

MINUTES OF BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL
held at
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY, CEDARVILLE, OHIO
MAY 28, 2019

The 2019 Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church (New Conference) was held this year again at Cedarville University. The services began on Saturday, May 25, with preaching at 10 am. The series of preaching services concluded on Monday evening, May 27. Following these 3 days of worship and praise, the Brotherhood Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 28. Following is a record of that council.

Introduction

The Tuesday Council began at 9:00 am. A Conference Committee of 10 elders had been selected Saturday afternoon to preside over this meeting. (There are normally 9 elders selected. There were 10 this year because of a tie in the ballot voice selection). After an opening that offered an exhortation to guard the unity that we have in the Spirit, devotional thoughts were offered centering on "The Stewardship of Believers". The moderator then offered appropriate introductory comments before entering the business of the meeting.

Letter of Greeting

Scottville District

The members of the Scottville district in Michigan send love and greetings to the brethren and sisters assembled in Annual Conference of 2019 at Cedarville, Ohio. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in all the labors of this meeting, and the Word of God will be your lamp and light, illuminating your path, as you labor in the Lord's work. May all things be accomplished to the glory of God, the welfare of the Church, and for the salvation of souls.

In behalf of the church,
Minister William Mustard
Trustee Leon P. Nead

Letter of Greeting

Covenant Valley District

To the Brethren and Sisters of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church New Conference assembled in conference at Cedarville, Ohio, we send greetings in the name of Jesus who is our risen Lord and Savior. We the members of Covenant Valley district living in the Roanoke and Rocky Mount area of Virginia have

chosen to send love and support by encouragement of this letter instead of by messenger.

It is our desire that our beloved brotherhood would continue in worship, and the practice of the church of Jesus Christ, as taught in the New Testament, written by His own blood.

May the time of worship and discussion for our brotherhood bring Glory to God and an intense unity of purpose, practice, and worship that would further His message to a dark world. Our prayer is that each one will receive Godly wisdom in the work, and strength, that only can unite us in His Kingdom, for His Divine Purpose and Glory.

Signed in behalf of the church:

Minister	Leonard Hubbard
Brethren	Daniel Wisler
	Bruce Layman

**Presentation of the Practice portion of the
4-part Document Approved by the
Brotherhood**

The fourth portion of the 4-part document the church has approved was presented, entitled Practice. The foreman of the Committee of Elders presented introductory comments, explaining the history and development of the documents thus far, and giving some explanation concerning the edits that had been made after suggested changes had been received, and adjustments made. The reading clerk read the entire document, and discussion followed.

Question: Will you approve this Practice Paper?

Answer: Yes.

(Please see the document in its entirety following the record of this Council)

Query from Fall Creek, Indiana

We propose changing the way we vote on issues at our Annual Conference.

1. Queries or papers that come to the conference would be placed in the hands of a subcommittee for a suggested answer.
2. After the query or paper and the answer of the subcommittee are discussed, the conference would be voiced if they are willing so send the query and answer to the local districts for approval.
3. Each local district would appoint a council as soon as practical following the conference to consider the query and answer.

4. At the local council, the highlights of the conference discussion would be reviewed, the query and answer discussed, and then a ballot vote taken to approve the subcommittee's answer or not.

5. The results would be sent to The Testimony committee to compile and report the results in the minutes.

We believe this proposal would help us maintain our time at conference as a time of worship and fellowship. It would also give us time to pray and meditate before making a decision. And it would give every member a voice, even if they were unable to attend the conference.

Minister	Russell Bowman
Deacon	Raymond Oyler
Presiding Elder	Grant Fullmer

Answer of the Subcommittee:

We recommend if these changes are accepted, that this method be adopted on a trial basis. After it has been utilized at two conferences, which have had at least one query presented, this conference would re-voice whether to continue or return to the previous method of deciding brotherhood matters. If it is accepted by this brotherhood, we suggest the following clarifications:

(a) Upon acceptance, this would be implemented next year. We would expect this paper to be handled in the same way as we are used to in previous conferences.

(b) In reference to item #2, we recommend the opportunity for substitute answers or deferment as we have experienced in the past.

(c) For the sake of unity between districts, the ballots from each congregation would not be counted locally but would be collected, sealed in an envelope, and sent to the Testimony Committee for final counting. The Testimony Committee would combine all ballots before counting them. Matters would pass if there is a simple majority. The Testimony Committee would send the answer as a "Yes" or "No" for inclusion in the Conference Minutes.

Question: Are you willing to pass this query with the answer of the subcommittee?

Answer: No.

A substitute answer had been proposed earlier and was considered and discussed: "Lay this query down".

Question: Are you willing to lay this query down?

Answer: Yes.

Brotherhood Service Committee Report

To the Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church – New Conference:

The Brotherhood Service Committee wishes to commend our young people for their faithfulness to non-resistant principles taught by our Lord in every avenue of their lives.

It is still the responsibility of all young men to be registered with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Failure to do so may result in a letter and/or fine from the Selective Service System. Some states have automatic registration via driver license. If in doubt, or if there are any questions, contact your district CO Advisor for help with the registration process.

The current balance in the Brotherhood Service Committee checking account is **\$ 8,575.82.**

CASP Update

A successful CASP project was held in 2019, which was completely funded by your generosity. We are committed to a CASP project in the spring of 2020, providing we have sufficient interest among staff and draft-age young men. We strongly encourage our young men between 18-25 years of age to participate in a pilot project, if possible. Contact your local CO advisor of your interest in participating.

Thanks to all participants, donors and others for your continued support and prayer.

The current balance in the CASP fund is **\$ 1,719.67.**

We encourage members to support future CASP projects by sending donations to the Brethren Charity Fund, earmarked for the **CASP Fund.**

It is with reluctance that we have accepted the resignation of Brother Ken Hopkins, who has served on the Service Committee since 1991. We sincerely thank Brother Ken for his dedicated service to the Brotherhood, and for his leadership in the last ten years. In his absence, in order to strengthen this Committee, we propose to add Brother Trent Bowman, subject to Brotherhood approval.

The organization of the current committee is as follows:

- Foreman: Larry Bower
- Treasurer: David Benedict
- Secretary: John Fall

Please continue to pray for the continued peace of this nation and the freedom to worship and practice as we understand the scripture. We encourage each to continue to love our fellow man as Christ taught us to do.

The Brotherhood Service Committee,
David Benedict, Larry Bower, John Fall, Arlan Wolf, Everett Wray

Question: Will you approve this Report?

Answer: Yes.

Website Advisory Committee Annual Report

We extend love and blessings to the brothers and sisters in attendance at the 2019 Annual Conference. The following is a summary of the activities of the Website Advisory Committee over the past 12 months.

The website continues to provide blessing to those who use it within our fellowship, and at a different level to those outside of our fellowship who are seeking for Jesus from around the world. The Advisory Committee and Webmasters continue to receive valuable input from our diverse user base regarding potential improvements to the website.

Over the past year, there have been 76,161 site visits by 21,486 viewers from 102 countries and all 50 states.

Those visits break down as follows:

Calendar feature:	83,543 pageviews
Sermon feature:	53,952 pageviews
News feature:	56,906 pageviews
About feature:	42,304 pageviews
Resources feature:	12,428 pageviews

Our efforts over the past year have continued to focus on improving the website. Several initiatives are in progress or awaiting implementation that focus on improving the functionality and user friendliness of the website, adding features and expanding content. Once completed, this project will make site navigation easier and more intuitive for our diverse user base. We have recently launched a website Newsletter to keep our users up to date on significant changes and improvements.

The Advisory Committee thanks the brotherhood churches for their unselfish financial support over the past year. To cover the cost of ongoing site maintenance and improved functionality, we request funds of \$ 7.00/member. Please send funds to Brethren Charity fund, Inc., P.O. Box 365, Brookville, OH 45309.

Brother Leonard Meador is retiring from the Committee and we have chosen Brother Brian Frantz to replace him.

Brethren Ian Bowman and Scot Boone will be retiring soon from the Webmaster Committee. Brethren Andrew Tye, Andrew Grover and Logan Bayer have agreed to join the Webmaster Committee.

We continue to pray that the brotherhood website will prove to be a blessing to our members as well as others from around the world who are seeking to know Jesus Christ. May all glory be ascribed to God for whatever blessing our efforts provide.

The Website Advisory Committee

Question: Will you approve this report?

Answer: Yes.

Scheduling Committee Report

Greetings in Jesus' name. We want to thank the Ohio districts and all those who helped and supported this Annual Conference in making it what it has been. May the Lord of Heaven bless us all.

The Northwest districts have agreed to host the 2020 Annual Conference at George Fox University, Newburg, Oregon. The date will be June 6-9, 2020.

The Kansas and New Mexico district have agreed to host the 2021 annual Conference at Wesleyan University, Marion Indiana, May 29 - June 1, 2021.

The Ohio districts have agreed to host the 2022 Annual Conference.

According to the rotation schedule Brother Ed Sink has fulfilled his term on the Scheduling Committee. Brother Curtis Flora from the Stillwater District has been chosen, subject to the approval of this brotherhood.

We want to extend a hearty thank-you to the Cedarville University Staff for their generosity and hospitality they have shown us over this annual conference. May the Lord be praised, and His name glorified!

In behalf of the Scheduling Committee,

Rick Kingery, Secretary

Question: Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

Conclusion

The Brotherhood Council Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm on Tuesday. While the hour felt late, our hearts were full of the sweet fellowship and association we have enjoyed. We feel that God has been with us in a mighty way in all of our gatherings; in the protection we experienced during a very severe storm, and in our efforts to be united, as we have attempted to seek clear direction for our people, staying close to the Scriptures in a troubled age. We give glory to God, and exalt His name above every name that is named. He is worthy of our worship and adoration!

In behalf of the Brotherhood,

Conference Committee – Wes Bauman, Darrell Boyd, Randy Brubaker, John Fall, Galen Flory, Dennis Wray, Mark Grover (moderator), Lowell Miller (secretary), Curt Wagoner (reading clerk), and Larry Bower (assistant reading clerk).

(Please find the Practice paper, Part 4 in our documents, below)

IV. Practice

Practice is a pattern of life that develops by either design or default. Scripture teaches that believers' outward lives should be guided purposefully by the Spirit's design. A people seeking to follow scriptural truth will desire to work together in pursuing godly practices in their daily walk. This may often result in mutual agreements for certain areas of life. Such common understandings present a practical demonstration of a united faith and further equip the church in teaching and making disciples.

A people desiring to walk together will acknowledge that each member of the body has a great influence and impact upon the others. It is out of brotherly love for one another that believers are willing to identify biblical principles and mutually set forth certain practices that uphold and promote those principles. Without the foundation of the principle, any practice will be short-lived or deteriorate into empty tradition. These brotherly agreements will be effective when each believer recognizes the need to limit oneself in the interest of maintaining both local and extended brotherhood harmony.

In this portion we set forth some applications of scriptural principle that we hold in common. We trust that all will genuinely seek to labor in humility toward a oneness in spirit and mutual endeavor, being separated unto God and presenting Christ to the world.

Personal Holiness

Because the Scriptures call us to personal holiness, those who are growing in sanctification will yield their whole beings to the Lord both in mind and behavior. A desire for holiness is born of a pure and cleansed heart. It is perfected through a living relationship with the Lord Jesus when pursued in the power of the Holy Spirit. Personal holiness is having the mind of Christ and results in behavior consistent with His character. It is nurtured by the reading of Scripture, worship and praise, meditation with the Lord, prayer, and fasting; and it leads to an abhorrence of all sin.

The denial of self, separation from the world's values and cravings, and the embrace of all of God's truths reflect an increasing sanctification in the child of God. Personal holiness is not an end in itself but a fulfillment of our purpose to glorify God, to walk in harmony with fellow believers, and to be a light to the world. The practice of personal holiness is placed first in this document because it is foundational to all the categories that follow.

Psa 24:3-4 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Mar 8:34-35 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Rom 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1Co 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Eph 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

1Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

1Pe 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (Also see Lev 20:7.)

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

2Pe 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

Personal Witness

Because the Scriptures teach that we are to take the gospel to all men, we each endeavor to share the good news with a needy world. This witness proceeds from a heart that has tasted of the water of life, overflows with love toward all men, and moves us to do good by assisting in spiritual and humanitarian needs.

We follow Jesus' example, who was gentle, compassionate, and yet firm regarding truth. When men ask, we answer; when they seem careless and unconcerned, we prayerfully desire the Spirit to grant an opportunity to present the love of our Savior. In all things, we desire to be effective instruments for our Lord Jesus in the salvation of souls. Every aspect of the believer's life is to be an ongoing testimony of the surrendered and victorious Christ, including speech, conduct, and appearance.

The witness of the local church and the witness of the individual should harmonize in conveying the love of Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Psa 119:46 I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

Dan 3:16-17 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Dan 12:3b And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Mat 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Luk 21:14-15 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. (See also Mat 10:18-20.)

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

2Co 5:18-20 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Gal 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

1Pe 3:15-16 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Truth

Because the Scriptures teach that God is the God of truth, and His word is truth, His children are to exercise only in truth. We guard against any compromise in this area. Truth is not relative or of personal interpretation; Jesus is the truth, and all that is not of the truth is of the devil.

We willingly affirm the truth, avoiding oaths or any form of swearing, as these weaken the simple expression of truth. We do not participate in secret societies, but desire to keep a clear witness characterized by openness and honesty. We expect to keep promises and fulfill obligations in all areas of duty and to avoid leaving false impressions with others.

Deu 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Mat 5:33-37 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Rom 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

2Co 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2Co 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Eph 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

3Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

The Home

Because the Scriptures teach many principles that give direction to the home, we place special emphasis upon it. A home dedicated to the Lord is complete even where God calls believers to live in singlehood. When marriage and children make up the home, God has indicated a specific structure and purpose for the family. God has established order through the headship of the husband, and He has defined the role of fathers and mothers in fulfilling their intended responsibilities of godly parenting. The Christian father is ordained of God to exercise headship and to be responsible for the biblical direction, training, discipline, leadership, and natural provision for his family. A Christian mother is to support and honor her husband in biblical submission and in the daily nurturing and care of the family.

The home is to be the protected environment for raising and nurturing children and instilling godly values. It is the duty of Christian parents to direct the hearts of their children to the Lord, training them in the way they should go and bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The home is to be a setting of mutual love where fathers and mothers establish routines of consistent biblical discipline, cleanliness, orderliness, regular family devotions, prayer and song. Thus the home is a place that should be free from influences portraying violence, immoral behavior, wrong relationships, the pursuit of ungodly wealth or worldly values, or any other endeavors contrary to the Word of God. Every godly family is to pursue convictions of holiness that uphold the biblical standard and provoke one another to love and good works. God is honored when a family fulfills His design for the home.

Deu 6:6-7 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Psa 127:3-5 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Pro 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Eph 5:22-6:4 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise); That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Col 3:18-21 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

1Ti 3:4-5 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Tit 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Youth

Because the Scriptures call for the careful guidance and diligent preparation of our youth, our children are to be nurtured and disciplined in a setting that brings them to know the Lord, instills godly wisdom, and promotes the values of Christ's kingdom. This responsibility primarily lies with godly parents to teach and apply biblical principles in the home. All the influences in the lives of our youth, including church, school, and social acquaintances, should be carefully guarded so they align with these objectives.

Some activities that will strengthen parental training and bless older youth are Bible studies, instructional meetings, service opportunities, and personal mentoring by mature believers. Some destructive things that should be purposefully avoided include ungodly companionships, as well as the excessive use of social media and pursuits of fashion, spectator sports, and ungodly music. The enticements and snares of the world are many and diverse and must be intentionally resisted with discipline and accountability.

Psa 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Ps 144:12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:

Pro 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (See also Ecc 11:9-10.)

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (See also Deu 6:6-7.)

Pro 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Pro 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Ecc 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

1Ti 4:12-13 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

2Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2Tim 3:14-15 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Tit 2:4-8 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Education

Because the Scriptures teach the need for parents to be diligent in the education of their children, it is important to be intentional and careful in educational choices. Parents of younger children must use wisdom in determining the sources and venues for their family's education -- whether it be private, home, or public. They should continue to be actively engaged and watchful throughout this process. Utilizing schools or educational curriculums does not absolve parents from the responsibility of training their children. Souls are at stake and are molded by the environments in which they are placed.

Higher education presents certain hazards, but may be beneficial where young adults are discerning and purposefully pursuing a suitable occupational path. Caution should be exercised in considering academic environments and influences. It is wise to seek and receive counsel from parents and other spiritually-mature brethren, with the intent that each student pursuing extended education be supported in their walk with the Lord.

Deu 6:6-7 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Psa 78:4-8 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. (See also Psa 111:10.)

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Col 2:3, 8 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2Ti 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

Occupations

Because the Scriptures teach that we are to occupy until the Lord returns, it is needful that we engage in occupational pursuits. The purposes of earthly vocations are to modestly provide for one's own household, to share with the less fortunate, and in all to promote the kingdom of heaven.

The choice of vocations is clearly governed by various biblical principles. It is a great blessing when fathers can provide for their families while working near the home, and mothers (except in unusual circumstances) are to be keepers at home. We do not yoke ourselves together with unbelievers in business ownership or willingly place ourselves in workplace settings where we cannot live without compromise.

Occupations should be avoided that may compromise biblical nonresistance, endorse any immorality, emphasize carnality in any way, or require commitments contrary to other scriptural principles. Some examples of jobs that fall into these categories include those connected with the military, law enforcement, or politics, as well as trial lawyers, bartenders, professional entertainers, and employment that requires union membership.

Scripture requires our employment to be tendered with all diligence, loyalty, and fidelity toward those we serve, that the gospel of Christ be clearly presented.

Luk 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2Co 8:13-14 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Eph 6:5-9 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

2Th 3:10-12 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

Col 3:22-23 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Col 4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Tit 2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

1Pe 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

Financial Stewardship

Because the Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all He has entrusted to our care, we recognize the great responsibility of being faithful stewards of His goods. Our natural inclination toward wealth and affluence is not consistent with this biblical teaching. Scripture condemns greed, covetousness, and materialism and has many warnings against indebtedness.

While money and substance can be great blessings when used for the kingdom and the welfare of others, they become snares to the careless. Riches are deceitful and present temptations that can destroy, choking the word from a believer's life. Covetousness, which is idolatry, is sin and often leads to things like consumer debt, gambling, and many vices. As a contrast, contentment and thankfulness are to be characteristics of the believer.

As we follow Christ's example and teaching, we seek to be diligent, live simply and bless others, fulfilling all commitments and paying our bills. Obeying the call to biblical stewardship better enables one to provide for the needs of the family and give cheerfully to others. We desire to seek first the kingdom of God, trusting Him to provide for each need.

Psa 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Pro 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Mat 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luk 6:24 But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

Luk 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Rom 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

1Co 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (See also Exo 20:17.)

1Ti 6:6-10 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Civil Government

Because the Scriptures teach that believers are citizens and ambassadors of a heavenly kingdom and separate from the kingdoms of this world, we devote our full allegiance to the kingdom of Christ.

Consequently, we abstain from participation in the civil affairs of the world. We do not vote or become involved in political issues, nor do we serve as jurors or as government officials. We do not participate in military or law enforcement activities. We do not use the law to forcibly gain our end.

We are called to pray for rulers, pay taxes, and obey civil authority when doing so does not specifically contradict the teachings of Scripture. We are to be lights shining in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.

Mat 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Ro 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

1Co 6:1-8 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? ... Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

1Ti 2:1-2 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1Pe 2:13-17 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Personal Appearance

Because the Scriptures teach that the believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we seek to glorify God through an outward expression consistent with the life of the redeemed. The Scriptures also call us to walk together in one accord, reflecting the mind of Christ in every way. These principles have importance in the area of personal appearance, especially as the world's focus increasingly emphasizes self-expression and changing fashions. We choose to be unified in a plain appearance reflecting humility, modesty, and purity, avoiding the world's trends and fads.

In harmony with Scripture, we uphold gender distinction in appearance. Brethren avoid long hair and following after the world's styles and fashions in grooming. When the beard is worn, it is to be worn with humility, not conforming to the fashions and trends of the world. The absence of the mustache, while a matter of tradition, is preferred among us. Brethren wear three-piece, stand-up-collar suits to worship and other formal occasions, though coats are often shed in warmer weather. In other settings, brethren wear modest, loose-fitting, non-stylish, long pants and full-button shirts. Neckties are not consistent with plain apparel.

In harmony with Scripture, sisters have long hair, simply combed and covered with the traditional cap-style covering. Sisters wear long dresses with a caped bodice and a concealing neckline. The traditional, loose-fitting dress pattern our sisters have worn for many years upholds modesty and simplicity. Simple outer garments that enhance modesty or provide additional warmth are worn as needed.

We choose simple clothing for ourselves and our families, refraining from flesh-appealing and eye-catching styles, messages, or graphics on our apparel. The scriptural teaching on outward adornment instructs that rings and other jewelry, tattoos, nail polish, and fashionable cosmetics are not appropriate for the child of God.

Deu 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

1Cor 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1Cor 11:1-16 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Phil 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1Tim 2:9-10 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1Pe 3:3-4 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Entertainment

Because the Scriptures teach that Jesus is the source of all true refreshment, we desire to seek Him alone as the One who satisfies our deepest longings. The god of this world counterfeits this true rest in a multitude of ways offering only false expectations through amusements and entertainments. Enticements to satisfy the thirsts of man through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life never provide lasting fulfillment.

Amusement parks, public sporting events and concerts, movie theaters, media and electronic gaming, and similar entertainments are venues that tend to divert our focus from God, diminish our appetite for godliness, and damage our testimony before the lost. Wholesome trips and times with the family, as well as service-type activities, can better refresh us and increase our love for God and others

Mar 6:31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

Mar 7:22-23 ...foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (See also Pro 15:14.)

Luk 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

1Co 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. (See also Ex 32:6.)

Gal 5:21 ...revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Eph 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Tit 2:6-8 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

1Pe 4:3-5 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

1Jn 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Media

Because the Scriptures call us to purity of mind and heart, we emphasize vigilant attention when using media. Electronic media, in particular, contains many hazards and presents great challenges to the walk of holiness. It is also drawing increasing scrutiny regarding its damaging influence in relationships, the social underdevelopment of individuals, shortened attention spans, etc. While we acknowledge there are some benefits associated with technology, many of the current media sources are untrustworthy fountains not aligning with the test of Philippians 4:8.

We avoid the use of the television and urge strong caution against the radio because of the deceptive doctrines and unsolicited evil influences they have upon the lives and destinies of men. With the advent of computers, smartphones and various internet connections, the corruptions and perversions of a wicked world are even closer and more subtle, calling us to a more intentional discernment and avoidance. The careless usage of the internet, along with casual browsing, is a snare to many.

Scripture places an imperative upon the head of each family for discipline, training, and godly example that should extend to the proper usage of all media. Parents and older ones should lead by example. It is a blessing when a local congregation works together in advocating disciplines and accountability in the use of media and mobile devices.

Psa 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psa 119:37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Rom 8:5-8 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace ... Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1Co 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. (See also 1Co 10:23.)

1Co 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2Co 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Eph 4:23-24 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: