



IOM AMERICA
BY-LAWS
Articles of Incorporation

August 2001-Present
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IOM AMERICA, INC.
DBA:
IOM AMERICA (THE INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY)
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ARTICLE 1 - NAME

This organization's corporate name is IOM AMERICA, INC., which also does business as IOM AMERICA (THE INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY) of AMERICA.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVE

2.1 OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 To assist the Church in fulfilling the command of Jesus Christ to make disciples of peoples, and to do so by using and making available teaching, counseling, training, and mass media to:

2.1.1.1 Proclaim the Gospel of salvation to as many people as possible.

2.1.1.2 Instruct believers in Biblical doctrine and daily Christ-like living - accomplished through one-on-one discipleship, conferences, online development, and a local church service hosted in Sterling, Kansas. The ministry's focus is teaching the Body of Christ their identity in the indwelling life of Jesus Christ.

2.1.1.3 Model our message through our corporate and cooperative relationships.

2.1.2 IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) of America shall be non-denominational in its scope and affiliation and shall direct its mission of the ministry of evangelism and discipleship to all nations, primarily targeting those in continents other than North America.

2.1.3 IOM America and the corporate Board of Directors consider the Holy Word of God, the Bible, as the final and unchanging authority and standard on all cultural issues, such as gender identity, and theological disagreements over marriage. The Board has decision-making abilities on such issues.

2.2. PURPOSE STATEMENT (Full Doctrinal Statement, page 17)

The purpose of IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) America & XL Church (Exchanged Life Church) is to help members of the body of Christ experience, mature in, and effectively communicate the message of identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension in their various spheres of influence so that all may know Christ as Savior, Lord, and Life.

Identification truth, also known as the Exchanged Life, is based on Galatians 2:20, *"I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."*

Most Christians have been taught that Christ died for their sins; few have been taught the truth of their death in Him. Consequently, few Christians find victory in their lives. Although they know they have been set free from the penalty for their sins (what they do), they have not been taught that they have been set free from themselves (what they are). By their death with Christ, they have been set free from the power of sin in their lives. Romans 6:6-7, *"Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."*

2.3 SUPPORTING FUNCTIONS

- 2.3.1 To lease, rent, purchase, own, operate, and sell the real or personal property for its own use to obtain any income from an accumulated fund under the guidelines of said laws.
- 2.3.2 To do and perform such matters and things as are by law allowed and may be reasonable, convenient, and necessary to attain the objectives and ends for which this corporation was organized.

ARTICLE 3 – CHARACTER

3.1 INCORPORATION

IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) of America, with the outreach of XL-Church, is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Kansas. ID Number: 6401665. IOM America is registered under the Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) 0464069511.

3.2 ECCLESIASTICAL/POLITICAL

IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) of America & XL-Church is non-denominational in its fellowship, evangelical in its testimony, and any purpose or activity of the corporation must be non-political and non-controversial toward the Holy Word of God.

ARTICLE 4 – SUPPORT

IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) America & XL-Church shall be supported by the free-will offerings of the Lord's people. Voluntary support of approved Candidates and other such means common to the general practices of other duly recognized mission boards. Those responsible for the funds will seek faithfully to distribute them to meet the needs of the workers. Every missionary and self-

employed employee of the organization is expected to recognize that his/her dependence on the supply of his need is on God and not the human organization.

ARTICLE 5 – DOCTRINAL BASIS

We affirm our belief in the evangelical Christian faith as set forth herewith:

- 5.1 **The Bible** is the divinely and verbally inspired Word of God.
- 5.2 **The Triune Godhead** is in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 5.3 **The fall and lost estate of man**, whose total depravity makes necessary the new birth.
- 5.4 **The deity of Jesus Christ**, His virgin birth, sacrificial death, bodily resurrection, present exaltation at God's right hand, and promised return.
- 5.5 **Salvation through grace** by faith in the substitutionary death and shed blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- 5.6 **The resurrection** of the saved into everlasting life and joy in heaven, and the resurrection of the unsaved into everlasting punishment.
- 5.7 **The Church** – the Body, or Bride of Christ, consists only of those born again, indwelt believers, for whom He now intercedes in heaven and for whom He shall come again.
- 5.8 **Christ's Great Commission** to the Church to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every person, baptizing and teaching those who believe.

ARTICLE 6 – OFFICES

6.1 REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office of this organization in the State of Kansas is 127 N. 8th St., Sterling, Kansas, 67579. Mailing, P.O. Box 71, Sterling, KS 67579.

6.2 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

This organization's principal place of business and American/International headquarters are at 127 N. 8th St., Sterling, KS 67579.

6.3 BRANCHES

The Board of Directors may establish branches or subordinate places of business or offices at any time. IOM presently has 200+ volunteer representative offices globally.

ARTICLE 7 – TRUSTEES/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.1 MEMBERSHIP

7.1.1 The Directors of IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) of America shall be the Trustees of the Corporation, and the Trustees shall be the Directors, to be known collectively, hereafter, as the Board of Directors.

7.1.2 The number of Directors shall be a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of eleven (11). Such numbers may be increased only by the action of the Board with the unanimous vote of its members.

7.1.3 Criteria for Membership (Executive; General; & Honorary Boards)

7.1.3.1 Demonstrated commitment to IOM & its outreach services, doctrinal statement philosophy, and policies.

7.1.3.2 Mature and growing Christian, evidencing the characteristics Paul describes for elders in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

7.1.3.3 Strongly committed to the authority of Scripture.

7.1.3.4 Evangelical and conservative in doctrine and theology.

7.1.3.5 An active member of a local church.

7.1.3.6 Impeccable character, integrity, and emotional maturity.

7.1.3.7 Willing and able to invest the time necessary to be an effective Board member.

7.1.3.8 Willing and able to invest financially, regularly (monthly), in the ministries of IOM America.

7.1.3.9 A "team player" demonstrating a positive attitude and cooperative spirit.

7.1.3.10 Exhibiting a balanced lifestyle with personal finances in order.

7.1.3.11 Possessing specialized or professional knowledge of benefits to administer the affairs and concerns of IOM

and their church planting outreach, preferably with some American or cross-cultural experience.

- 7.1.3.12 Intellectually curious reader: someone who seeks to be informed about religious and cultural issues relating to the worldwide propagation of the Gospel.
- 7.1.3.13 Should spiritually, relationally, and financially support the Founder/President of IOM America.
- 7.1.3.14 Be willing to raise funds for the ministry within their sphere of influence.

7.2 ELECTION

- 7.2.1 Executive Directors shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.
- 7.2.2 The general membership Directors serve a one-year renewable term upon a vote by the Board of Directors.
- 7.2.3 The Board of Directors shall administer a schedule for the training rotation for its members serving one-year and four-year terms of office. The members must review the By-Laws & Articles annually, with the option of training by the Founder and/or the Chairman of the Board each year. As nearly as possible, the same number of assigned directors shall be reelected once their term expires.
- 7.2.4 The Directors whose two and four-year terms expire shall retire unless reelected for a new term. The new or reelected Directors shall take office at the Board's annual meeting. All Directors who neglect to respond to their option of renewing their term will be considered retired from the Board.
- 7.2.5 Upon the death, resignation, or inability to serve of any member of the Board of Directors, a new member may be elected for the unexpired term by a two-thirds vote of the remaining Directors.

7.3 OFFICERS

- 7.3.1 The Executive officers shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary/Treasurer. Other officers on the Board of Directors may elect or suggest new potential members for a Board decision. The Executive Officers shall serve a four-year term.
- 7.3.2 The non-executive officers shall hold office for a renewable term of one year.

- 7.3.3 The Vice-Chairman or the Secretary may also hold the office of Treasurer.
- 7.3.4 A two-thirds vote may fill vacancies in any office at any properly called meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 7.3.5 The secretary is not necessarily a member of the Board.

7.4 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- 7.4.1 **CHAIRMAN.** The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities:

- **Leadership:** The Chairperson leads the board, ensuring it functions effectively and cohesively. This involves engaging individual board members to work as a unit and advancing a collaborative environment.
- **Meeting Facilitation:** The Chairperson facilitates board meetings, ensuring they are productive and all members can contribute. This includes preparing agendas in collaboration with the executive director and guiding discussions to stay on track.
- **Accountability:** The Chairperson ensures that the board and the organization adhere to their bylaws, mission, and legal responsibilities. This includes overseeing the implementation of board decisions and ensuring compliance with governance best practices.
- **Support and Supervision:** The Chairperson supports and supervises the executive director, providing guidance and feedback. This includes conducting the executive director's annual performance evaluation and assisting in their professional development.
- **Representation:** The Chairperson often serves as the primary spokesperson for the board, representing the organization in public and at official functions. This role involves advocating for the organization's mission and building relationships with key stakeholders.
- **Financial Oversight:** The Chairperson contributes financially to the organization monthly. This includes strategically exploring fundraising methods to stabilize the organization's annual budget.
- **Committee Oversight:** The Chairperson recommends committee members, appoints committee chairs, and ensures that committees

function effectively. This includes monitoring their progress and integrating their work into the broader goals of the board.

7.4.2 **VICE-CHAIRMAN.** The Vice-Chairman shall occasionally perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. In the case of the Chairman's death, disability, or absence, he shall assume the chair.

Responsibilities:

- **Support the Chair:** The Vice Chairman assists the Board Chair in their duties and steps in when the Chair is unavailable. This includes running board meetings and representing the organization as needed.
- **Leadership Continuity:** The Vice Chairman ensures leadership continuity by preparing to assume the role of Chair if necessary. This involves understanding the Chair's responsibilities and being ready to take over at any time.
- **Committee Involvement:** The Vice Chairman often leads or participates in various board committees, helping to oversee specific areas of the organization's operations and ensuring effective governance.
- **Special Projects:** The Vice Chairman may take on special projects or tasks as requested by the Board Chair, providing additional support and leadership where needed.
- **Board Development:** The Vice Chairman helps with the orientation and training of new board members, ensuring they understand their roles and responsibilities and are well-integrated into the board.
- **Financial Investment:** The Vice-chairperson contributes financially to the organization monthly. This includes strategically exploring fundraising methods to stabilize the organization's annual budget.
- **Succession Planning:** The Vice Chairman plays a key role in succession planning, helping to identify and mentor potential future leaders within the board.

7.4.3 **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors; shall have custody of all books, records, and papers of the organization, except such as shall be in charge of the Treasurer or some other person authorized to have charge thereof by the Board of Directors; and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities:

- **Record Keeping:** The Secretary is responsible for accurately recording the minutes of all board meetings. This includes documenting decisions, actions, and discussions, and ensuring these records are properly archived.
- **Meeting Coordination:** The Secretary schedules board meetings, sends out notices, and distributes agendas and other relevant materials to board members in advance.
- **Legal Compliance:** The Secretary ensures that the organization complies with federal and state regulations. This includes maintaining and updating the organization's bylaws and filing necessary legal documents in a timely manner.
- **Communication:** The Secretary acts as a conduit for communication within the board, ensuring that all members are informed of meetings, decisions, and other important information.
- **Membership Records:** The Secretary maintains accurate and up-to-date records of board members, including their contact information and terms of service.
- **Document Management:** The Secretary is the custodian of the organization's records, including meeting minutes, bylaws, and other important documents. They ensure these documents are accessible to board members and staff as needed.
- **Financial Investment:** The Secretary contributes financially to the organization monthly. This includes strategically exploring fundraising methods to stabilize the organization's annual budget.
- **Support to the Chair:** The Secretary assists the Board Chair in preparing meeting agendas and ensures that all board actions are documented and followed up on.

7.4.4 **TREASURER.** The Treasurer of the Board shall receive periodic reports on the corporation's financial transactions from the vice president of finance via the ministry's accounting personnel. The organization's financial records shall always be open to inspection by any member of the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities:

- **Financial Oversight:** The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the financial health of the organization. This includes managing the budget, monitoring cash flow, and ensuring that financial policies and procedures are followed.
- **Financial Reporting:** The Treasurer prepares and presents financial reports to the board, ensuring that they are clear, accurate, and timely. This includes monthly financial statements, annual budgets, and reports for board meetings.

- **Budget Management:** The Treasurer works closely with the executive director and finance committee to develop and manage the organization's budget. This involves forecasting financial needs, tracking expenses, and ensuring that the organization operates within its financial means.
- **Compliance and Legal Responsibilities:** The Treasurer ensures that the organization complies with all financial regulations and legal requirements. This includes filing necessary tax forms, such as the IRS Form 990, and ensuring that financial records are maintained in accordance with legal standards.
- **Audit Coordination:** The Treasurer coordinates the annual audit process, working with external auditors if necessary, to ensure a thorough and accurate review of the organization's financial statements. This includes preparing necessary documentation and responding to audit findings.
- **Financial Investment:** The Treasurer contributes financially to the organization monthly. This includes strategically exploring fundraising methods to stabilize the organization's annual budget.
- **Financial Policy Development:** The Treasurer helps develop and implement financial policies and procedures, such as those related to expense reimbursement, check signing authority, and internal controls.
- **Board Education:** The Treasurer educates board members about financial matters, helping them understand financial reports and the implications of financial decisions. This ensures that the board can make informed decisions about the organization's finances.

7.4.4a GENERAL MEMBERS VS. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Executive Board Member:

1. **Leadership and Decision-Making:** Executive Board members are responsible for making strategic decisions, setting policies, and providing overall direction for the organization via motions made through the General members.
2. **Governance:** They ensure the organization adheres to its mission, vision, and goals, and they oversee legal and financial matters.
3. **Commitment:** Executive Board members often have higher time commitments and are involved in regular meetings - committees when necessary.
4. **Accountability:** They are accountable for the organization's performance and often report to the public, such as donors, members, and regulatory bodies.

5. **Communications:** When possible, all Executive Members should reply to and confirm digital and text messaging communications within 48 hours.

General Membership Member:

1. **Participation:** General members are typically involved in the organization's activities but do not hold executive decision-making power. Motions can be made for executive review and decisions. Once the executive branch makes a motion, all general members have voting powers to execute executive motions.
2. **Support:** They support the organization's mission through various means, such as volunteering, attending events, or contributing financially.
3. **Limited Responsibility:** General members have fewer responsibilities and are not part of the governance or strategic decision-making processes.
4. **Engagement:** They stay informed about the organization's activities and developments but are not required to regularly participate in meetings or committees.
5. **Communications:** When possible, all General Members should reply to and confirm digital and text messaging communications within 48 hours.

7.5 POWERS

7.5.1. **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** shall have general management and control of the corporation's business, property, and affairs and may exercise all power.

7.5.2 **APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL.** The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint and remove, at its discernment and discretion, executive officers, agents, employees, and other personnel of the organization and shall prescribe their duties and fix their compensations, if any. This power may be delegated in whole or in part to a duly approved committee or Executive Officer.

7.6 COMMITTEES

7.6.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.6.1.1 **APPOINTMENT.** The Executive Committee shall be nominated and elected annually by the Board of Directors.

7.6.1.1.1 **MEMBERS.** This Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. The Committee shall consist of members in the vicinity of the headquarters office.

7.6.1.1.2 **SECRETARY.** If the Secretary of the Board of Directors is one of the "other members," they will act as Secretary of

the Executive Committee. If they are not, one of the "other members" will be appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors and Secretary of the Executive Committee.

7.6.1.2 **VOTING.** Voting must be conducted with the goal and objective of a unanimous vote by all members of the Executive Committee present.

7.6.1.2.1 **QUORUM.** A simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

7.6.1.3 **MEETINGS.** The Executive Committee will meet at least twice yearly to conduct the board business in between the one full Board meeting. The meetings will be "in person" or via an online web meeting.

7.6.1.4 **DUTIES.** Their duties shall be to carry on any business for the Board of Directors between regularly scheduled meetings.

7.6.1.4.1 **AUTHORITY.** All action taken by the Executive Committee is subject to subsequent ratification by the full Board of Directors.

7.6.1.4.2 **MINUTES.** The Chairman of the Executive Committee will send copies of the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings to the Secretary for distribution to all Board members.

7.6.1.4.3 **REPORTING.** The Executive Committee will report all actions at the next Board of Directors meeting.

7.6.2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors can appoint a Nominating Committee to administer the rotation of Directors (VII 2, b, and c) and the election of officers (VII 3). This Committee will conduct an annual review of the retiring Directors and prepare a slate of nominations as required for presentation at each annual meeting.

7.7 MEETINGS

- 7.7.1 **ANNUAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS.** The Board of Directors shall hold at least one meeting each year. A majority of the Board of Directors members shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall call all meetings. The majority vote makes all decisions of the members of the Board of Directors present. Proxy votes of the members will be accepted at all meetings, including special meetings on specified resolutions circulated before the meeting.
- 7.7.2 **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** The Chairman or any two members may call special meetings of the Board of Directors at any time. The object of the meeting shall be stated in the call and/or email communication. All members are encouraged to respond to email communications/texts within 48 hours when possible.
- 7.7.3 **NOTICE.** At least ten (10) days before each annual, regular, or special meeting, the Secretary shall communicate the meeting agenda via email and/or snail mail to every member at his address as it appears in the organization's Membership Roll Book. The communication should include a notice telling the time and place of such an annual, regular, or special meeting. No advance notice of Special Meetings shall be required if all directors waive such notice.
- 7.7.4 **ACTION WITHOUT MEETING.** The Board of Directors may act without a meeting if a statement or proposal is provided to each member by mail (or text message/e-mail), and a telephone poll may be tallied, followed by a confirming written (or messaged/e-mailed) vote to be filed in the Minutes book.

ARTICLE 8 – ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

8.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The organization's Executive Officers shall be the President and other officers as the Board of Directors may appoint. The Board of Directors shall appoint all Executive Officers for a four (4) year term.

8.2 GENERAL OFFICERS

8.2 ADMINISTRATION

The organization's administration in the USA and abroad shall be vested in the Executive Officers, who shall be responsible to the Board of Directors through the President. Outside of the President/Founder, these Executive Officers and General Board members are not employees of the organization and may not be members of the Board of Directors.

8.3 THE PRESIDENT

The President is the executive head of the organization. He serves on the Executive Board and administers all management for the ministry and its tenements.

ARTICLE 9 – FIELD ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors shall clearly define and organize the character, structure, and extent of IOM America (The Institute of Ministry) of America and its outreach activities within the USA and abroad. These activities shall be directed by the appropriate Executive Officers who respond to the Board of Directors through the President.

ARTICLE 10 – ADVISORY BODIES

10.1 COUNCIL OF REFERENCE

The Council of Reference shall function as a source of information and recommendations to the public and in a counseling capacity at the invitation of the Board of Directors or the President.

10.2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The President, the American director, and the Regional Director may also organize Regional Advisory Councils based on the same principles as those prescribed by the Council of Reference.

10.3 AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

The President and American directors may also organize an American Advisory Council based on the same principles prescribed for the Council of Reference.

10.4 HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Honorary members are chosen by the ministry's President or founder as “special counsel” to advance the organization's management.

ARTICLE 11 – CHANGE OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed, or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors at any meeting of the full Board.

ARTICLE 12 – AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES/MEMBERS

Dr. Stephen R. Phinney – Board Chairman
Gregory Jones – Vice Chairman
Dr. Thomas Ryan, CPA – Secretary/Treasurer

Pastor, Dennis Gladden – General Member
Dr. E.C. Gaffney – General Member
Wendell Smock – General Member
Michael James West – General Member

Dr. James Fowler – Honorary Member
Judge Mark T. Boonstra – Honorary Member
Rick Kratz – Honorary Member
Mark Maulding – Honorary Advisory Member

ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED SIGNERS:

Jane M. Phinney – Assistant to the Board
Jessica L. Phinney – Executive Assistant to the President

ARTICLE 13 – LIQUIDATION POLICY

Dedication and Distribution of Assets: assets of IOM America will be permanently dedicated and distributed to another 501(c)(3) organization chosen by the Board of Directors at the time of liquidation. **Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): 0464069511**



Kansas Secretary of State Reservation of Business Entity Name Acknowledgment of Filing

Kansas Initial Filing Date: **02/10/2010**. Filing Certification occurs in August of each year, when the annual report is due. Original File Time: **11:11:46**

The undersigned reserved the following business entity name: **IOM America, Inc.**

Name of Applicant: **Dr. Stephen R. Phinney**
ID Number: **6401665**

The mailing address of the applicant:

**P.O. Box 71
Sterling, KS 67579
USA**

Signature: **Stephen Phinney**

I, Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State of the State of Kansas, do hereby certify that this is the true and correct copy of the original document filed electronically on **02/10/2010** at **11:11:46**.

IOM America, Inc. is currently up to date with state requirements.

The ministry is a member of ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom) legal services.



Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State

DOCTRINAL/BELIEF STATEMENT:

Abiding Life:

This indwelt Christian is resting, trusting, and continually yielding to the Life of Christ living inside the believer (Romans 6:13).

Abundant Living:

This is a lifestyle of walking after the indwelling Spirit of Christ through a consistent yielding process within the mind, will, and emotions.

Acceptance In Christ:

Complete and unmerited favor is offered to those in Christ through the forgiveness of past, present & future sins. Acceptance is the fluid act of Grace demonstrated by Jesus Christ in relationship and position as Bridal members of Christ (Ephesians 1:13).

Adamic Nature: (Old Man, Old Nature, Sin Nature, Unregenerate Nature, Old Self)

This is the condition of Adam after he chose to sin and eat from the tree that God commanded him not to. Before his "fall," his nature/spirit was in complete harmony with his Father's – God. After his "fall," Adam's spirit became separated from that of God's, resulting in spiritual death and being replaced by old man, old nature, sinful nature, unregenerate nature, old self, or Adamic nature.

Admonish:

Admonish is correcting, rebuking, reproof, & warning a believer of their wrong beliefs to bring them in line with Christ, which is releasing Jesus through them. Being admonished has the appearance of negative but is positively used by Christ.

Appropriation:

This is an active faith decision to take what God says is Truth and bring it into daily living. It is through appropriation that an indwelt believer begins to walk after the Spirit.

Baptism (Water, Spirit & Fire)

Like the earth, the three baptisms are offered to all humanity. The earth's water baptism was the flood, its Spirit baptism was the first coming of our Lord, and the earth's fire baptism will be the burning of it, as stated in Revelation 8:7. For those who are unsaved and never become born again, they will only go through one baptism – fire (Rev. 21:8). Although many unsaved insert the water baptism as a ritual rather than a testimony of their salvation & being cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. The born again, indwelt Christian is strongly encouraged to be water baptized (testimony of salvation) shortly after their Spirit baptism – receiving the Holy Spirit into their mortal bodies & being baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3). The indwelt Christians fire baptism (purification) is the trials & sufferings while waiting to join their Savior and Husband in Heaven.

Birth (First & Second)

The first birth is physical and comes from being born of a woman. The second birth offered to us is called; "born-again" (John 3:3). Being born again is the experience of salvation – being regenerated and connected back to God. This is accomplished by the "old man/nature" being crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). The first birth places us "in Adam," and the second birth transfers us from being in Adam to that of being "in Christ" (Col. 3:3).

Blood (Christ & Of Man)

The blood of Christ is the washing element of our redemption/salvation. It is in and through the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the Cross by shedding His innocent blood that we have redemption, forgiveness, and salvation, which is made real to us by His everlasting Grace (Eph. 1:7). For blood to be redemptive and cleansing – it must be free of sin – as was the single case of Jesus. Man's blood became defiled (filled with sin) due to the seed of Adam, and it is through Christ that all are made new (1 Cor. 15:22).

Body (Of Man, Sin & Christ)

The body's first form is that which is born of a woman. It is being born of woman that the "body of sin" is given to us through the defiled seed of man. This makes us

unsaved/ unregenerate and gives us an "old man/nature." This is also why our old self had to be crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be done away with – so that we would no longer be slaves to sin (Rom. 6:6). As for Christ; He was born without sin in His body (1 John 3:9). This was possible due to the seed that was placed in Mary came directly from God through the Holy Spirit. Sin travels through the seed – not blood. Therefore, Christ could be born of a normal human woman without having sin pass into His body. Today, we know through science that the mother's blood never mixes with her baby's.

Bride (Of Christ & Man)

Human marriages are the physical representation of the marriage of the Lamb to the Bride of Christ – the indwelt believers (Rev. 19:7; 21:9 & 22:17). Men are to represent Christ's headship over the Church as heads of home in and through their marriages. Women are to reveal the practical workings of the Bride of Christ through their service to their husbands, children, and community.

Christ (Real & Antichrist)

The Hebrew root for Christ is "Messias," the most popular Greek meaning is Messiah – the highest of all priests. Christ is not Jesus's last name; rather, it is a statement of position, power & privilege. The antichrist is Satan, and he will come to project himself as the "true Christ" or Messiah. He will work to replicate the real Jesus to deceive the people into following the fake – himself. Jesus Christ is the total deity (God's position) as the Father's Son within the Trinity. He is the manifestation of God in the flesh. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit by the direct orders of God and born of the virgin Mary. He is true God and man (John 1:1, 1:14, 1:18; John 14:8-9; 1 Timothy 3:16).

Christ's Life & Christ as Life

The life of Christ Jesus while on the earth was in the form of man, emptying Himself out as being equal to God (Phil. 2:6). After His resurrection and then ascension, He gave to all those who accepted Him as Lord and Savior a special gift – His Life, by placing the Holy Spirit to indwell us (James 4:5). When we read about the life of Christ living within us (Gal. 2:20), be assured it is His actual Life, which is eternal Life. "Christ as Life" explains a believer walking after the Spirit by allowing the Life of Christ to "do" the walking in and through them.

Crucifixion & Co-crucifixion

Crucifixion is the form of death thrown upon Jesus in His appointed time of death. It is described as nailing a person's hands and feet to a cross & allowing the natural processes to occur to produce death-like suffocation. Romans 6:6 reveals a very powerful reality of freedom: "Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him so that our body of sin might be done away with so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin." Galatians 2:20 also reveals a life-

alliterating reality: "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Both passages reveal that those of us who have the indwelling life of Christ within us experienced the believer's co-crucifixion—what got crucified - the old man, nature, Adamic nature, or old self.

Co-death, Burial & Resurrection

The reality of true salvation states that the believer has been baptized into Jesus as an actual sharing in His death, burial, and resurrection. This truth takes the Spirit of life within the believer to understand and embrace (Rom. 6:3-7). People who are not born-again cannot understand the mystery of co-death, burial, and resurrection – they are spiritually appraised (1 Cor. 2:14).

Communion

This term is used to define the unity and unblock fellowship with the Life of Christ from within. The word comes from "commune" or oneness, which is operative for any believer who walks after the Spirit and not after the flesh–self-life.

Conscience

The conscience is the part of the mind that discerns the difference between "right" and "wrong." It is either seared by the Adamic nature – the unregenerate spirit of an unsaved person- or generated by the indwelling life of Christ once saved.

Conscious & Subconscious

The term conscious is the part of the human brain that is awake, aware, intentional, informed & conducts active thinking. The term subconscious is a modern word used to define the memories filed away by the mind as you sleep at night or are purposely and/or unintentionally forgotten. God designed the brain to hold only a certain amount of data while awake. All "unnecessary" data/memories are filled through time or sleep. This is why we can remember things from our past if we contemplate them or dream about them.

Cross (Christ & Man)

It is one of the most common words used in Christianity. It classically has two common references; the first being the word used to define the form of death that Jesus experienced, and the second is used to define an indwelt believer's description of their co-crucifixion with Christ and all the eternal benefits of understanding their identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension in their walk with Him. This truth makes way for each indwelt believer to share in the experience of the cross and actually to have their own cross to bear (Luke 14:27).

Death

There are three forms of death: physical, spiritual, and eternal, but since all mankind is born spiritually dead, it is said that the participatory deaths are just two – physical and eternal by way of the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8). Those who become indwelt by Christ only experience one death, that of passing from this life to the eternal life. The salvation experience is, for that reason, to deliver the individual from experiencing eternal death.

Die Daily

It is noted in the Scriptures that all believers must die daily (1 Cor. 15:31). This “dying daily” is for the strict purpose of considering ourselves dead to sin and alive to and in Christ. The enemy throws sins before us, and he does this by appealing to our flesh (trash left behind by the Adamic nature); dying daily is the process of appropriating the truth that we are dead to this mortal flesh.

Emotions & Feelings

Even though the Scriptures do not emphasize “feelings,” our materials will use this term to define the human soul’s response and/or reaction to Truth and lies. To define the physiological meaning of emotions – it is the hormonal part of the human body to alarm, awaken, or celebrate what the mind chooses to believe.

End Times

We affirm that the prophetic Scriptures concerning the End Times reveal God’s sovereign plan for the culmination of human history, the return of Yeshua/Jesus Christ, and the establishment of His eternal Kingdom. These prophecies are not speculative myths, but divine revelations given to prepare, purify, and position the Church for faithful witness in the final days (Amos 3:7, Daniel 12:4, Matthew 24:7-9, Revelation 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Revelation 13, and 19:11-16).

Eternal Life & Everlasting Life

Eternal life is the life of Christ, past, present, and future (Heb. 13:8). Jesus has always been and always will be. When indwelt believers receive Christ Jesus into their lives, they are placed into the Life of Christ or Eternal Life – making us one with Him. Everlasting life is the life we receive from the point of our salvation forward, but it must be known the believer is given a new past, present, and future due to being placed in Christ. Therefore, whatever is true about Christ becomes true for every Bridal member.

Exchanged Life

Hudson Taylor originally used this term to define the exchange upon salvation; we exchange our life for His. Many teachers of the Cross also use this term to explain an indwelt believer appropriating their co-death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. One of the most common scriptures in this exchange is Galatians 2:20, “not I, but Christ.”

Truth being said, all believers in Christ receive the exchanged life upon the moment of their salvation.

Experiential Living

Many speak Truths without living it in daily experience. Experiential living is a believer walking in and after the Spirit as a lifestyle. It is their experience to partake in releasing the mind of Christ within them as their norm.

Faith In Christ

Faith is often subjective and overused as an expression of the firmness of what someone believes, but to have faith in Christ is much different (Rom. 4:14). For those who have faith in Christ separate themselves from all forms of faith (Rom. 3:22). Any faith that is not in Christ is classically bound by the Law and no justification exists for them. Those who believe in Christ Jesus are not only justified (just as if I never sinned), but they have a clear understanding and belief of what is in the eternal unseen world can be brought into their own lives through the indwelling faith of Christ from within (Gal. 2:16).

Family

We affirm that the family is a sacred institution established by God at creation, composed of one male father, one female mother, and their children. This creational design reflects divine order, relational harmony, and generational discipleship, all governed by the standards revealed in the Word of God. God designed the family to begin with one man and one woman joined in covenant marriage, entrusted with the stewardship of raising children in righteousness and truth.

The father serves as spiritual head and protector, modeling Christlike leadership and sacrificial love. - The mother nurtures, teaches, and supports, reflecting the wisdom and grace of the Spirit. Children are to honor and obey their parents, growing in the knowledge and fear of the Lord.

The family is the primary context for discipleship, where biblical values are taught, modeled, and lived out daily. Parents are charged with imparting God's Word, cultivating faith, and preparing children to walk in covenant obedience. (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Ephesians 6:4, 5:22-25, and 1 Peter 3:1)

Flesh & Fleshly Self-life

There are two primary forms of flesh: the human body, where sin houses itself (Rom. 7:17), and flesh or fleshly self-life, the trash left behind by the old nature. Indwelt Christians have had their flesh (selfish passions) crucified (Gal. 5:24), but since sin remains in our human flesh (not the old nature), we are positioned to reckon ourselves dead to it (Rom. 6:11). Our savior calls us not to continue to present our bodies to sin as if we are slaves to it, for it will produce unrighteousness (Rom. 6:13).

Gender

We affirm that gender is a sacred and immutable gift from God, established at creation and revealed in Scripture as distinctly male and female. This divine design is foundational to human identity, relational purpose, and covenantal order (Genesis 1:27).

Gifting vs. Personality

The pop culture of psychology has adopted the term personality to describe the differences between people, even though the word does not exist in the Bible. Although many culturally accepted translations use this term, it must be known that no Hebrew or Greek word is making use of this fable. The description that is used is "gifting" or spiritual gifts. All believers are given at least one occupational gift; each is gifted with all the manifestation gifts. Manifestation gifts manifest the Holy Spirit within the believer upon the command of the Father and Christ Himself. Occupational gifts are for exactly that – an occupation. Each occupational gift is given at birth and made alive in Christ upon salvation. Each gift carries traits the world now defines as "personality types."

Grace

The unmerited favor of Christ without works is the easiest way to define Grace. Grace is the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the believer's life through Christ's mind (Life) inside the Christian. People who appropriate grace have manifestations of forgiveness, acceptance, favor, liberty in the Spirit, and peace in all circumstances. People NOT of grace use the Law to change internal and external behavior.

Guilt (Real and False)

It is said that for indwelt believers, "guilt is the fuel of satanic condemnation." Once saved, God no longer uses guilt to motivate His children – only conviction. Conviction is a gentle reminder of an action not of Christ Jesus, whereas guilt involves punishment, fear, and condemnation. Unsaved people not only continue to live in guilt, but they are supposed to. God uses guilt as a condemning factor to press upon unbelievers for them to realize that they will be condemned and go to hell if they do not accept the life of Christ. Real guilt is pre-salvation, and false guilt is a believer who does not embrace the grace of conviction.

Heart

The Greek words "kar" and the Hebrew word "leb" define the core of an individual's thoughts and feelings.

Heavenlies

The word "heavenlies" is a derivative of "Heavens." When this term is used within the exchanged life teachings, it directly refers to where Christ is seated at the right hand of His Father (Col. 3:1).

Holy Spirit & Spirit of Christ

The ministry of the Holy Spirit (Spirit of Christ) is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner upon belief & confession in Christ, baptizing the believer into one body, of which Christ is the head. The Holy Spirit indwells, guides, instructs, fills, comforts, and empowers the believer for godly & righteous living (Mark 13:11; John 14:26; John 16:13; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16).

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, God's righteousness, and coming judgment (John 16:8-11). While I believe that the Scriptures do not teach that certain gifts have ceased, they indicate that the use of the gifts varies according to the need and movement of the Holy Spirit within each believer. We do NOT encourage the Body of Christ to focus upon the gifts or their "manifestations," but rather the Giver. Instead, we teach and focus on the transformational life principles of the indwelling life of Christ – which emphasizes the more excellent way of love as well as zeal (John 16:8; 13:15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:22; 4:11-12; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-5, 12:11-13, 12:19; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 4:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12).

Homosexuality

We affirm that God's design for human sexuality is exclusively expressed within the covenantal union of one man and one woman in marriage. Any sexual behavior outside this creational order—including homosexual acts—is identified in Scripture as sin, a distortion of God's image, and a rejection of His divine intent (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Timothy 1:9-10, and Genesis 1:27).

Identification

This is one of the most common terms to describe an exchanged life. Since behavior comes from identity, what one believes to be one's identity (Christ or self) significantly impacts daily living. It is of utmost importance that the indwelt believer places their identity in the message of identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

In Christ

When "in Christ" is used, it should define the finality of the great exchange – "Not I, but Christ." Upon salvation, the old nature is crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20), and a new nature (that of Christ) is placed in the new believer. Upon this exchange, the indwelt Christian is placed in Christ and hidden in God (Col. 3:3).

Indwelling Life

This term is used to reference the indwelling life of Christ in the true born-again believer.

Justification By Faith

This is probably one of the most difficult identity Truths to believe. Justification is a free gift of forgiving our sins; past, present, and future – all at once. Justification is often explained as “just as if I never sinned,” which is an accurate way to view this term. The only way the believer can embrace this is by faith, for human logic cannot accept the things of God.

Law vs. Law of Spirit of Life

The Law given to us by God through Moses is for the strict purpose of revealing that no man can fulfill the Law; therefore, it must be fulfilled by someone who can – Jesus Christ. The Law must stay in place and continue to place people under its condemnation for the person to be led to the Law of the Spirit of Life and become accountable to God (Rom. 3:19). As Rom. 8:1 states, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus but outside of Christ, condemnation is alive and well. The Law of the Spirit of Life is only found in Christ, so the new convert must be placed in Christ. The convert cannot be free from the Law of sin and death unless this exchange occurs (Rom. 8:2).

Lordship vs. Life

Lordship is not a Biblical word, but it does refer to a release in the believer to count Jesus Christ as their Lord (owner). This is a critical doctrinal belief that each indwelt must embrace. Without the appropriation of Christ being the owner of His Bride, the convert will continue to manage their life as if they own themselves – thus fleshly behavior. Legalism will manifest if the believer does not move forward from Lordship into the release of the Life of Christ.

Marriage

We affirm that marriage is a sacred covenant instituted by God at creation, designed exclusively as the union of one man and one woman. This divine design reflects the image of God, establishes the foundation for family, and serves as a living testimony of Christ’s relationship with His Church (Genesis 2:22).

Mind, Will & Emotions

These terms are used to define the trichotomy of man’s soul. The mind is what Christ renews by revealing the mind of Christ within the believer (1 Cor. 2:16), the will is what chooses to receive renewal, and the emotions support what man believes to be or perceives as Truth.

New Man, New Nature, & New Life

The new man, new nature, or new life is the result of a regenerate spirit in Christ, consisting of a new Spirit – that of the Holy Spirit or Spirit of Christ, which contains the literal mind of Christ (Col. 3:10; 2 Cor. 5:17). It is also known that our pre-saved condition houses a broken & dead spirit that is made new and alive through the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer and the two become one.

Old Man, Old Nature & Old Self

The old man, old nature, or old self is the unregenerate spirit dead to Christ and made up of the Adamic nature that needs to be crucified with Christ, which is the process of making it new and regenerate. This clearly describes the unsaved person and why they go to Hell if they do not receive new life upon salvation (Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:9).

Perfection vs. Sinless Perfection

Perfection can only come from One who is perfect, Jesus Christ. Once the convert receives Christ into their mortal being, the perfection of God is revealed through the Life of Christ housed within the convert, thus making the new man (spirit) perfect (Heb. 10:1; Heb. 11:40; Heb. 12:23). That makes one-third of man perfect, holy, and blameless and the other two thirds (soul & body) imperfect. The soul of man is what is sanctified, whereas the body remains in a dying state – this is why our body remains in the grave, for it houses the sin left behind by the Adamic nature. Once the believer dies a physical death, their perfect spirit and sanctified soul are joined with a new and perfect body on Heaven's side. The false teaching of "sinless perfection" is a belief that once saved, the Spirit, soul, and body become perfect and cannot sin.

Position vs. Condition

The term "position" references the indwelt believer's new position in Christ by way of their new life/spirit, seated at the right hand of God, Bride of Christ, and child of God, Holy, and all the other identity statements given to us through Christ (Eph.1). Condition is the soul's reflection of the measurement of appropriated belief of what is True about the new convert. This is why the Spirit must sanctify and renew the soul (Phil. 1:6; Heb. 5:12-14).

Power of Sin

This is an unrighteous force and power within all humans, saved or not. This power of sin was born into each of us due to the consequences of a single sin that Adam and Eve committed (1 Cor. 15:22). This sin is in us, but it is NOT us and any convert who finds identity in this indwelling power of sin will appear and function as an unbeliever – one who is not saved (Rom. 7:20).

Reckoning

The term "reckoning" is used frequently within the community of the Cross. It means to "calculate," to sum up, or to summarize. When the term is used scripturally, it becomes a mandate for all believers to consider and calculate what Christ said to be True about us as Truth (Col. 3:5).

Regeneration & Regenerate

This is the process of Christ placing the Holy Spirit within the convert and making them new and regenerate – as in turning on the generator.

Righteousness vs. Self-righteousness

True righteousness can only be found in One who is Righteous, Jesus Christ. Once converts receive Christ into their lives, they become the Righteousness of Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). Self-righteousness is a fleshly and ungodly form of humans mustering up their self-created rightness before God and man (Rom. 10:3).

Sanctity of Life

We affirm that all human life is sacred, beginning at conception, and is a divine gift entrusted to humanity by the Creator. The unborn child is fully known, valued, and purposed by God, bearing His image and deserving protection, dignity, and love (Psalm 139:13-14).

Self and Self-life

Self is another term for "flesh" or "selfishness" – those who practice having their own way. An unsaved person lives in and functions out of an identity of selfishness/flesh. On the other hand, an indwelt believer makes choices to be selfish by walking after the flesh and continuing to perfect themselves by self-effort (Gal. 3:3).

Self-Control vs. Christ Control

Two forms of "self-control" exist—by flesh or the indwelling Holy Spirit. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is self-control, but this kind of control is Christ's control through the Holy Spirit in the believer. One emphasizes "self" control and the other results from walking in and after the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Sin, Sin Nature & Sins

The most common definition of sin is – falling short of the mark. This mark is the standard of the Law, and since no one can fulfill the Law except Christ, all who are not saved are in of and find their meaning and purpose in sin. This is a result of being born with a "sinful nature" or Adamic nature, and this is why humans commit sins, deeds that don't measure up to the standards (Law) of God (Rom. 3:23).

Soul, Body & Spirit

This is the trichotomy of man. The mission of our Lord is to preserve the body, soul, and spirit of all believers through daily sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23).

Subjective & Suffering

Subjecting oneself to the Life of Christ produces suffering (1 Pet.2:21). It is through suffering that Christ Himself learned obedience (Heb. 5:8). Believers who typically avoid suffering are often times disobedient to Christ.

Surrender, Total Commitment & Obedience

The Hebrew word for "surrender" is "charaph," which means "to betroth." Betroth is a marriage term used to describe the engagement period of a marriage. When an indwelt believer surrenders their life to Christ, it is a willful agreement of acceptance of His invite to be the Bride of Christ. Total commitment is the action of the Bride to remain pure and true to their Husband – Jesus Christ. Obedience becomes the result of appropriating the first two (Rev. 21:9).

Trichotomy (God & Man)

The trichotomy of man is body, soul, and spirit, and the trichotomy of God is Father, Son & Holy Spirit. A man was created in this image. Many theologians attempt to reduce man's design into a dichotomy – two parts of man (Soul and Body). Not only is this an insult to God's design, but it rubs in the face of all teachings hinging around 1 Thess. 5:23 and the message of co-death, burial, resurrection, and ascension (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20).

Truth

Truth in the Hebrew means "to betroth." Remember that betroth is a marriage term describing the engagement phase of marriage. To know Truth is to know and accept your engagement with Christ. When Christ said He was the Truth, it would be translated in Hebrew as "He is the betroth One." Even though we are accustomed to believing that truth is facts backed by the Holy Bible, it means much more to Christ. The Church is the Bride of Christ, and we can find great comfort and security in that whatever our Husband tells us is right and righteous – for you shall know the Christ, and Christ will set you free (John 8:32). Truth is a Person, and that person is Jesus Christ.

Works (Christ & Man)

There are only two kinds of works stated in the Holy Scriptures – self and that of Christ. Works of man produce sin unto death, whereas works of Christ through the believer produce Life and Life Abundantly (Rom. 6:16; John 10:10).

Worship

The act of worship is the indwelt Christian's willingness to join in on the fellowship between the Holy Spirit from within and Christ Himself. Jesus Christ is clear about how He jealously desires the Spirit that He has made to dwell within us (James 4:5). All Bridal members of Christ are given the gift of partaking in this divine and Holy fellowship & intimacy that exists between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, this is what it means to share in His Holiness (Heb. 12:10).

Worthy (Christ and Man)

The term "worthy" means to inherit what One deserves due to His worth. The only being of eternity that deserves this kind of label is that of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When converts shout out, "Worthy are You, Lord," they say none other has deserving worth except for Jesus Christ.

Yield & Yielded

The term "yielded" literally means "generated." To yield is to open the passageway of generation. If you understand the significance of being born-again, you will know that the unsaved person has an unregenerate spirit before God, and once he/she become saved, their spirit is regenerated. Yield is critical for this process, and an individual cannot become yielded (generated) until this happens.