

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT	5
THE PROMISES OF SECURITY IN CHRIST	11
HOLY SPIRIT GIFTS AND POWER	13
SALVATION	15
THE PROCESS AND PROGRESS OF SALVATION	19
BAPTISM	23
HOLY COMMUNION	27
PRAYER	31
PRAYER DESCRIPTIONS	39
FASTING	41
PRAISE AND WORSHIP	45
STEWARDSHIP	51
THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	57
THE FULL GOSPEL DISTINCTIVES	59

INTRODUCTION

This Manual is designed to facilitate the acceptance of new Christians into the Body of Christ or the Christian Church. It has special emphases on the Baptist Church polity and practices, and as such encompasses the basics of the faith. It is not designed to be dogma, however, it does not deviate from those doctrines of the Faith that are stipulated, suggested, or faithfully implied in the Holy Bible.

Every organization – public and private- has a period of training and orientation for its new employees, boards, or support persons. It is time that is taken for those persons to familiarize themselves with organizational practices which might be considered “new” or unfamiliar to them. While the Christian Church is an “organism,” it also must take the necessary time to provide a basis those who become adherents. It also must assure that the new Believers receive compliant and validated information, rather than being left subject to every new wave of religious thought, competing religious movements, or renegade practices.

Most of the cited passages are derived from the New King James Translation and only, where additional clarity appears necessary, have other translations been used. Furthermore, collaborative references from renowned scholars on Christian churchmanship have been fused into various sections so as to broaden the base of validation of text use and meanings.

Many uses for this Manual have been identified; however, its primary focus is on systematically and spiritually introducing new Believers to the Christianity and more specifically, Protestantism. It assumes that the reader is sincerely engaged in studying for both knowledge and personal improvement in his faith walk. It is best utilized where there is small group training with a leader who is familiar with Christian principles and practices. The ideal situation of use would be with groups who have “recently” accepted Christ as savior and redeemer.

This Manual has also been prepared as a multi-week series rather than a one-time read. Each session provides a different but related dimension of churchmanship that, when completed, should provide impetus for continued study of the Bible by the Believer. It should never be considered “exhaustive” in its renderings; therefore, an extensive footnote reference section is included.

Another use of this Manual has been the inclusion of it as part of the training of clergy and “tiered” laity. In the first, it will prepare clergy for the assumption of their roles as “pastors/teachers” in the Christian Church. For lay leaders, it can be an excellent tool for the enhancement of ministries, i.e. Evangelism, Discipleship, Family Strength, Brotherhood, etc. This Manual, at the very least, provides a beginning point for discussion and further doctrinal examination.

The use of this Manual does not replace continuous and rigorous study of the Bible. In fact, such study is essential because this tool is a primer only. It is important to read the related materials, books, and tracts that are available and noted in the Manual in order to fully grasp some of the more difficult principles.

Finally, it is a must tool for Christian Educators because of the finiteness of the sections for study. Therefore, denominational associations, conventions, conferences, and retreats have found immeasurable value using the Manual in breakout sessions and classes for those who will provide ministry leadership in churches.