Connecting

NorthRidge Membership Class
Joined Together

When someone says church, what comes to your mind?

The word for church in the original New Testament language means literally an assembly (Ephesians 2:19-22; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:4-5), referring to the meeting of the people and not a physical building. This is the biblical teaching of the nature of church: it is the people and not the building.

Jesus Christ is the one who founded the church (Matthew 16:18), is the authority over the church (1 Peter 5:4), and will be personally present with the church until the end (Matthew 16:18).

The church is the community of God’s redeemed people—all who have trusted Christ alone for their salvation. The relationship between its members results from their common identity as brothers and sisters adopted into God’s family—enabling true Christian fellowship. Our common salvation incorporates us into God’s one redeemed people.

The primary New Testament metaphors for the church—body (1 Corinthians 12:27), temple (Ephesians 2:21), household (1 Timothy 3:15), and flock (Acts 20:28) - have a key characteristic the idea of separate individuals joined tougher into a single entity.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit (Ephesians 2:21-22).

It is assumed in the New Testament that Christians will assemble together (Hebrews 10:24-25). Christians are to involve themselves in a local church, such as NorthRidge church, for purposes of worship, biblical instruction, prayer, service, fellowship, all to the glory of God (Ephesians 3:10).
Why commit to a local church?

It is a key assumption of New Testament teaching that the Christian life is to be lived out in relationship with other believers in the context of the local church. Although we enter into a relationship with God as individuals, we nevertheless enter into something greater than our own individuality: the church—the community of God’s people.

Commitment to a local church, like NorthRidge, is a visible expression of a commitment to Christ and his body—the Church. So why commit to a local church?

Growth
Without being joined together with other believers, we will lack the strength and nourishment that each member is to supply.

Support
We live in a fallen world and its effects are all around us: pain, sorrow, sickness, and death. God has promised to care for us, and much of his care comes to us through other believers. Indeed, Christians are to be distinguished by their sacrificial love for one another. The church provides a place for you (and your family) to find encouragement, help and support.

Community
The biblical picture of the church can best be described as community: a group of people, joined by a common life, united by common values and a common purpose, devoted to living out this life together within the larger society. Ultimately, our lives together are intended to show the world a compelling picture of the grace of God. “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, by your love for one another” (John 13:35).
What is expected of me when I commit myself to the church?

Worship
At its most basic level, the church is a group of people gathered together who worship and love God. The expectation exists that people will be faithful in attending a worship service each week, in order that they may be encouraged, challenged, and strengthened in their walk with God.

Fellowship
The church is a community. We need to build relationships with one another for support, encouragement and accountability. Therefore we expect members to be building relationships with others within the church body. These relationships might come through a small group, serving on a ministry team, or a Sunday School class. But members should be intentional about personally getting to know other believers in the church.

Ministry
Just as every part of the human body has a function, so each of us has received a special calling and gifting from God to be used in serving the rest of the church body and/or in reaching out to the world. Members should be using their God given gifts and abilities for the good of the church body.

Giving
Through financially giving, we support the ongoing ministry of our local church. “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what he had decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
How Do I Get Involved?

• Faithfully attend Sunday Services
• Connect with a Sunday School Class
• Fellowship during Coffee time
• Join a Small Group
• Get Involved with a ministry of the Church or start your own
• Attend Ministry Training meetings the second Monday of each month
• Look through the membership directory to familiarize yourself with faces and names in the congregation

Membership Process at NorthRidge

• Determine that you are a regenerated believer in Jesus Christ and that you desire to commit yourself to this local church body.

• Write out your Christian testimony.

• Give your testimony to one of the pastors, or mail it to NorthRidge Sabetha (P.O. Box 185, Sabetha, KS 66534), with a request to be considered for membership at NorthRidge Church.

• The testimony will be submitted to the deacon board of the church for consideration (The deacons meet together the second Monday of every month).

• You will receive notification of church membership status shortly after the meeting (verbally, and/or by letter or email).

• New members have their name printed in the church bulletin notifying the congregation of your membership.
NorthRidge Church Staff

Pastoral Staff:
Charlie Robinson.......................................................... Point Pastor
Chris Geyer ............................................................... Discipleship Pastor
Cale Lang ................................................................. Youth Pastor
Brian Voos ...................... NorthRidge Nebraska Campus Pastor
Dan Farley ..................... NorthRidge Nebraska Campus Pastor
Jason Drahota ................. NorthRidge Seneca Campus Pastor

Support Staff:
Jenna Swinger................................. Ministry Support
Sheri Menold ......................... Children’s Ministry Director
Galen Ackerman .................. Church Administrator—Sabetha
Bob Gulland ......................... Church Administrator—Falls City
Linda Ackerman.......................... Video & Media
Austin Rippe................................. Tech Coordinator
Anne Wertenberger .................... Financial Secretary
Sharon Mishler ......................... Missions Coordinator
Susan Adkins................................. Counselor
Carol Meyer ................................. Ministry Support
Responsibilities of NorthRidge Leadership

Lead the church
According to Scripture, church leaders are called by God and accountable to God to lead the local church. “Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight…” (1 Peter 5:2).

Nourish the church.
God has ordained His word as the primary instrument for the nourishment and strengthening of His church. He charges church leaders, and specifically pastors, with the task of feeding the church with His word. “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Equip the church.
Church leaders are equippers, training church members for the work of ministry in the church. “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry…” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Protect the church.
As shepherds of God’s people, pastors specifically are called to protect the church from the dangers it faces by teaching sound doctrine to strengthen the church in its faith and life and protecting it from unbiblical teachings by false teachers. “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock...I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert” (Acts 20:28-31).
NorthRidge Church Missions

At NorthRidge Church we believe strongly in supporting mission work because, first and foremost, it is a clear commandment of our Lord: *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* (Matthew 28:18-20).

It is clear from this passage that the command is to make disciples of *all nations*. For our church, we are engaged in missions work in several ways: We send out missionaries from our church on mission trips, we financially support missionaries (see below), we pray for our missionaries, and finally, 14% of our annual budget is allocated toward missions work. We do all this in order to “reach and equip without borders.”

**Missionaries Supported by NorthRidge:**

Nate and Erika Sapp, Christian Challenge, Kansas State University  
Robbie and Gail Nutter, Christian Challenge, Kansas State University  
Mike and Kim Havenstein, Navigators, University of Nebraska  
Bryce and Alicia Lee, Crossroads Youth Works, Simla, CO  
Bob Potter, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, Omaha, NE  
Arnie and Diane Kitchener, New Tribes, Brazil  
Joel and Rachel Prigge, ABWE, Papua New Guinea  
Kevin and Renae Kellenberger, New Tribes, Papua New Guinea  
Erica Thompson, OMS, Haiti  
Radio 4VEH, OMS, Haiti  
Josh and Kristi Aberle, OMF, East Asia  
Matt and Stacey Ayers, OMS, Haiti  
Sam and Camren Aberle, OMS, Haiti
**NorthRidge Sunday School Classes**

At NorthRidge, our Sunday School classes are designed to further encourage and equip our people in their knowledge of Scripture and their daily walk with Christ. Our Sunday morning education time offers classes for all ages. It begins in the nursery and continues through our senior adult class.

Our children’s classes use a curriculum which is designed to introduce children to foundational biblical concepts in a way that is age appropriate.

Our middle school and high school ministries assist students navigate the teenage years by helping them develop a biblical worldview and to apply biblical teachings to their lives.

Our adult ministries consist of classes where biblical topics and book studies encourage growth in understanding and application of the Scriptures and the facilitating of biblical community.

**Small Groups at NorthRidge Church**

At the heart of our vision for the Small Group ministry of NorthRidge Church is the desire to see a community of believers (relationships) who are growing deeper in their love for Christ and their obedience to him (discipleship).

The Scriptures indicate that the Christian life is to be lived out in community with other believers. We are told to encourage one another, serve one another, rejoice and weep with one another, correct, instruct, build up, accept and love one another. Small Groups provide a wonderful context to facilitate involvement in one another’s lives.

Please talk with Pastor Chris about getting connected in a Small Group.
Baptism

Every person who has believed in Christ should be baptized. While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it is a symbolic act of obedience which publically expressed one’s faith in Christ. It is a visible way for us to identify ourselves as followers of Christ, making clear our allegiance to Jesus and to His commandments (Matthew 28:18-20).

NorthRidge Church Practices ‘Believer’s Baptism.’
We understand the Bible to teach that baptism is appropriately administered only to those who make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:36).

NorthRidge Church Practices Baptism by ‘Immersion.’
In every clear example of baptism in the Bible, the method of baptizing is by immersion. Additionally, the Greek word ‘baptizo’ literally means to “plunge, dip, or immerse something’ (Mark 1:5; Acts 8:38-29).

Baptism by immersion best symbolizes the believers union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. Additionally, baptism by immersion best symbolizes the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in newness of the Christian life. “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection” (Romans 6:4-5).

NorthRidge Church baptizes in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:18-19). It is a Trinitarian act reminding believes that our salvation has been promised, accomplished, and applied through the work of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

If you have not been baptized as a believer and would like to, please notify a member of the pastoral staff to schedule a baptism.
The Lord’s Supper

Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper the night before he went to the cross, “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom’” (Matthew 26:26-29).

The Lord’s Supper is a Reminder
One of the functions of the ongoing practice and participation in the Lord’s Supper is to recall the event and significance of Christ’s sacrifice “for us.” … And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24).

The Lord’s Supper is a Symbol
The Lord’s Supper is also a symbol of the Christians commitment to Christ and to his body. It proclaims the Gospel message of Christ’s death and of his nourishing of the Christian life. As a repeated practice, it should remind the believer of these significant truths. In the same way, He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me” (1 Corinthians 11:25).

The Lord’s Supper is a Statement of Faith
In the Lord’s Supper “we proclaim the Lord’s death until he come” (1 Cor. 11:26). The Lord’s Supper is not a perpetual rite. It is a “dress rehearsal” for the messianic banquet to come at the marriage feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9), when our faith shall become sight. The Lord’s Supper therefore looks back to the past in remembrance, at the present in fellowship with other believers, and to the future when the promises shall be consummated. “For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back” ((1 Corinthians 11:26).
Stewardship involves the faithful use of resources that belong to another. An important part of following Christ is the use of our material resources for God’s purposes. In fact, Scripture is clear that an authentic relationship with Christ will find expression in the faithful use of our resources for his ends. Stewardship involves the use of our money and possessions for the glory of God, the work of his church, and the well-being of others.

“Christian stewardship is the management of life and all its resources for the glory of God.” — Murray J. Harris

A. The reality of stewardship. The faithful use of our resources begins with a stark realization: God owns everything! All that we have comes from him, and therefore we don’t really own anything; we are merely stewards— overseers or managers—over things that belong to God (Psalm 24:1).

B. The purpose of stewardship. In the New Testament, God has called his people to financially support the on-going ministry of their local church. Three biblical attitudes are to guide this voluntary giving:

Generously — “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”
(1 Corinthians 9:6).

Willingly—“Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (1 Corinthians 9:7).

Sacrificially — The poor widow with “two small copper coins” is commended by Jesus for putting into the offering “everything she had” (Mark 12:42-44).

C. The character of stewardship. The faithful use of our resources is not only commanded by God; it is in fact an undeniable indicator of our spiritual health. What we actually do with our money reveals where our heart truly is (Matthew 6:21). Materialism, selfishness, greed, hoarding, anxiety over money—all of these reveal that our trust lies not in God but in money. In the same way, generosity and faithfulness reveal that our trust is in God, not our possessions, as the source of our life.
Evangelism and the Gospel

Since every Christian has personally experienced the grace of God through the Gospel, each of us has a part to play in this glorious commission as we testify to the salvation God offers through the Gospel.

“Evangelism is the verbal proclamation of the good news of salvation with a view of leading people to a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.” —D.S. Lim

1. The participants in evangelism: Every Christian!

The work of evangelism is essentially that of bearing witness—each of us is called to testify to what God has done for through the work of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”

2. The substance of evangelism: The Gospel

We aren’t merely calling others to live a moral life, or asking them simply to “believe in God,” or trying to convince them that Christians are “nice people.”

The Gospel is the “good news” of God’s saving work through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Why is it “good news?” The Gospel message is the solution to our most fundamental problem as human beings—alienation from a holy God because of our sin. The great “good news” of Christianity is that Christ has paid the penalty of our sins on the cross and that by trusting in him, we can receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life (John 3:16). Salvation comes only through faith in the finished work of Christ on our behalf (Acts 4:12).
3. The method of our evangelism: Declaration and Demonstration

A. Declaration: Telling the good news

“But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15).

Since the Gospel is, by definition, “good news,” evangelism always involves the sharing of this news. We encourage each of our members to bear witness to Jesus Christ and share the Gospel in the network of relationships He provides to us. These “fields of harvest” (see Matthew 9:38) include our family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, classmates—anyone whom God has placed in our lives.

B. Demonstration: Living the good news

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

In addition to proclaiming the Gospel, Christians are to testify to the reality of the Gospel by the way they live. The Bible describes believers as “…his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). These good works include deeds of kindness and love that express God’s love to people and give credibility to the message we proclaim.

There is a corporate dimension to living this good news. We believe that our lives together in the local church is an effective means of testifying to the Gospel. Through our unity and the transformational work of the Spirit in our live we testify to the power and effectiveness of the Gospel.
Bible Study

How to Have a Daily Quiet Time:

Choose a daily time and place.

Develop a reading plan.

Read God’s Word:
• Open with prayer.
• Read a chapter or two.
• If you are a note taker—take notes.
• Pray about how specifics of what you read can be applied to your life.

4. Understand God’s Word:
• Observe
• Interpret
• Apply

5. Tools for Bible Study
• Study Bibles—They contain explanations, outlines, cross references and study notes. A good study Bible also has a concordance, maps, and a topical index.

• Concordance—An alphabetical listing of key words, names, topics, and a list of verses that contain the word you select.

• Bible Dictionaries—Allows you to look up words you don’t understand such as “grace,” “redemption,” or “faith.”

• Bible Atlases, Maps, and Time Lines—Allows you to locate where and when biblical events took place.

• Bible Commentaries and Handbooks—Written by scholars with years of study, these books provide overview, background, and insights on the bible.
6. Principles of Study

- Look for God’s Over-All Plan—There is an overarching story-line to the bible which begins in Genesis (first book in our Bible), culminates in the Gospels (Jesus death and resurrection) and consummates in Revelation (last book in our Bible).

- Find the Background of the Books (Five W’s and One H) - Find out who wrote the book and the reason for, or theme of, the books. Try to find out the “Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How?” of the book.

- Read Verses in Context—Read the surrounding chapters and the verses before and after the verse you are studying to get the whole picture of the passage.

- Consider the Whole Message of God’s Word—Take the whole Bible as God’s Word. Don’t just concentrate on one verse or idea. See if the teaching is explained more fully in other parts of the Bible by looking at the cross-reference or consulting a concordance.

- Discover the intended meaning—As you read the Bible, look for the author’s intended meaning. Ask questions like: what did it mean in that culture? What does it mean now? What are the main ideas?

- Learn the History and Geography—Use references previously mentioned to understand the where and when’s of events recorded in the Bible.

- Understand Figurative Language—Figures of speech are word pictures that help us understand a truth and are used often throughout the Bible (example: “thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” Psalm 119).

- Recognize Forms of Literature—The Bible contains various forms of literature: History, Narrative, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophecy, Parables, and Letters. Recognizing each form will help you interpret the meaning.
Prayer

What is prayer?
Communication with God.

Why pray?
We are told to in Scripture (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Principles of Prayer
• Prayer is a privilege where we convene with the one and only holy God.
• From Jesus’ example of the ‘Lord’s Prayer,’ we learn that we are to pray with reverence, trust, humility. Ultimately, our prayers should be an expression of our desire for God Himself, to fellowship with Him. Our God, who is our loving Father, promises to hear and answer our prayers in accordance with His will.
• When praying, the “ACTS” outline is helpful:
  Adoration (praise and worship)
  Confession of sin
  Thanksgiving
  Supplication (making requests for others and yourself)

Helpful Ideas for Praying
• Prayer Walks
• Write out prayers in a Journal (Keep track of answered prayers)
• Pray through our church directory
• Pray Scripture for people (including the Psalms and the prayers of Paul: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12; Colossians 1:9-14; Philippians 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Romans 15:14-33).
Spiritual Gifts

The Bible indicates that when you become a Christian, the Holy Spirit indwells you and gifts you for ministry in the church. You are called to use these gifts to build up the church. In the New Testament there are three representative lists of spiritual gifts given: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28, and Ephesians 4:11.

So what if you don’t know what gift(s) God has given you? Begin by examining the lists in the New Testament and assessing if your abilities and desires line up with any gift listed. Keep in mind that the lists in the New Testament are not exhaustive, that is, they do not list every possible spiritual gift.

Saddleback church has come up with a helpful acronym to assess personal giftings: S.H.A.P.E.
S – Spiritual Gifts
H - Heart
A - Abilities
P – Personality
E – Experiences

- What are your passions, abilities, and experiences? Is there a ministry in the church which these personal traits lend themselves to?
- Ask another church member who knows you well for their insight into your spiritual giftings.
- Assessing past fruitful ministry can be an indicator of spiritual giftings.

Pray and ask God for wisdom and insight (James 1:5-6) as to how you can apply your spiritual gifts for the good of the church. Finally, if may be necessary just to find a need in the church and serve there “strive to excel in building up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12).
Covenant of NorthRidge Church

Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord, and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship, the enjoyment of Christian ordinances, the public worship of God, and the advancement of His Kingdom in the world, we do now, in the sight of God and invoking His blessing, solemnly covenant and agree with each other to associate ourselves to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ as warranted by the Word of God.

We agree to maintain the institutions of the Gospel, to submit ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of the Church, and to walk together in brotherly love.

And this we do, depending upon the aid of our Heavenly Father, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us by His blood, and of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide.
The Bible, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is God’s written revelation, divinely given through human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Its content is entirely true and is to be the supreme and final authority for faith and practice in the church and in the life of the Christian.

II. GOD
The Bible reveals God to be the one and only true and living God. He is perfect in all his attributes, and thus truly omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, timeless, and self-existent. God exists, in his being, as one God revealed in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These Persons are co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal, yet distinct in office and activity.

III. GOD - THE FATHER
God the Father is a personal being, who is perfect in His holiness, power, knowledge, love, and wisdom. He concerns himself mercifully in the affairs of his creation, hearing and answering prayers, saving from sin all who come to him through Jesus Christ. He is worthy to receive all glory and adoration.

IV. GOD - THE SON – JESUS CHRIST
Jesus is both fully God and fully human, in undiluted and unconfused union. He is Christ, the Son of God. Born in the flesh of a virgin, lived a life without sin, in perfect obedience to the Father, died on the cross to provide people the appointed means of forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation, rose bodily from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return in power and glory.

V. GOD - THE HOLY SPIRIT
The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine and equal with the Father and Son. In Him all true Christians are baptized into Christ, indwelt beginning at the moment of salvation, empowered for bold witness and effective service as they yield to Him, and uniquely gifted for the building up of the church. The Holy Spirit convicts individuals of sin, progressively grows believers into the likeness of Christ, and secures them until the final day of redemption.

VI. HUMANITY
God created human beings, male and female, in His image and for His glory. Yet every human being has willfully disobeyed God—an act known as sin—thus inheriting both physical and spiritual death. All human beings are born with a sin nature and are inclined toward sin. Only by the grace of God through Jesus Christ can they experience salvation.
VII. SALVATION
All human beings are born with a sin nature, relationally separated from God, under the just condemnation of God, and in need of a Savior. That salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, as a person repents of sin and receives God’s grace of the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Salvation is instantaneous and is wholly of God by grace, on the basis of the finished work of Jesus Christ, and not on the basis of human works.

VIII. SANCTIFICATION
Sanctification, which is a setting apart unto God, is positional, progressive, and ultimate and begins at the moment of salvation. Positionally, it is already complete since the believer is in Christ and is set apart unto God as Christ is set apart unto God. Since the believer in this life retains their sinful flesh, there is need for progressive sanctification as the believer grows in the likeness of Christ by the power of the Spirit. Ultimately, the child of God will be set apart from sin in their practice as they are now in positionally, when they are joined with Christ for eternity.

IX. THE CHURCH
The church consists of all true believers of Jesus Christ who are brought into the fellowship of Christ’s body, with Christ as the Head. As members of the body of Christ, all believers are called to join themselves to a local church. The local expression of the church is an assembly of believers in Jesus Christ who voluntarily join together in one locale for the purpose of worship, biblical instruction, prayer, service, fellowship, all to the glory of God.

Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are ordinances to be valued and observed in the local church. They are visible signs representing spiritual truths; they do not accomplish salvation. Baptism is a one-time ordinance where the believer is immersed in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism signifies the believer’s union with a crucified, buried and risen Savior, and the believer’s death to sin, burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. The Lord’s Supper is a repeated ordinance, which memorializes the meaning and significance of the death of Christ, and anticipates his return.

X. LAST THINGS
God has appointed a set time for the consummation of the present age, though He has not revealed its exact time. Allowing for diversity of end-time views, we believe the following are essential: Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. A solemn separation will take place: the unrighteous will be assigned to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy in a new heaven and new earth. This judgment will fix forever the final state of people in heaven or hell in accordance with God’s righteousness. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.