

Beliefs and Practices Questionnaire

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be **ready** always to give an **answer** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15. Please explain your answers with biblical examples and versus. Please use additional paper if need.

1. Do you believe the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God?
 - a. Yes, I do. 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 and 2nd Peter 1:19-21 make clear that while various human writers were used by God to pen the words of Scripture, the words, ideas and meanings originated with God. Thus, scripture is not “open to interpretation.” The phrase in 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 “breathed out by God,” carries, in the original Greek, that as God spoke the words, they were copied down by men. (Like an orator giving dictation. The orator determines the words, order and etc... the scribe merely records what he is instructed to.)

2. Do you believe the Kingdom and the church are one and the same thing?
 - a. Yes. The kingdom and the church are one and the same. In Matthew 16:16 and following, Jesus uses the two terms interchangeable. Matthew 16 is merely the fulfillment of Daniel 2:44 and the church is the earthly portion of the kingdom Christ would establish.

3. When did the church of Christ begin and who started it?
 - a. The Lord’s church began in AD33 in Jerusalem. It was started by Peter and the Apostles as was prophesied by Jesus, who gave Peter the keys to open the kingdom by binding repentance and baptism as terms of admission into the kingdom/church (Matt. 16:16-18, Acts 2:37-47)

4. Do you believe a person can become a Christian without becoming a member of the Church of Christ?
 - a. No. In Acts 2:37-47 the Bible says that God added the saved to the church. God, not man, adds one to the correct church (the one Christ promised to build – Matthew 16) and He does not give man the choice in it. If one is saved (baptized into Christ – Acts 2:38-39), one is added to and is a member of, the church that belongs to Christ (i.e. the church of Christ).

5. Do you believe that there are Christians scattered among the various denominations? (They are Christians by having obeyed what that particular denomination teaches one must do to become a Christian)
 - a. No. If one is not saved (and thus made a Christian) by the method authorized in the Bible (Acts 2:38-39, 22:16 and etc...), one is not a Christian (See also – John 14:6, Matthew 16:19, Acts 2:1-4, 37-47).

6. Do you believe that at Christ's second coming he will set up a Kingdom on earth and rule personally from Jerusalem for 1000 years?
 - a. No. Because of Old Testament events and their consequences, it is both impossible and against the will and Word of God for Christ to rule from an earthly throne at any point. The house of Jacob today is the new Israel of God, the church (Rom.2:28-29; Col.2:11-13; Phil. 3:2-6). His kingdom is the church which he is presently reigning over (Mt. 16:18-19; I Cor.15:22-26). But Just as Jesus could not be a physical high priest on earth because He was not of the Tribe of Levi – Hebrews 7:14, Jesus cannot be a physical king on earth, reigning from Jerusalem on David's physical throne, in light of Jeremiah 22:24-30. When king Jehoiachin was carried captive to Babylon (II K.24:8-17) Jeremiah said, "Write this man as childless..." (R S V) a man who shall not succeed in his days; for none of his off spring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah" (Jer.22:24-30). This king is called by three different names; Jehoiachin (II K. 24:6-8), Jeconiah (I Chr.3:16-17 and Mt. 1:12) and Coniah (Jer.22:24). Christ is a descendant of this king (Mt. 1:12); therefore he cannot physically reign in Judah, the place that the Rapture Preachers and the Premillenarian say that he will come back and reign as an earthly king for a 1,000 years.

7. Do you believe that the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship is sinful and that one will be lost for using them?
 - a. Yes, it is sinful and yes, those who use them are lost. All references to music in the New Testament, as well as the Biblical commands, include a cappella singing and exclude anything in addition to or in alteration of said singing. It would therefore be sinful to add soloists, choirs, praise teams, clapping, choirs and etc... (Eph. 5:18-19, Col. 3:15-17, John 14:15). The principle of exclusion; God outlined what He wanted in worship which is singing thus anything that is not singing is excluded.

8. Do you think it would be acceptable for others to use instruments of music in worship service if they see nothing wrong with it?
 - a. No. A Biblical command is a Biblical command. We are not to use instruments because God commanded us to sin; not because we don't like it and others do.

9. How do you believe that the Holy Spirit influences an alien sinner, as well as a Christian? Only through the word or some other means?
 - a. While the Holy Spirit does indwell the Christian, He does not act supernaturally within him (whispering to him what to say and do). The Holy Spirit influences the alien sinner through the Word, wherein is the power of God (Romans 1:16-17). He also influences the Christian through the Word and helps us in our prayers (Romans 8:26) and is the seal of our inheritance (2nd Cor. 1:22). The miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit are no longer manifested as they are no longer needed (1st Cor. 13:10).

10. Do you believe God created all things in six literal, 24 hour days or by the gap theory?
 - a. 6 literal days. A good rule for interpretation is that anytime the Bible speaks of a literal day, it is preceded by a number (Gen. 1). If the day spoken of is not preceded by a number, it is figurative (2nd Peter 3:10).

11. How do you believe that the Lords Supper should be observed? First day of the week? Monthly?
 - a. Each first day of the week as the early church did (Acts 20:7, 1st Cor. 11:18 and following).

12. Do you believe one can use emblems other than the fruit of the vine and unleavened bread for the Lords supper?
 - a. No.

13. Do you believe that men who have never heard the Gospel are lost?
 - a. Yes. Mark 16:15-16, 2nd Thess. 1:8-10

14. Do you believe it is permissible to participate in joint activities with any of the denominations?
 - a. No. 2nd Cor. 6:14 and following.

15. Do you believe that women can pray or teach in the presence of men? (whether in worship or not, which would include “team teaching”, which is the concept of husband-wife team teaching in the lower grade classes.)
- a. Do I believe it is possible for a man and woman to “team teach;” yes for it seem Biblical precedent would support this (Acts 18:24-26). However, in light of other Biblical commands (1st Tim. 2:8-15), the woman’s role may only be permitted to supplement the role of the man for he must have the preeminence, authority, lead and she must take care not to overstep her role.
16. What do you believe is the Biblically established pattern for local church leadership and authority and what responsibilities do those leaders have?
- a. Elders/Overseers. 1st Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, 1st Peter 5:1-5.
17. Do you believe that the church can help people financially who are needy, but not Christians?
- a. Yes. Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 6:10
18. Do you believe two or more churches can cooperate with one another (financially) in preaching the Gospel?
- a. Yes. 1st Corinthians 16:1-4, 2nd Corinthians 11:8
19. Do you believe that a congregation can scripturally support a young man who is attending a “Preaching School”?
- a. Yes.
20. Do you believe a person can divorce their mate and marry again with God’s approval for some cause other than fornication?
- a. No. Matthew 19:1-9. I believe that marriage is between one man and one woman until they are separated by death. I believe that the only exception to this arrangement is outlined in Matthew 19:9 – namely, that a fornicator may be put away by the innocent spouse, thus allowing that innocent one the freedom to contract another marriage. All other divorce and remarriage situations constitute adulterous unions – Romans 7:1-3. I do not believe that marriage may be a matter of convenience or in the “doctrine” of “mental reservation” relative to marriage. It is my belief that when a man and woman marry, regardless of why or when they do so,

they are married and are held to the high standards seen in the verses above, and others like them.

21. Do you believe a person who has been divorced (but not because of their mate's fornication) can remain in a second marriage with God's approval?
 - a. No. they are living in a perpetual state of adultery (Matthew 19:9) and must repent of the sin (end the "marriage") or be lost eternally.

22. What do you believe and teach regarding the marriage of a believer to a non-believer?
 - a. 1st Corinthians 6:14-16 – believers should not marry non-believers for they are of two different mind sets and have different priorities. It is then easier for the un-believer to draw the believer away than the other way around. However once married, the "same rules apply."

23. Do you believe that the use of modern versions of the Bible are wise and good?
 - a. I would say it depends on the version. Only literal, word for word translations are reliable.

24. What version of the Bible do you use?
 - a. I use several literal, word for word translations; King James Version, New King James Version, English Standard Version, American Standard Version.

25. Do you believe it is wise for an eldership to allow only the use of only certain versions of the bible in the classes and from the pulpit?
 - a. While I do not see it as a problem, I do not believe that lines of fellowship should be drawn between congregations because one uses the New King James or English Standard Version and another uses the Old King James. So long as preaching and teaching is from a literal "word for word" translation.

26. Do you believe all of the lost will: Suffer annihilation, spend eternity in hell?
 - a. The lost will be aware, in suffering, in torment and will be there for eternity (Luke 16:19-31).

27. Do you believe the use of Bible study work books (as long as they are scriptural) in our Bible classes are permissible?

- a. Yes. They are expedients only and as long as they are Scriptural, they are not a problem.
28. Do you believe the elders have the final authority in making decisions that pertain to the optional matters of the local congregation?
- a. Yes. The Elders are charged with the oversight of the congregation on all matters that are optional and have not already been ruled on by God (unlike doctrine for instance which God has ruled on) (Acts 20:28). Optional matters like; times of worship, order of worship, color of carpet and etc...
29. Do you believe the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit still exist among Christians today?
- a. No. They have passed from use and are no longer needed or available (1st Cor. 13:8-10, Acts 8:14-18).
30. Do you believe that those who are “disorderly” should be withdrawn from if they will not repent?
- a. Yes, for this is a Biblical command (2nd Thess. 3:6).
31. Do you believe fellowship can be maintained between Churches of Christ and denominations?
- a. No. 2nd Cor. 6:14 and following. How can the church, the bride of Christ, have fellowship with pagans?
32. Do you believe a person can become a Christian and still maintain his identity with a denomination?
- a. Can a person, in their search for the truth, understand their need for Scriptural salvation; yes. Can they obey the Gospel and then remain in their denomination; no. I believe a person searching for the truth would be unable to remain in their denomination after the knowledge that they were improperly saved to begin with.
33. Do you believe it is proper to extend fellowship or leave the appearance that we are in fellowship with one that is in error?
- a. No. For in such cases it is perceived that the church is in support of error.

34. Would you be in favor of having someone preach here who believed that Christ's law concerning marriage does not apply to non-Christians (even though their lessons would not deal with that subject)?
- a. While I believe it could be done, for there are many good preachers who have not reached a mature understanding of this topic and need further education and teaching, it would have to be done with the absolute and unyielding rule that they not be permitted to teach on the subject until such maturity had been reached.
35. Do you believe individuals who teach contrary to the New Testament doctrine should be publicly named (marked) and avoided?
- a. Yes, for that is a Biblical command (Romans 16:17).
36. Do you believe it would be acceptable for a member of the Church of Christ to be a part of an organization like "Promise Keepers"?
- a. No for they do not teach that which is in keeping with the apostle's doctrine (Acts 2:42).
37. Do you believe that we should have choirs, soloists, drama productions or any other innovation in worship?
- a. No. They are not authorized.
38. Do you believe our young people should be encouraged to attend various "youth gatherings" where know false teachers, such as Marvin Phillips, Jeff Walling, Jerome Williams, etc are the speakers or are to participate in some way?
- a. NO!!! Events like Winterfest and etc... should be avoided at all cost for men such as this do not teach sound doctrine, and therefore are of their father the devil (John 8:44). They are like those who Paul writes about in 1st Timothy 1:18-20'; they have made shipwreck of their faith, and the faith of so many others.
39. In what way do you think the congregation can, with Gods approval, provide "things" for our young people?
- a. I believe that as long as the "thing" is Scripturally beneficial to the young people it is ok to purchase it with "church funds."
40. Do you believe that an eldership is working within it right to carefully "check out" every individual that is to stand in our pulpit and preach?

- a. I think that if they are unwilling to then they are not “shepherding the flock of God” as they are commanded to (Acts 20:28) and are inviting disaster.
41. Do you believe that a Christian, especially an elder, should smoke?
- a. No.
42. Do you believe a Christian can drink alcoholic beverages in moderation (small amount) and be pleasing to God?
- a. No. Eph. 5:18 not only forbids the excessive consumption of alcohol, but the verb “methusko” in this passage means not to begin to do something (to be drunk). Also, coupled with passages like 1st Peter 4:7 (speaking on sobriety of the mind) and 1st Thess. 5:6-8 (specifically telling Christians to be “nepho” – sober, meaning to physically abstain from alcohol), forbid it. (See also – Proverbs 23:29-35, 1st Peter 4:3).
43. Do you believe that a person can be a faithful Christian and also be a Mason?
- a. No. Their beliefs run counter to the Biblical teaching.
44. Do you believe an elder, could be on a program like the Nashville Jubilee or Tulsa Workshop with known false teachers such as Rubel Shelly, Jeff Walling, and Randy Mayeux and maintain a positive influence for Christ and his Church?
- a. No. How can a faithful Christian keep company with false teachers and remain faithful?
45. Briefly describe the women’s role in the Church.
- a. The only prohibitions on our sisters are in 1st Corinthians 14:33-37 and 1st Timothy 2:8-15. Other than these, they are to teach, instruct, visit, sing, pray and etc... as all Christians are to do. They may give valuable input, advice, help and assistance and etc...
46. Do you believe we must have Bible authority for all we teach and practice?
- a. Yes.
47. Do you believe the New Testament is our sole source of authority from God?
- a. Yes.

48. Do you believe the church must be willing to make changes in order to hold its members and to attract new people?

- a. Changes that are not related to doctrine (i.e. a newer songbook, new paint on the walls, new programs that are Scriptural and etc...) I believe are ok. Changes that are doctrinal (instruments and etc...), no I do not (Jer. 6:16).

49. Do you believe man is saved by God's grace only and that there is absolutely nothing man is required to do except submit to baptism in the name of Christ?

- a. Man is saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2). He is saved when he by faith, obeys the command to be baptized into Christ, wherein he contacts the grace of God through the blood of Christ. Can man earn his salvation; no. Can man be good enough to be saved without baptism (i.e. through good works), no. But I do not believe in the Calvinistic TULIP principle if that is the question.

Signed Alex Brown _____ Date: August 28, 2019