



Seeing What We
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them,
Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship:** for salvation is of the Jews.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.03—COVENANT

I. MEMBERSHIP AFTER CONVERSION

A. The Motive for Membership – **“Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God...”**

B. The Method for Membership

II. MEMBERSHIP WITH COMMITMENT

A. The Pursuit of Perfection

B. The Privilege of Power

C. The Promotion of Progress

D. The Prudence of Purity

E. The Preeminence of the Provisions

III. MEMBERSHIP WITH CONVICTION

Membership after conversion should lead to membership with commitment. True commitment should lead to membership with conviction.

Conviction is defined as “a fixed or firm belief” -
<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/conviction>

Two weeks ago we began looking at the section of our Church Covenant as a reflection of how conviction should look for members of our church.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God's Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice; to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

A. Conviction Regarding Spirituality

“We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God’s Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others...”

B. Conviction Regarding Sanctification

“...to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice...”

- Sanctification begins at salvation and continues to intensify as a believer grows in grace in correlation with the Word of God,

C. Conviction Regarding Separation

“...to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.”

- A believer's life should identify with the Lord Jesus Christ, not the world → **“...to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing...”**
 - The believer is “transformed...a new creature” and saved “out of the world;”

Jas. 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, **that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.**

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us **lusteth to envy?**

- Worldliness in the life of a believer is evidence of compromise and lust.

Gal. 5:16-21

- Opposite of worldliness is a spirit-filled life which exhibits fruit reflecting Christ:

Gal. 5:22-24

Tonight, we continue looking at our church covenant regarding “Conviction.” When joining our church, we enter into a solemn, mutual agreement to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God.

Two weeks ago, we began part C. “Conviction Regarding Separation:”

- A church member should not be yoked with unbelievers in organizations that demand secret loyalty while undermining spiritual truth – “...**to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers;**”

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

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

Reason #1 - The Swearing of Secret Oaths

“As this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, ***binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by its roots and with my body, buried in the sands of the sea at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs flows twice in twenty-five hours***, should I ever knowingly or willfully violate or transgress this, my Entered Apprentice obligation. So help me God and make me steadfast to keep and perform the same.”

“All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, ***binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my body severed in two, my bowels torn from thence and burned to ashes, and these scattered before the four winds of Heaven, that no more remembrance might be had among men...of so vile a wretch as I should be,*** should I in the least knowingly or willfully violate or transgress this, my...obligation. So help me God and make me steadfast...”

In Matthew 5:34-37 Jesus said, ***"But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."***

Reason #2 – Such a Group is NOT Christian in Creed or in its "god"

"God is equally present with the pious Hindu in the temple, the Jew in the synagogue, the Mohammedan in the mosque, and the Christian in the church."

Reason #3 – Such a Group Espouses Universalism

"...what so many (religions) forget, that religions are many, but Religion is **ONE**...Therefore, it invites to its altar men of all faiths, knowing that, if they use different names for '**the Nameless One of a hundred names**,' they are yet praying to the one God and Father of all; knowing, also, that while they read different volumes, they are in fact reading the same vast Book of the Faith of Man."

“The true...is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination that...his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha, or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth.”

These teachings stand in direct contradiction to Acts 4:12 -

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Conclusion

Eph. 5:10 Proving what is **acceptable unto the Lord.**

11 And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.**

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things **which are done of them in secret.**

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to **walk, even as he walked.**

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

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

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17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,