearing His Word*(Matthew 18:20; John 4:23; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; 12:24; Hebrews 10:25). Sunday is the Christian day of worship. As the Lord’s Day, it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead (Matthew 28:1) & should be employed for Worship, Fellowship, Christian Service, Teaching, Evangelism, & Proclamation (Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Colossians 2:16, 17). We are to provide for the financial needs of the Church by the giving of tithes (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23) & offerings (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-24; 9:1-15). It is our duty to respect & submit to those whom the Lord Jesus has placed over us in the church (1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13; Hebrews 13:7, 17). Our exercise of authority must be as a spiritual example rather than as a lord over God’s flock (Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Peter 5:1-3). Furthermore, our submission must be a manifestation of the spiritual grace of humility (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5, 6). Finally, we are to avoid affiliation with oath bound societies. Such societies may appear to have spiritual character, but by being oath-bound & secretive, they contradict Christian belong to any body or society that requires or practices an allegiance that supersedes or excludes their fellowship in Christ  (Matthew 12:47-49; John 17:21-23).  C: BEING GOOD STEWARDS  In the Scriptures, the virtues of thrift & simplicity are honored, but the vices of waste & ostentation are solemnly prohibited (Isaiah 55:2; Matthew 6:19-23). The living of a godly & sober life requires the wise & frugal use of our temporal blessings, including Time, Talent, & Money. As good stewards we are to make the most of our time, whether for recreation or for work (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5). The idle use of leisure time degrades (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Timothy 5:13), but the edifying use of it brings inner renewal. *All our work & play should honor the name of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). As good stewards we must use fully our spiritual gifts* (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:9-11) & natural talents (Matthew 25:14-30) for the glory of God. As good stewards we must recognize that the wise use of money is an essential part of the Christian’s economy of life. God has committed temporal blessings to our trust (Matthew 7:11; James 1:17).  II: MORAL PURITY  *We will engage in those activities which glorify God in our body & which avoid the fulfillment of the lust of the flesh. We will Read, Watch, & Listen to those which are of positive benefit to our spiritual well-being.*  A: GLORIFYING GOD IN OUR BODY  *Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, & we are to glorify God in our body* (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31). We are to walk in the Spirit & not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). Examples of fleshly behavior which do not glorify God are noted in several passages of Scripture (Romans 1:24; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8). Sinful practices which are made prominent & condemned in these scriptures include Homosexuality, Adultery, Worldly attitudes (such as Hatred, Envy, Jealousy), Corrupt Communication (such as Gossip, Angry Outbursts, Filthy words), Stealing, Murder, Drunkenness, & Witchcraft. Witchcraft has to do with the practices of the occult, which are forbidden by God & lead to the worship of Satan.  B: READING, WATCHING, & LISTENING  ***The literature we read, the programs we watch, & the music we listen to profoundly affect the way we feel, think, & behave. It is imperative, then, that the Christian read, watch, & listen to those things which Inspire, Instruct, & Challenge to a higher plane of living.***Therefore, Literature, Programs, & Music which are worldly in content or Pornographic in nature must be avoided.  A Christian is not to attend (or watch on television) movies or theatrical performances of a demoralizing nature (Romans 13:14; Philippians 4:8).  C: BENEFITTING SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING  *The use of leisure time in the life of a Christian should be characterized by those activities which edify both the individual & the body of Christ*(Romans 6:13; 1 Corinthians 10:31, 32). We are to avoid places & practices which are of this world. Consequently, a Christian must not be a part of any other types of entertainment which appeal to the fleshly nature and/or bring discredit to the Christian testimony (2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22; 1 John 2:15-17).  III: PERSONAL INTEGRITY  *We will live in a manner that inspires Trust & Confidence, Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit, & Seeking to Manifest the Character of Christ in all our behavior.*  A: TRUST & CONFIDENCE  *A Christian should be Trustworthy, Dependable, & a person of His Word* (Matthew 5:37; 1 Peter 2:11, 12). Therefore, the swearing of oaths is contrary to a Christian’s Trustworthiness & should be avoided (Matthew 5:34-37; James 5:12). Christ, by precept & example, taught that we love our enemy & prefer our brother (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3; 1 John 3:16). We should behave in a way that will point others to Christ (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1).  B: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT  *If we live in the Spirit, we will manifest the fruit (attitudes & actions) of the Spirit & will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh* (Galatians 5:16, 22-25; 1 John 1:7). Trustful relationships with others are a natural outgrowth of our Positive relationship with the Lord (Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 22:37-40). A lack of fruit-bearing in our lives will be judged (Matthew 7:16-20; Luke 13:6-9; John 15:1-8).  C: CHARACTER OF CHRIST  *Love for others is the hallmark of the Christ-life* (John 13:34, 35; 15:9-13; 1 John 4:7-11). In His relationship with His Father, Jesus displayed submission (Luke 22:42; John 4:34; 5:30). In His relationship with others, He demonstrated acceptance (John 8:11), compassion (Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34), & forgiveness (Matthew 9:2; Luke 5:20). We cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit & manifest the character of Christ without being spiritually joined to Christ (John 15:4, 5) & without having the seed of the Word planted in our heart (John 15:3; 1 Peter 1:22, 23).  IV: FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY  *We will give priority to fulfilling family responsibilities, to preserving the sanctity of marriage, & to maintaining divine order in the home.*  A PRIORITY OF THE FAMILY  *The family is the basic unit of human relationship & as such is foundational to both society & the church*(Genesis 2:18-24). The divine origin of the family, along with its foundational character, makes it imperative that we give priority to ministry to the family, both from a personal & corporate standpoint. The practice of Christian disciplines & virtues should begin in the home (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7). Therefore, our families should establish some pattern for family devotions & should endeavor to provide a Christian environment in the home (1 Timothy 3:3, 4; 5:8).  B: SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE.  *Marriage is ordained of God & is a spiritual union in which a man & woman are joined by God to live together as one* (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7). Because of the divine character of marriage, it is a lifelong commitment with the only clear Biblical allowance for divorce being fornication (Matthew 5:32; 19:9).  Sexual involvement either before marriage or with someone other than the marriage partner is strictly forbidden in Scripture (Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-18). Understanding the sanctity of marriage, partners should strive to maintain a happy, harmonious, & holy relationship. Should divorce occur, the church should be quick to provide love, understanding, & counsel to those involved. The remarriage of divorced persons should be undertaken only after a thorough understanding of & submission to the Scriptural instructions concerning this issue (Matthew 19:7-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 10, 11). Should a Christian desire to remain single, this decision should be respected & should be seen as a viable Scriptural alternative (1 Corinthians 7:8, 32-34).  C: DIVINE ORDER IN THE HOME  *When God created man, He created them male & female (Genesis 1:27). He gave them distinctly different characteristic* (1 Corinthians 11:14, 15; 1 Peter 3:7) *as well as different responsibilities*(Genesis 3:16-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7). In God’s order the husband is head of the home (Ephesians 5:22-31; Colossians 3:18, 19), parents are to nurture & admonish their children (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21), & children are to obey & honor their parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20). In order for harmony to exist in the home, God’s order of responsibility must be observed.  V: BEHAVIORAL TEMPERANCE  *We will practice temperance in behavior & will abstain from activities & attitudes which are offensive to our fellow man or which lead to addiction or enslavement.*  A: TEMPERANCE  *One of the cardinal Christian virtues is temperance or self-control*(1 Corinthians 9:25; Titus 1:8; 2:2). It is listed as fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23). We are admonished to practice moderation & balance in our behavior (Philippians 4:5). The Scripture indicates that it is within our prerogative to control our thinking (Philippians 4:8), our anger (Ephesians 4:26), & our communication (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8). To exercise self-discipline reflects the power of God in our life (1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Peter 1:5-11).  B: OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR  *The Bible speaks clearly that we are to be sensitive to the needs & feelings of others as a demonstration of our love for them* (Matthew 22:39; Romans 12:9-21, 13:10; Philippians 2:3-5). At times it is necessary for us to control our behavior so as not to bring offense to others (Romans 14:13-21; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13). As we know Christ after the Spirit, we are also to know others in the same manner so we will not judge them after their outward behavior alone (2 Corinthians 5:16). A respect & tolerance for differences in others should characterize our relationships (Romans 14:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 8:8; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13;  1 Timothy 4:1-5).  C: ADDICTION & ENSLAVEMENT  *One of the primary benefits of our liberty in Christ is freedom from the domination of negative forces* (John 8:32, 36; Romans 6:14).*We are counseled not to put ourselves again under bondage* (Galatians 5:1). Therefore, a Christian must totally abstain from all alcoholic beverages & other habit-forming & mood-altering chemical substances & refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, marijuana, & all other addictive substances &, further, must refrain from any activity (such as gambling or gluttony) which defiles the body as the temple of God or which dominates & enslaves the spirit that has been made free in Christ (Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-35; Isaiah 28:7; 1 Corinthians 3:17; 5:11; 6:10; 2 Corinthians 7:1; James 1:21).  VI: MODEST APPEARANCE  *We will demonstrate the Scriptural principle of modesty by appearing & dressing in a manner that will enhance our Christian testimony & will a void, elaborateness, or sensuality.*  A: MODESTY  *According to the Biblical idea, modesty is an inner spiritual grace that recoils from anything unseemly & impure, is chaste in thought & conduct, & is free of crudeness & indecency in dress & behavior* (Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31; 5:1-8; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10). Therefore, modesty includes our appearance, dress, speech, & conduct & can be applied to all situations. The essential issue is, does our style of life please or displease God?  B: APPEARANCE & DRESS  *Our life, character, & self-image are reflected by our apparel & mode of dress*. The admonition of Scripture, "Be not conformed to this world," reminds us that our manner of dress must be modest & decent (Romans 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:22, 23). It is not displeasing to God for us to dress well & be well groomed. However, above all we must seek spiritual beauty, which does not come from outward adornment with jewelry, expensive clothes, or cosmetics, but from good works, chaste conversation, & a meek & quiet spirit (Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 3:3-5).  C: PRIDE, ELABORATENESS, SENSUALITY  *As godly people we are to abstain from all lusts of the flesh & avoid dressing in a manner that encourages immoral thoughts, attitudes, & lifestyles* (Galatians 5:13-21; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Peter 1:4). Our beauty does not depend on elaborate, showy dress; extravagant; costly attire; or on the use of jewelry or cosmetics but on our relationship with Christ. External adornment, whether clothing or jewelry, as an outward display of personal worth, is contrary to a spiritual attitude. (James 2:1-4).  VII: SOCIAL OBLIGATION  *It should be our objective to fulfill our obligations to society by being good citizens, by correction social injustices, & by protection the sanctity of life.*  A: BEING GOOD CITIZENS  *As Christians we are members of the kingdom of God as well as a social order of this world. Obedience to God requires us to act in a responsible manner as citizens of our country* (Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). Therefore, we should support civil law & order; hold our leaders in respect & pray for them; participate in school, community, & governmental activities; exercise our voting rights; & speak out on clear-cut moral issues. God’s law is supreme, but we are to obey the laws of our country insofar as they are not in conflict with obedience to God (Acts 5:29). When it becomes necessary to disagree with practices & requirements of government, we should do so out of concern for the promotion of righteousness & not out of delight in discord & controversy.  B: CORRECTING SOCIAL INJUSTICES  *Love for others & the recognition of the equal worth of all people in the sight of God* (Acts 10:34; 17:26) *should compel us to take steps to improve the situation of those who are underprivileged, neglected, hungry, homeless, & victimized by prejudice, persecution, & oppression* (Matthew 22:39; Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 3:17). In all of our dealings, we must be sensitive to human needs (Luke 10:30-37; James 1:17) & guard against racial & economic discrimination. Every person should have freedom to worship & participate in the life of the church regardless of Race, Color, Sex, Social class, or Nationality.  C: PROTECTION THE SANCTITY OF LIFE  *God alone confers life* (Genesis 1:1-31); therefore, we are responsible to God to care for our physical life & that of others. If the circumstances require, we must be prepared to risk our life in the service of our neighbor (John 15:13); but the general rule is that we must respect our physical life & employ every worthy means to maintain it. Since God alone confers life, God alone must decide when it is to be ended (Psalm 31:14, 15). Because a human fetus is sacred & blessed of God, we believe we have the responsibility to protect the life of the unborn (Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41). It is our firm conviction that abortion & euthanasia of the aged, mentally incompetent, terminally ill, & otherwise handicapped, for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment, or economic advantage, are morally wrong. Furthermore, we believe it is our Christian responsibility to care for the earth & its resources. In the beginning God gave man dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-30). This does not, however, give us license to pollute our natural environment or to waste the resources of the earth.  ***STATEMENT OF VISION***  The mission of the Church of God is to perpetuate the full gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19, 20), in the Spirit & power of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 6, 13-18), through specific attention to & emphasis upon the centrality of God’s Word Evangelization, Ministerial development, Christian discipleship, Lay ministry, Biblical stewardship, Church growth, Church planting, Family enrichment, & Servant leadership.  *Our vision arises from our understanding of what the sovereign God purposes to do for & through His church. The Great Commission remains our mandate form Christ.*  THE CHURCH OF GOD IS TO BE:  1) A movement committed to the authority of Holy Scripture for faith & direction.  2) A fellowship whose worship brings God’s power into the life of the church & extends that power through the lives of believers into the marketplace of life.  3) A body that is directed by the Spirit, fully understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is both a personal blessing & an endowment of power for witness & service in fulfilling the Great Commission.  4) A people who hunger for God, experience the presence of God, & stand in awe of His holiness as He changes believers into conformity with Christ.  5) A New Testament church which focuses on the local congregation where the pastor nurtures & leads all members to exercise spiritual gifts in ministry.  6) A church that loves all people & stands opposed to any action or policy that discriminates against any group or individual because of race, color, or nationality.  7) A movement that evidences love & concern for the hurts & loneliness of the unsaved through aggressive evangelistic, discipline, & nurturing ministries.  8) A church that is Christ-centered, people-oriented, & need-sensitive in all its programs & ministries.  9) A movement that promotes policies & ministries which reflect an open, sincere effort to remain relevant to each generation.  ***STATEMENT OF MISSION***  ***VELVET RIDGE CHURCH OF GOD***  **STATEMENT OF MISSION FOR**  **THE VELVET RIDGE CHURCH OF GOD**  BUILDING THE FAMILY  **F**ellow Ship  **A**ccept  **M**entor  **I**nvestment  **L**ove  **Y**ield  That we would be a church on the move in this time that we live in. But while on the move never forgetting where we have come from. We will be a church that will provide the ministry tools to succeed in ministry. Our goals are to "minister to the needy, & mend the hurts of each person come into contact with, & to teach the Word of God". WE WANT TO MINISTER!  OUR CORE VALUES:  *1) The Souls of the Lost*  Luke 19,10 – "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."  *2) Personal Integrity*  Proverbs 10,9 – He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.  *3) Corporate Worship*  Hebrews 10,25 – not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.  *4) The Word of God*  Deuteronomy 6:6-9 – "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as front-lets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates".  *5) The Gifts of God’s people*  Ephesians 4:11-13 – And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;  *6) Wholesome Fellowship*  John 1,7 – This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.  *7) The Family of God*  Psalm 133,1 – Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!  ***STATEMENT OF MISSION FOR***  ***PASTOR JAMES D. SWINDLE***  My mission statement go as follows:  **"Doug don’t mess up"**  **Don’t mess up your relationship with God**  **Don’t mess up your relationship with your wife.**  **Don’t mess up your relationship with your children.**  **Don’t mess up your relationship with the church.**  ***WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THE CHURCH AS A MEMBER?***  1) You can support your Church & Pastor with prayers.  2) You can support your Church with attendance.  3) You can support you church with Money.  4) You can get involved with Ministries in the Church.  5) Use your talent for the kingdom of God.  6) Be cooperative, and have a Positive Attitude with those around you, & to those you may minister to  It is a two way street in the Local church. It’s what the Church can do for you, as well as what you can do for the church to make it Christ Like. | |