



# HOUSEHOLD *of* FAITH

## FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

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*Doctrine • Devotion • Discipleship*

*DOCTRINE • DEVOTION • DISCIPLESHIP*

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# Doctrine

# Devotion

# Discipleship

Reformed  
in Doctrine

Devotion  
Toward God

Discipleship  
in the Individual

Charismatic  
in Ministry

Devotion  
Toward Family

Discipleship  
in the Family

Plurality  
in Eldership

Devotion  
Toward Church

Discipleship  
in the Church

Evangelical  
in Missions

Devotion  
Toward Society

Making  
New Disciples

# Section One: Doctrine

- Reformed in Doctrine*
- Charismatic in Ministry*
- Plurality in Eldership*
- Evangelical in Mission*

**Reformed  
in Doctrine**

**IN DOCTRINE**

# A High View of Sovereignty

- ❑ This means we recognize God's sovereignty as the key factor in Salvation.
- ❑ John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...
- ❑ John 6:65 ...no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.
- ❑ **We teach the "Reformed" view of salvation in the acronym "TIP UP:"**
  1. Total Depravity--Apart from God's gracious initiative all remain dead in sin.
  2. Invincible Grace-- Holy Spirit effectively draws to faith all for whom Christ died.
  3. Particular Redemption--Christ died to save all whom the Father has chosen.
  4. Unconditional Election--Father has chosen to save many sinners, but not all.
  5. Perseverance of the Saints--All whom God has chosen will persevere to the end.
- ❑ John 10:26-27 But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

**The Doctrines of Grace can be summed up in Paul's statement, "He saved us." (Titus 3:5).**

# The 5 Solas of Reformed Doctrine

- ❑ HOFCC embraces the biblical gospel truths restored by God through the reformers of the 16th century Protestant Reformation.
- ❑ Col. 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
  1. “Sola Scriptura!” – On the Authority of the Bible Alone (Not Church Tradition)
  2. “Solus Christus” – Christ Alone Is Our Mediator (Not “Priests” or “Saints”)
  3. “Sola Gratia” – Saved By God’s Grace Alone (Not By Our Own Worthiness)
  4. “Sola Fide” – Justified by Faith Alone (Not by Our Religious Works)
  5. “Soli Deo Gloria” – For the Glory of God Alone (Not the Glory of Any Man)
- ❑ 2 Thes. 2:15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

***Through the centuries God’s word is repeatedly distorted - and for that reason Christ’s church will need repeated revivals and reformations!***

# Embracing Historic Reformation Creeds

- ❑ This means that we recognize and support the Historic traditions of the church, from the earliest church fathers, which have articulated the theology we would today call orthodox, evangelical, reformed doctrine.
- ❑ Councils from both the Early and Reformation ages of the Church have forged out rich, biblically-sound creeds and catechism which are reflected in the HOFCC Statement of Faith.
- ❑ These creeds keep the modern church moored to historic interpretations of scripture so that we: ... all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine...(Eph 4:13-14).

**Among others, two great creeds that HOFCC would recommend for study are the Nicene Creed and the Westminster Confession.**

# Charismatic in Ministry

in Ministry

# Spirit and Truth in Worship

- ❑ This means we endeavor to be the kind of worshipers that our heavenly Father seeks - unlimited by place or ceremony, yet faithful to the Bible.
- ❑ John 4:23-24 “Neither here ...nor there... true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- ❑ ***Worship in Spirit.*** - Primarily that which expresses our hearts...a spiritually authentic, passionate, meaningful expression of awe toward God.
- ❑ ***Worship in Truth*** – Primarily that which expresses our minds...doctrinally sound expressions of our growing understanding of who God is and what He has done for us through Christ, His cross and His resurrection.
- ❑ I Corinthians 14:15 ... I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

**True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**

# Recognizing Gifts in Operation

- This means we believe that the supernatural power and gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to operate in and through believers in Christ's church today.
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 & 31 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ...But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... the word of wisdom ... the word of knowledge ... faith ... gifts of healing ... effecting of miracles, ... prophecy, ...distinguishing of spirits, ...tongues, ... interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
- 1Pet. 4:11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God;
- 1 Corinthians 14:26-27 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

**We are “continuationist” in that we embrace the continued presence of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit within the church today.**

# The Church Ministering to Itself In Love

- ❑ This means that every believer accepts responsibility for playing his individual, God-appointed roles in ministering to the Body of Christ.
- ❑ Eph 4:11-14 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...
- ❑ God has both equipped and called every believer to meaningful ministry role(s).
- ❑ 1 Cor 12:21-26 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you" ... But God has so composed the body ... that there may be no division in the body, **but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.**

**Ministry is not left only for the pastor - but performed by all members.**

# Plurality in Eldership

IN ELDERSHIP

# Jurisdictional in God's Kingdom

This means God has appointed 4 “jurisdictions” of government among men. We demonstrate His goodness & wisdom when we obey Him in each of these.

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Stewardship Entrusted</u>	<u>Obligation Required</u>
<b>The Individual</b>	God's Righteousness by Faith	Produce Good Fruit
<b>The Household</b>	God's Wealth by Work	Provide Generously
<b>The Church</b>	God's Truth by Revelation	Proclaim the Gospel
<b>The City (Gov't)</b>	God's Justice by Force	Protect the Weak

*Church Leaders are to disciple and train householders and members toward being obedient & fruitful in all 4 jurisdictions.*

# Complimentarian in Gender Roles

- ❑ This means we believe that men & women are equal before God in value and purpose, but have been designed by God to be different from one another in nature & roles, complementing one another in every way.
- ❑ God has ordained that men must fill the headship role in marriage.
- ❑ 1Cor. 11:3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.
- ❑ Likewise, only men may fill the Elders and Deacons roles in the church.
- ❑ 1 Tim. 3:2 Therefore an overseer must be ...the husband of one wife...
- ❑ 1 Tim. 3:12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife...
- ❑ Older women are encouraged to teach younger women.
- ❑ Titus 2:3 Older women...train the young women to love their husbands and children.

***It is not that women lack the ability to play men's roles, but that our good and wise God has other specific roles for them to play.***

# Biblical in Qualifications of Elders

- ❑ This means we strictly consider the biblical qualifications of every candidate for the office of elder and deacon, while endeavoring to uphold a biblical methodology of church polity and culture; including:
  1. Plurality of Elders similar to what is suggested in Alexander Strauch's book: ***Biblical Eldership***.
  2. Presbyterian vs. congregational in church oversight and polity.
  3. Leadership Roles filled by men from among their local congregations.
- ❑ The maturity of church members typically does not rise above their leadership, which compels us to provide eligible, exemplary, and well-equipped men to serve as elders in every congregation.
- ❑ 1 Tim 3:1-13 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

**What are the qualifications of elders (and deacons)?**

# Qualifications of Elders

1 Tim 3:2-7

<sup>2</sup> Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

# Qualifications of Deacons

1 Tim 3:8-13

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.<sup>9</sup> They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.<sup>10</sup> And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.<sup>11</sup> Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.<sup>12</sup> Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.<sup>13</sup> For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

# Evangelical in Mission

in Mission

# Called to the Great Commission

- ❑ This means that fulfilling the Great Commission by taking the Gospel to the entire world takes priority in the lifestyle decisions of our members.
- ❑ Matthew 28:18 ... “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- ❑ **Evangelism and the Great Commission** : Romans 15:20 ... I aspired to preach ..., not where Christ was already named,
- ❑ **Discipleship and the Great Commission**: 1 Corinthians 16:15-19 ... (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints)...

*As we devote ourselves to serve as Ambassadors for Christ right where we are, God may open the door for us to present the Gospel in other places.*

# Aggressive in Church Planting

- ❑ This means we believe that the best thing that you can do for any community is to plant a bible-believing, evangelical church in their neighborhood.
- ❑ In order to accommodate both numerical and spiritual growth, HOFCC prefers planting new congregations instead of mega-churches.
- ❑ All HOFCC congregations are encouraged to rent suitable, underutilized, Christian-owned meeting halls.
- ❑ Church planting, like a strawberry plant, may happen by seed or by runner.
- ❑ Acts 11:19 So then those who were scattered ...made their way to ...Antioch,
- ❑ 1 Cor.16:19, Col. 4:15, Philem. 1:1 greet...the church that is in their house. ...the church that is in her house. To Philemon ...and to the church in your house:  
**Our strategy includes planting from local congregation (runners) and sponsoring remote church plants (seeds) throughout the world through our ministry arm Household of Faith Fellowship of Churches (HOFCC).**

# Supportive of Local & Foreign Missions

- ❑ This means that while all are called to engage in personal evangelism, we recognize the callings of some to go; even then, all are encouraged to support those who have been freed to take the gospel to other people groups.
- ❑ Our philosophy of missions encourages us to participate with a few missions endeavors with which we can make a significant impact, verses a “shotgun” approach where we thinly spread support to many.
- ❑ A “bulls-eye” missions organization would be one that:
  1. Embraces reformed doctrine
  2. Uses church planting as a foundational missions strategy
  3. Offers long and/or short-term involvement of HOFCC families.
- ❑ 1 Cor. 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

**Mission strategy may both meet practical needs & present the gospel.**

# Section Two: Devotion

- Devotion Toward God*
- Devotion Toward Family*
- Devotion Toward Church*
- Devotion Toward Society*

# Devotion Toward God

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# Obedient to the Gospel

- ❑ This means that we recognize that for the believer the most basic way to demonstrate that we love Christ is to walk in the obedience of faith.
- ❑ John 15:14-15 You are my friends if you do what I command you.
- ❑ Mark 8:35-36 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.
- ❑ On this basis, the gospel demands that every believer order his life so as to be faithful and fruitful stewards of all that is in their care...life...time...resources...talents...giftings...relationships...etc.
- ❑ Matt 7:24-25 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- ❑ 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...

**This is Christianity 101 – everything else stands or falls on this – will we build our life upon obedience to Jesus Christ and His Word?**

# Responsible in Liberty

- ❑ This means we rejoice in the liberty God has given us to live under the Lordship of Christ, each doing as he believes will most glorify Him.
- ❑ Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- ❑ 1 Peter 2:16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-slaves of God.
- ❑ 1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.
- ❑ Romans 14:4-5 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls ...

**Each Christian's lifestyle is the "liberty garden" of the Lord. Though God demands fruitfulness from all, we are free in Christ to "plant and weed our own garden" according to what we believe is most fruitful.**

# Fruitful in Family / Church / Society

- ❑ This means that we emphasize the responsibility of every individual to be devoted to the efficiency and fruitfulness of all other jurisdictions in which he abides - family, church and community.
- ❑ They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Acts 2:42-47
- ❑ Rom. 13:7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
- ❑ Rom 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

**All jurisdictions flourish when God's  
people walk in the obedience of Faith.**

# Devotion Toward Family

TOWARD FAMILY

# Family-integrated in Worship

- ❑ This means that while there may be many ways in which families can assemble to worship and serve, we believe that having them do so as family units is the most instructive and fruitful way.
- ❑ 1 Sam 1:21 The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow.
- ❑ The Christian family is God's primary agency for building faith and character in future generations .
- ❑ Children worshipping and serving along-side their parents is the optimum method for preserving a vibrant church of the future.
- ❑ Deut 6:6-8 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up....

**There is no context in which the father should not act as the leader of his own household, least of all in the church!**

# Relational vs. Program Oriented

- ❑ This means that we see relationships - versus church-sponsored “programs” - as the fountain from which church life and the Great Commission are fulfilled.
- ❑ 1 Peter 5:2-3 ...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion...<sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.
- ❑ The families of Church leaders affectionately walk besides their member families.
- ❑ Phil 2:2-4 ...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- ❑ The families of HOFCC are not *resources* for fulfilling the vision of the elders, rather the elder’s role is to stimulate, encourage and assist households in fulfilling their various callings toward service, discipleship and evangelism.

**We are not “against” programs, but “for”  
cultivating rewarding relationships.**

# Multi-generational in Vision

- ❑ This means that a passion for succeeding generations is at the heart of the Great Commission – equipping future generations of our own families.
- ❑ Gen 18:18-20 ...Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation...For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord...
- ❑ We must see Family Discipleship as necessary in fulfilling the Great Commission...is this not our “*Greatest Commission?*”
- ❑ A multi-generational vision:
  - 1) Has an objective of discipling succeeding generations unto Christ.
  - 2) Builds a “bridge” to our youth by actively engaging them in every facet of the church’s work today.
- ❑ Deut 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children...

**Being multi-generational in vision includes equipping one generation to equip the next.**

# Devotion Toward Church

TOWARD CHURCH

# Faithful in Finances

- ❑ This means that we practice and teach the faithful use of finances in both home and church – giving priority to expenses and endeavors that have the clearest biblical mandates, which include Ministers, Members and Missions!
- ❑ Ministers: 1 Timothy 5:17-18 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says...“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
- ❑ Members: Acts 4:32-35 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ... and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, ...
- ❑ Missions: 3 John 1:5-8 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren,...You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God...Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

**God expects faithful stewardship of His resources from both home & church.**

# Full Accord in Purpose

- This means that when our elders identify a ministry need or opportunity which they believe warrants the full participation of all our members, we will endeavor, as one person with one heart, soul, and body, to respond enthusiastically in support of their leadership decision.
- Phil. 2:1-4 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- The Bible is filled with examples of the power of unity – as God often speaks through His leaders to focus the power and resources of the church.  
**“Full accord” does not mean everyone will do the same thing, but rather that every member agrees to do something to help accomplish the task.**

# Exemplary in Leadership

- ❑ This means we embrace the loving, authoritative leadership that proceeds from men who are good examples of sound doctrine in action.
  - ❑ Luke 22:24-27 ...a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them... But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”
  - ❑ The Effective authority of elders and deacons spring from the basis of their biblical qualifications and lifestyles that model sound doctrine.
  - ❑ 1 Pet 5:1-3 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder... shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- ...A biblically authoritative lifestyle – we reject authoritarianism!**

# Devotion Toward Society

TOWARD SOCIETY

# Equipping Salt & Light Citizens

- ❑ This means that while we recognize that every believer's destiny is heaven, we act upon the responsibility to disciple our families to fulfill their roles as God's priestly ambassador's to the world.
- ❑ 2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us....
- ❑ 1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- ❑ God is raising up ambassadors to penetrate every culture on earth
- ❑ 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 ....make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**Our godly lifestyles are *the salt of the earth* and *the light of the world* ...which demonstrate God's Kingdom order in the home, church and community.**

# Exercising Societal Responsibilities

- ❑ This means that we recognize that to be good embassies for Christ to the world, each home must fulfill all of its biblical responsibilities.
- ❑ Galatians 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
- ❑ The home has 4 primary biblical obligations to the church and world:
  1. Educating...its members in good, self-reliant citizenship, practical and vocational skills and the preparation in the Gospel of reconciliation.
  2. Providing...its members with the necessities of life and contributing to the welfare and prosperity of the church and the community.
  3. Serving...along with other like-minded households in voluntary associations to lead, influence and protect the community.
  4. Ministering...that with which God has blessed you, that the home would be a place of refuge, blessing and refreshment to others.
- ❑ Rom. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**In every possible way our homes should reflect the goodness of God.**

# Exhibiting Household Embassies

- ❑ This means that we show our love for God by the way we love one another, compelling us to rearrange our schedules and reallocate our finances if necessary in order to practice ministry hospitality.
- ❑ Acts 2:46-47 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.
- ❑ Romans 12:10-14 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; ... devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.
- ❑ The generosity and affection that true believers show for one another is among the most powerful and attractive qualities of the church.
- ❑ 1 Peter 4:8-9 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
- ❑ Titus 1:7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, ... not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable...

**The Household Embassy is among the Church's greatest evangelistic assets.**

# Section Three: Discipleship

- Discipleship in the Individual*
- Discipleship in the Family*
- Discipleship in the Church*
- Making New Disciples*

# Discipleship in the Individual

THE INDIVIDUAL

# Personal Responsibility

- ❑ This means we recognize that while God is 100% sovereign over the affairs of men, that individually we are 100% accountable to God for all of our attitudes, deeds and overall spiritual condition.
- ❑ Jer. 31:30 ...everyone shall die for his own sin. Each man who eats sour grapes, *his* teeth shall be set on edge.
- ❑ 2 Chron. 25:4 Fathers shall not die because of their children, nor children die because of their fathers, but each one shall die for his own sin.
- ❑ Rom 14:10-12 For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.
- ❑ One's Personal accountability and responsibility before God is the driving biblical truth behind both Effective Evangelism and Dynamic Discipleship.
- ❑ Matt 16:27 ...then he shall reward every man according to his works.

**Accepting personal responsibility is the gateway to a bountiful Christian life.**

# Personal Salvation

- ❑ This means that regardless of one's religion, heritage, social standing or volume of good works, in order to be a child of God and a member of Christ's invisible Church, one simply must be "born again."
  - ❑ Ps 14:2-3 The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.
  - ❑ Rom 3:23-24 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
  - ❑ The only way to the Father is through the blood of the Savior, Jesus Christ.
  - ❑ Heb 9:22 ..without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
  - ❑ John 14:6-7 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
  - ❑ John 3:3-4 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- Regeneration is a pre-requisite to discipleship. No one can be a disciple unless first, and genuinely, cleansed by the blood of Jesus.**

# Personal Sanctification

- ❑ This means that we accept sanctification – the purifying of our souls, affections and motives - as the chief and necessary end of discipleship.
- ❑ 1 Cor 3:10-11 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- ❑ Col 3:1-4 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- ❑ Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection...

**Discipleship builds hope, purpose and power into the life of believers as their faith grows in their position, experience and future with Christ.**

# Discipleship in the Family

the Family

# Autonomy of the Family

- ❑ This means that we recognize: 1) the family as the principal “unit” of the church, 2) the liberty of self-governing household jurisdictions, and 3) the head of each household as its spiritual authority.
- ❑ Acts 5:1-4 [To Ananias] “While [the land] remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control?”
- ❑ By respecting the jurisdictional authority of the family, the church is able to foster the equipping of all of its members without “controlling” them.
- ❑ 2 Tim 2:2-3 What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- ❑ Deut 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them to thy sons, and thy sons' sons;  
**As the resident pastors and theologians of their homes, fathers/ heads of households are able to lead their families in participation in the various activities of the church as the Lord would lead them.**

# Parent-to-Child Discipleship

- ❑ This means that along with the **freedom** of the home's self-governing jurisdiction comes the primary **responsibility** of discipling each family member.
  - ❑ 2 Tim 2:3 ...entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
  - ❑ Personal discipleship and mentoring do not escape church leaders under this model, rather “household pastors” are the “faithful men” that are entrusted to take the gospel to their home, the church, the community & the world.
  - ❑ Deut 6:6-9 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- HOFCC believes in Lifestyle Discipleship, where every day, every place and every circumstance becomes an opportunity to train our children.**

# Resourcing Household Initiatives

- ❑ This means HOFCC leadership recognizes the autonomy, callings and giftings in local families and strives to inspire, equip and resource them for church and community ministry initiatives.
- ❑ Acts 6:5-6 ...and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them...
- ❑ Effective ministry emerges from sound, faithful, well-managed homes.
- ❑ 2 Tim 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice.
- ❑ Acts 18:26-27 (Apollos) began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

**God's Kingdom contains hosts of undiscovered ministries because families engage only in pastor-driven, staff-directed programs.**

# Discipleship in the Church

THE CHURCH

# Hospitality in Discipleship

- ❑ This means that we show our love for God by the way we love one another - willing to rearrange schedules / reallocate finances to practice ministry hospitality.
- ❑ Acts 2:46-47 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.
- ❑ The home is a seed-bed for fruitful ministry, fellowship and discipleship.
- ❑ Romans 12:10-14 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; ... devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.
- ❑ We are cultivating a culture where the toil of lasting relationships blooms a family of families within each congregation.
- ❑ 1 Peter 4:8-9 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

**We should see our homes, time, talents and resources as ministry “equipment,” modeling faithfulness to the children of our own households.**

# Elders Discipling Fathers

- ❑ This means that while we recognize every individual as a valuable member of the church, we place great emphasis upon discipling and equipping householders to be effective shepherds of their homes.
- ❑ Ps 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. (David calling men to be discipled unto God more perfectly).
- ❑ The greatest threat facing the church today is the loss of its youth to the world at a rate of 80% per generation.
- ❑ God's anti-dote? Heart-level transformation for fathers and children.
- ❑ HOFCC recognizes the restoration of fathers to their biblical roles as a priority mission for all of their elders.
- ❑ Deut 4:10 ... the Lord said unto (Moses), Gather me the people together, and **I will make them** hear my words that they may learn to fear me ... and that they may teach their children.

***Our hope and authority rests in an effective presentation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from both our pulpits and our personal lifestyles.***

# Elders Emerging from Households

- ❑ This means that while we strictly adhere to biblical qualifications of elders, we embrace the emergence of called, proven, “regular” men as elders within their own local congregations.
- ❑ Titus 1:7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, ...not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, ...
- ❑ God’s primary testing ground for elders is the home...and a significant qualifier for that office is godly management of it.
- ❑ Our first responsibility as Elders and Deacons is to be examples of sound doctrine in action!
- ❑ *1 Tim 3:4-6 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*
- ❑ HOFCC Elders lead from the platform of authoritative example.  
**Rejecting “authoritarianism,” we believe a clear gospel message springing from a fruitful life will catch the ear of the Lord’s sheep.**

# Making New Disciples

Disciples

# Equipping for Evangelism

- ❑ This means that since the Great Commission is intended for all believers, that church leadership is responsible to equip families and mentor members in ministry, outreach and evangelism.
- ❑ Eph 4:11-12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...
- ❑ The “fountain” of church ministry is not church programs, but the divine calling of each family and individual believer to fulfill God’s ministry purposes in their lives.
- ❑ Eph 4:15-16 ...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.  
**Elders establish the culture and mechanisms that foster members discovering their callings and being mentored in them.**

# Active in Outreach

- ❑ This means that we recognize that the Great Commission includes intentionality in: 1) reaching the lost, 2) welcoming them into the church and, 3) making disciples of them.
  - ❑ Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
  - ❑ Jesus' command includes responsibility toward all lost people everywhere, insomuch as we have ability to reach them. This includes foreign missions, unreached people groups and local evangelism.
  - ❑ Rom 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other.
  - ❑ Acts 19:10 (Paul's testimony) continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.
- HOFCC recommends that every congregation develop a Global Outreach strategy that includes both support and participation in domestic evangelism, foreign missions and church planting.**

# Prepared for Discipleship

- ❑ This means that our responsibility as local congregations is not only to present the gospel to the lost, but to warmly receive and actively disciple new converts.
- ❑ *Lev 19:34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*
- ❑ ***Ex 12:49 There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you."***
- ❑ Salvation and baptism are the beginning of the gospel work in the human soul.
- ❑ Matt 28:20 ...teaching them to observe **all** that I have commanded you.

**The atmosphere in every church should be that of welcoming and instructing people in the gospel through every stage of Christian development.**