



VANDALIA  
BAPTIST  
TEMPLE

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BUILDING BRIDGES THAT TRANSFORM LIVES

# Bridge Builders Bible Institute

*“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the  
ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”  
Ephesians 4:12*

# HANDBOOK

## **From the Director:**

Every day we need to make decisions. One of the most important decisions that we need to make in life is to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Afterward, there are other decisions such as baptism, church membership and service for the Lord, etc.

If you have surrendered your life to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridge Builders Baptist Institute is the place to begin your necessary preparation for effective ministry in your Church.

I pray that this manual will be a good help for you to know what we offer. These studies could lead you to full time work for the Lord and possibly entering a Bible College or Seminary later on in your ministry for Him.

The Bible Institute is for those Baptist believers that want to do something for the work of the Lord here in Vandalia, Ohio, the USA and the world. Our desire is to help prepare you for the work that God has put on your heart now and for the future. These courses can give you the fundamental basis to serve the Lord as a pastor, missionary, teacher, discipleship, youth director or worker, children's ministry or to be a good member of the Church in whatever ministry that God would give you. Remember that serving the Lord is not only for those called to preach, but to every believer in Christ Jesus.

Our purpose and goal is to instruct the students in the Word of God, guide them to lead people to salvation through Jesus Christ, and prepare them to better serve God in their Church and the area where they live and work.

May God richly bless you as you cross this bridge of service for our blessed Redeemer!

In Christ's Name,

Rick Washburn Sr.  
Director



## **PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE**

The Bridge Builders Bible Institute is a ministry of Vandalia Baptist Temple, directed by retired church-planting missionary Rick Washburn, Sr. The purpose of the Institute is as follows:

A. To effectively train and equip lay men and women for ministry and leadership. They will receive doctrinal and practical training that will help them in different ministries in which they might be involved.

B. To give students a sense of loyalty to their Church and ministry, and to give the preparation that is needed to serve the Lord in a better way. 2 Tim. 2:15.

C. To help new Christians continue to grow in the Word (in addition to being disciplined and mentored).

D. To help guide students to build their Christian character and understand that Christianity is a way of life for the believer in Christ Jesus.

E. To help students develop practical Bible principles in their lives and Baptist doctrine, that they might be grounded and grow in the faith.

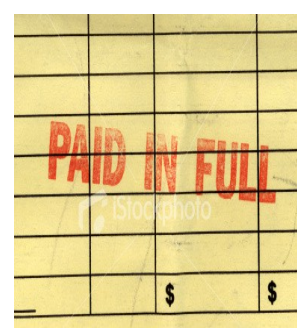
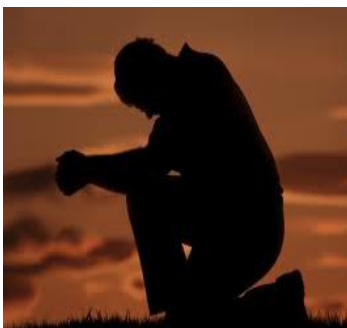
We feel it is the responsibility of the Church to train their workers for ministry (Eph. 4:11-13). The Institute is not an accredited institution, but a ministry of the local church. Our emphasis is to obey the command of Christ to teach all that He has commanded us in His Word, to prepare our members to serve and edify the body of Christ. We strive to do that together as a Church. However, this education can lay an excellent foundation for a formal Bible degree.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. It is important to have a quality education that is primarily biblical and spiritual.
2. It is essential for each student to learn the disciplines necessary to be a good servant of Christ. The student needs to be ready for exams that are required and to do the homework that is necessary for each class. It is important to show respect to those in authority.
3. There will be a minimal cost of \$25 for each course. This will include the textbooks required for each course.
4. The professors of the Institute are Baptist in doctrine and practice and will usually be members of our church. If not, they will be from other independent Baptist churches of like faith and practice. They have to be in agreement with the "Confession of Faith" of Vandalia Baptist Temple.
5. Each student should be saved and sure of his or her salvation.
6. Each student should be faithful and active in the church.
7. It is important that the servant of God have a good prayer life, be consistent in Bible reading and be regular in sharing his faith in Christ with others.

## NECESSARY STEPS TO ENTER THE INSTITUTE:

1. Pray! Be sure that it is God's will and that you are willing to take the necessary time to study.
2. Talk to your pastor or the director of the Institute.
3. Fill out the application form which will include your testimony of salvation, baptism and Church membership.
4. Turn in the application to the director of the Institute so that it can be approved before the class that you would like to take.
5. Pay for the class no later than the first day of each course.



# SCHEDULE AND ACADEMIC INFORMATION

1. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7 – 9:30 PM and on Saturday mornings from 9 – 11:30 AM. One course will be offered on Tuesday and a different course on Saturday for about seven weeks. In order to receive credit for the course you cannot miss more than two classes.
2. Classes will be held at Vandalia Baptist Temple.
3. Each student should bring to the class their Bible (King James Version), pencil or pens and a notebook in order to take notes when necessary.
4. You must receive a grade of at least 70% to pass an exam and also the course.
5. In order to receive a two-year Bible Certificate you must complete 16 courses. For the three-year Bible Certificate you must complete 24 courses.
6. Some people will want to take certain courses that will help them in their ministry but will not want to work toward a diploma. That is not a problem and we encourage you to do so, if you cannot for whatever reason, work toward a Bible diploma.

## Courses Offered:

### Old Testament:

Old Testament Survey  
Creation to Christ (Genesis - Exodus emphasis)  
Joshua - Judges  
David and the Kings (1 & 2 Chronicles)  
Major Prophets (Isaiah & Daniel)  
Minor Prophets

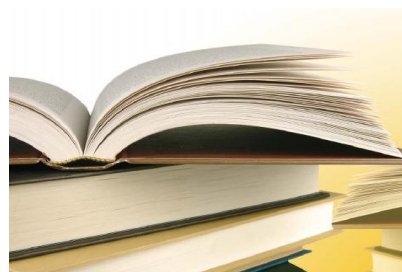
### New Testament:

New Testament Survey  
Life Of Christ  
Acts  
New Testament Epistles 1  
New Testament Epistles 2  
Galatians  
Romans  
Revelation

### General Courses:

Baptist Church History  
Baptist Church Practices  
Pastoral Ministry  
Major Doctrines 1  
Major Doctrines 2  
Women in Ministry  
Cults

Homiletics  
Effective Teaching Methods  
English Bible – Manuscript Evidence  
Principles and Strategies of Evangelism  
Missions and Church Planting  
Basics in Biblical Counseling  
Effective Bible Study Methods



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## Section 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God but IS the very Word of God.

2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psa. 119:160; Psa. 119:105; Psa. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psa. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:2-3; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psa. 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

## Section 2. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; Psa. 83:18; Psa. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

## Section 3. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thes. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:16; II Thes. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27

## **Section 4. Of the Devil or Satan**

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels-, that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy, the lord of the anti-Christ, and the author of all the powers of darkness-destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thes. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; Zech. 1:3; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:25, 37-39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thes. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11, 16-20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:4 1.

## **Section 5. Of the Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary changes of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.

## **Section 6. Of the Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:23; Gal. 3:22.

## **Section 7. Of the Virgin Birth**

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever or can ever be born of woman; and that He is the Son of God, and God the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psa. 27; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

## **Section 8. Of the Atonement for Sin**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience; and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable and

compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21, John 10:8; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

### **Section 9. Of Grace in the New Creation**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; Acts 16:30-33; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

### **Section 10. Of the Freeness of Salvation**

We believe in God's electing grace that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thes. 1:4; Col. 3:12, I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

### **Section 11. Of Justification**

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not on consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:11; Titus 3:5-7; Hab. 2:4, Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:18; Heb. 10:38.

### **Section 12. Of Repentance and Faith**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior

Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Psalms 51:1-4; Psalms 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11.



## **Section 13. Of the Church**

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated together by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures; we believe that the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and methods of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Tim. 3:8-13; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:22-23; I Pet. 5:14; Acts 15:22; Jude 3-4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13.

## **Section 14. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost with the authority of the local church to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

## **Section 15. Of the Perseverance of the Saints**

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end, that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors, that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:23; Matt. 6:30; Psa. 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; John 10:28; John 10:29; John 16:8; Rom. 8:35-39.

## **Section 16. Of the Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked, that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet. 4:18; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; I John 3:7; Rom. 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6;

Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

### **Section 17. Of Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Rev. 10:6; Phil. 2:10-11; Psa. 72:11.

### **Section 18. Of the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events**

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures;" that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God;" that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God;" "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" - bodily, personally and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first;" that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;" "That the Lord shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David;" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2, 4-6; Acts 1:9; Acts 1:11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; I Thes. 4:16; Matt. 24:27; Matt. 25:13, Jas. 5:8; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 9:28; I Thes. 4:16; I Cor. 15:42-44; I Cor. 15:52; I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thes. 4:17; Phil. 3:20-21; Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6-7; I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4; Rev. 20:6.

### **Section 19. Of Missions**

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

**Matt. 28:18-20:** "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. "

**Mark 16:15:** "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." **John 20:21:** "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

**Acts 1:8:** "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

**Rom. 10:13-15:** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not -believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. "

## **Section 20. Of the Grace of Giving**

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith.

**II Cor. 8:7:** "Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

**I Cor. 16:2:** "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Under grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe - "Abraham GAVE a tenth part of all" - "Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils" - Hebrews 7:2-4 - and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, "These ye ought to have done" - Matt. 23:23.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Lev. 27:30: "The tithe is the Lord's."

**Mal. 3:10:** "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

In the New Testament the storehouse was the common treasury of the church.

**Acts 4:34, 35, 37:** "And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet . . . Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."

**Note:** We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman as ordained by God.

**Note:** We do not agree nor participate with the modern charismatic movement.