



**TITUS:
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH**

Being a Sincere Follower of Jesus Christ

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Key Point: In order to be a sincere follower of Jesus Christ, we must submit to the reign of God by placing our faith in the person and work of God the Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and soon the presence of sin unto a new life with God under His headship. When we do this, God will deliver us from the authority of the Devil and our flesh. We will then be under the headship of God, Who will infuse new life in us and put God the Holy Spirit in us to help us live the new way under God's headship. Through the help of God the Holy Spirit and the infused new life within, we will be empowered to know God intimately, to become like God practically in our character, and to be useful to God in service as we wait on His return to take us to be with Him in our new place in Heaven. Your development in being a sincere follower of Christ entails:

Justification and Regeneration: Your position has changed from Sinner to Saint, being justified in Christ. Your condition has changed, being made alive from within, making you a new creature in Christ with a desire for God and the power to obey God. This is the result of putting your faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ to save you from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and soon the presence of sin unto a new relationship with God under His headship that starts at the point of your sincere profession of faith (Titus 3:4-7).

Transformation: We must increasingly integrate our lives into the Kingdom Agenda of God at every point of our lives.¹ We must live our lives in interactive dependence upon God and interactive submission to His kingdom rule (Titus 2:11-15).² This will be accomplished through:

- **Mind Transformation** – Spend time learning and meditating on Who God is and what God says so that God will transform your thinking, leading you to become aware of the will of God through discernment produced by study of Scripture (learning God's will for thoughts, desires, motives, communication, behavior, manner of life, relationship patterns and serving patterns) (Romans 12:2).
- **God Magnification** – Spend time worshiping the character of God in spirit and truth (all of who you are in mind, will and affections giving praise, adoration, thanksgiving and reverence to God for all of Who He is; dedicating your body to the service of God) (John 4:24, Romans 12:1).

¹ Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God* (New York: Harper Collins, 2009), 103-104.

² *Ibid.*, 94.

- ***Desire Formation*** – Set your mind on the eternal benefits of life above and beyond the temporal things of this life; compare and contrast the blessings of the eternal benefits to the detriments of the lustful pursuits and the temporal things of this life; think about the benefits you have now in Christ and the ones that are to come (Colossians 3:1-4).
- ***Deed Habituation*** – Begin to put off wrong thoughts, desires, motives, communication, behavior, manner of life, relationship patterns and serving patterns and put on what is right in thoughts, desires, motives, communication, behavior, manner of life, relationship patterns and serving patterns as empowered and prescribed by God in His Word (Ephesians 4:17-23).
- ***Relationship Implementation*** – put off the wrong way of relating and put on the right way of relating; develop relationships with unbelievers that lead you to be an ambassador for Christ in their lives, leading to presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ; develop relationships with Christians that lead you to be a builder of their lives, leading them to develop in Christ-like character and mature faith in Christ; bear burdens and meet needs with the intent of using the opportunity to be an ambassador or a builder; carry out your responsibilities in every role you play with individuals according to God’s guidelines for that particular role, with the intent of ultimately being an ambassador or a builder in their lives (Colossians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Ephesians 4:11-16, Galatians 6:9-10).

Six Key Words to Consider in Being a Sincere Follower of Jesus Christ

- Detach** – Turn away from, separate from, make no more provision for the flesh
- Detox** – Learn to endure the pain of detaching as you make no more provision for the flesh
- Dedicate** – Make a mental resolve to give your life as a living sacrifice to God
- Develop** – Cultivate patterns of obedience by literally thinking and doing what is right whether you feel like it or not
- Depend** – Count on the power of God to enable you to think and do what is right as you are now yoked to Him
- Delight** – Learn to taste of the spiritual food in Christ and allow it to satisfy your soul

**Being a Sincere Follower of Jesus Christ at COFBC
(Where Do You Stand?)**

Community of Faith Bible Church is committed to the Salvation-Sanctification-Service model as described and prescribed in the Scriptures. We seek to apply that model through dedicating ourselves to developing in and pursuing excellence in membership, maturity, magnification, ministry and missions as we seek to manage this process through the best biblical practices available with the resources we have. If you are a member of this church or if you are seeking to be a member of this church, this is your time to reevaluate where you stand.

If you value being a member of this local church, it is time to think through the areas where you are doing well and the areas where improvement needs to take place and make the adjustments accordingly (i.e. communication skills, relationship building, serving as gifted, financial commitment to give, submission to authority, etc.).

If you no longer value membership at this local church, take time to consider what has changed and begin to move into a place where you can commit to the Salvation-Sanctification-Service model as described and prescribed in the Scriptures. Make sure you make the adjustment in a God-honoring fashion; do not just leave without giving any notice.

If COFBC is where you want to commit to the Salvation-Sanctification-Service model through developing in and pursuing excellence in membership, maturity, magnification, ministry and missions, make the necessary adjustment with God and others in the church accordingly. Then make the necessary pledges below with God in private while demonstrating those pledges to the church in public practice.

Pledge #1

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an “eye,” an “ear,” or a “hand.” As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that “if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).³

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #2

I will seek to be a source of unity in my church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God’s power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.⁴

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #3

I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren’t my preference or style.⁵

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #4

I will pray for my pastor. I understand that the pastor’s work is never ending. His days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. He must deal with critics. He must be a good husband and father. Because my pastor cannot do all things in his own power, I will pray for his strength and wisdom.⁶

Sign and Date _____

³ Thom S. Rainer, *I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude That Makes the Difference* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013), 18-19.

⁴ Ibid., 30.

⁵ Ibid., 41.

⁶ Ibid., 52.

Pledge #5

I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her.⁷

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #6

This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.⁸

Sign and Date _____

⁷ Ibid., 64.

⁸ Ibid., 75-76.