



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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HOW TO BEHAVE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD.

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The following is excerpted from the Church Covenant adopted in 1790 by the Baptist Church in Horse Fair, Stony Stratford, Bucks, England. Copied from *The Baptist Vision* with the following comment: *“Every Church would indeed be a bit of Heaven on earth if its members would observe this precious and godly agreement.”* The Covenant began with a statement, part of which said: *“Having searched the written Word, in order that we may know how to act...we now solemnly, in the presence of the all-seeing and heart-searching God, do mutually covenant and agree in manner and form following.*

- To maintain and hold fast the important and fundamental truths of revelation.
- To seek by all proper means the good of the church with which we are connected. To this end we engage to attend regularly...all seasons of public worship, church meetings, and meetings of prayer...We will diligently watch ...and if we see any setting their faces Zion-ward, we will endeavor to instruct and encourage...and lay before them the privileges...and the duties they ought to be found in, of following Christ and His ordinances...
- To esteem our pastor highly in love for his work’s sake; this we will do frequently and fervently praying for him; diligently attending to his ministry; encouraging his heart and strengthening his hands to the utmost of our power in the work of the Lord...As he is a man of like passions with others, we will endeavor to conceal and cover with a mantle of love, his weaknesses and imperfections; also to communicate to him of our temporal good things, knowing that the Lord hath ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.
- To walk in love toward those with whom we stand connected in bonds of Christian fellowship. As the effect of this, we will pray much for one another. We will bear one another’s burdens...
- To be particularly attentive to our station in life, and the peculiar duties incumbent on us...We who are husbands or wives will conscientiously discharge our duties...We who are heads of families will maintain daily worship of God in our houses...We who are children will obey our parents in the Lord.
- To walk in a way and manner becoming the Gospel, before them that are without, that we may with well-doing put to silence the ignorance of gainsayers. We will practice the strictest honesty in our dealings, and faithfulness in fulfilling all our promises.
- We will abstain from all vain amusements and diversions, by which time would be foolishly spent, money wasted, our minds carnalized, and we exposed to many dangerous temptations. We engage in a special way to sanctify the Lord’s Day. It shall be our study to keep our garments unspotted by the flesh, and walk as becometh saints.
- To receive such, and only such, into our communion with us we think are born again; having been baptized according to the primitive mode of administering that ordinance, and profess their hearty approbation of, and subjection to this our solemn church covenant. *(Continued)*

➤ These things, and whatever else may be enjoined by the Word of God, we promise by the Word of God, we promise in the strength of divine grace to observe and practice. But knowing our insufficiency for anything that is spiritually good, in and of ourselves, we look up to Him who giveth power to the faint, rejoicing that in the Lord we have not only righteousness but strength. Hold us up, O Lord, and we shall be safe! Amen!”

Is this not a wonderful testimony example for God’s people? Most of it is the very language of Scripture. Oh, how it saddens our heart to see how little many professing Christians care for the local assembly, the very Church of the living God. Yes, the Church of which the Scriptures state: **“Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it.”** How dare we treat it with indifference? How dare we do anything that will harm or hinder the Body of Christ? How dare we think that Christ’s Church should be ordered as I think best? I pray that every Christian will take it to heart; I assure you, you will not be pleased at the Judgment Seat of Christ if you do not. God makes it very clear, if we do not love Christ’s own, we do not love Christ! **“...he that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”** ~*1 John 2:14.*

YOUTH CORNER

WHY CAN’T WE HUMANS LEARN THIS? Martin Luther told the following interesting story that is good for young and old. Two mountain goats met each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of them. On the left was a sheer cliff and on the right was a lake far below. The two faced each other. What should they do? They could not back up - that would be too dangerous; they could not turn around because the ledge was too narrow. Now, if the two goats had no more sense than some people, they would meet head-on and start butting each other till they fell into the lake below. Luther said the goats had better sense than this. One lay down on the trail and let the other literally walk over him - and both were safe. Are goats smarter than people, than Christians? I have seen more than a few cases where they apparently were. Young person, you can’t go through this life always having your own way. There will be times, many of them, when it will be the point of wisdom to let the other fellow have his way.

A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT. A young passenger on a ship crossing the Atlantic fell into a conversation with the captain. The youth said when he got to Paris, he was “going to live it up.” Why do you want to do that? was the reply. Because that was the only way one could learn about life the lad answered. He had to experience both the good and the bad. Then, he could make up his own mind. The captain said, “I’ve been captain of this ship for many years. The chart given me in my early years pointed out the deep waters that would carry the ship safely into port. As a young captain, I never considered it advisable to investigate the rocks; the experience of others with the rocks had been sufficient warning for me.” If you want to get safely into God’s harbor, you better follow His “chart” - the Word of God. Many a young person has been shipwrecked upon the world’s rocks! Psalm 119:105.

IF YOU’RE NOT SAVED, READ THIS!

Say, where is thy refuge, poor sinner,
And what is thy prospect today?
Why toil for the wealth that will perish,
The treasures that rust and decay?
Oh! think of thy soul that forever
Must live on eternity’s shore,
When thou, in the dust are forgotten,
When pleasure can charm thee no more.
‘Twill profit thee nothing, but fearful the cost,
To gain the whole world if thy soul should be lost!
-Fanny Crosby

MUST WE LEARN FROM THE UNGODLY?

There seems to be a few unbelievers who have more sense about dress than many of God’s people. Pastor Bruce Oyen sent me an email of a conversation between two men he heard in a store. One man was telling another about the reaction he got from the other employees when he went to work in shorts and thongs. He said it obviously too casual and he wouldn’t do it again. Just the other day, Mrs. Starr told me she heard a news item on the radio concerning the mayor of Pittsburgh who is a woman. She declared that at city hall there would be no more shorts, halters, or other forms of undress. I read a couple of years ago that the chief executive at the home offices of Ford Motor Co. said that casual dress was not fitting; men were to wear dress shirts and ties and the ladies were to dress appropriately. The president of Levi Strauss said jeans were not becoming to a man in his position. I have never seen people - Christian or otherwise - go to a funeral or wedding in shorts or grubby clothes. No, they invariably dress-up for such things. Then, what is wrong with dressing up to worship God? People of all persuasions, saved and unsaved did so until very recent times! Many Fundamentalist are now saying that music and dress are not items to be concerned about - they are not essentials. A recent Bible Baptist Fellowship meeting in N.H. emphasized this over and over to the pastors present. Many *Christians* say why all the fuss about what people wear. Well, if it is not so important, why not comply for the sake of peace. Not all traditions are bad. I tell you, it is important, very important for God is not pleased with sensual and sloppy dress.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

God's Word says: **"Beloved...it was needful for me to write you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** ~Jude 3. However, when you do contend (the word means "to fight for"), you are usually called contentious and a troublemaker. When we call attention to compromise or apostasy in a professed believer, it is not a personal matter but one of obedience to the Word of God. We are in a war! The enemy often gets into the camp and ignorant and unsuspecting sheep must be warned and protected. About 80 years ago J. Gresham Machen wrote: *"The true instruments which God uses in great triumphs of faith are not pacifists, but great fighters like Paul himself. Little affinity for the great apostle has a whole tribe of ...compromisers, ancient and modern. The real companions of Paul are the heroes of the faith. But who are these heroes? Are they not the true fighters one and all?"* Here is a list of some of God's fighters: Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Peter, Paul, Athanasius, Luther, Spurgeon, etc. And that's just for starters! By the way, the worldly crowd wasn't happy with any of those men either! Then, what about Jesus? Have you read how He dealt with the hypocritical religious leaders of His day; those who interpreted the Bible to suit themselves - the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees? Remember how he overthrew the tables of the money changers and drove them out of the Temple with a whip?

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THE PRICE WAS TOO HIGH!

Some years ago a man went to his doctor because he was having trouble seeing. He was sent to a specialist with the advice: "I suggest that you go at once and take plenty of money with you, as you will need a very expensive operation." He went to the bank and took out all that he had - \$80, and went to the specialist. The doctor said, "Yes, you need an operation and right away. But I am not sure you can afford it. It will cost five hundred dollars." The man said, "Then, I guess I will just have to go blind for all I have is eighty dollars." The doctor said, "There is one other way to solve your problem. You don't have enough to pay what the operation costs and I can't charge you as little as \$80, but there is another way open to us - I will do the operation for nothing." And he did just that! My friend, that is a wonderful picture of what God has done for all of us. We are all sinners, we are all actually bankrupt before God for the Bible says, **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."** No amount of money or good works will satisfy the righteous claims of God! So, God did it for us; He paid so that we might have spiritual sight and everlasting life. Here is God's offer: **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast."** ~Ephesians 2:8,9. Notice it is of *grace* - God's favor and it is a *gift of God*! Of course, He does it because His Son, Jesus Christ paid the high price of your sins! If you refuse Him, you will just have to suffer the consequences.