



Inheriting God's Promises and Experiencing Their Benefits



Victory Christian Fellowship Church Membership Information

*Galatians 3:29 –
If you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's
Seed and heirs according to the promise*

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OUR PURPOSE

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus to build, encourage and reach people of all walks of life, through inheriting God's Promises and Experiencing Their Benefits.

The Vision

"Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ." – Proverbs 29:18

"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it." – Habakkuk 2:2

Vision Statement Confession

At Victory, Our vision is to proclaim the uncompromised word of God; To build a strong body of believers; To encourage relationships in a loving atmosphere; and
To reach out beyond our walls with the message of salvation, hope and inheritance.
We activate God's word to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
At Victory Christian Fellowship, we are inheriting God's Promises and experiencing Their benefits.

Acts 2:46; Acts 20:27

Ephesians 4:11-16

Acts 2:44, I Thessalonians 5:23

Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8

Mark 16:15

Our Affiliation

Victory Christian Fellowship is under the covering of RHEMA Ministerial Association International.

We are nondenominational in fellowship, and "full gospel" in our expression of worship.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

1. **THE CHURCH** – The Greek word for church found in the New Testament is ‘ekklesia’ which means, ‘assembly’. The church is the assembly of the “called out ones”. Those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ are called by God to assemble themselves together for the purpose of hearing from Him.
 - a. **‘Ekklesia’** refers to the whole body of believers worldwide who make up the body of Jesus Christ, the church, over which He is the head. See I Cor. 12:27; Rom. 12:5.
 - b. **‘Ekklesia’** also refers to a particular group of people that meet in a specific place. See Rom 16:23; 16:4; Gal 1:13, 22; I Cor. 16:19; II Cor. 1:1; II Cor. 8:23; I Cor. 11:18.
2. **THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH IS CHRIST** – “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” Col. 1:18. “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph. 1:22, 23.
 - a. **The builder of the church is Christ.** - “And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock will I build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.: Matt. 16:18
 - b. **The relationship** we are to have with Christ as the head of the church is found in Eph. 5:20-23. Christ sets the pattern for the husband/wife relationship in marriage by being the loving, responsible leader of the church. The church is submissive to this compassionate, but powerful leadership.
 - c. **The mission** of the church is to evangelize the world (Matt. 28:18-20), guard the truth (II Tim. 2:1, 2), edify the saints (Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor. 14:26), and to bring correction where needed (II Cor. 13:1-10).
3. **DELEGATION OF LEADERSHIP**
 - a. **Leadership gifts are given to the church** – Eph 4:8-12 – These are known as the “five-fold” ministry gifts. There are placed by God in the Church just as Paul was (Gal 1:11).
 - b. **Pastor has the primary responsibility for the local body.** Hebrew word for Pastor found in Jer. 17:16, is “raw-aw” which means, to tend a flock as a friend, to be as a shepherd and tend the flock by feeding it and keeping it from danger. Elders are appointed to help the pastor. Their work and necessary qualifications are listed in Titus 1:5-9.
4. **VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GOVERNEMENT STRUCTURE**
 - a. **Trustee Board** – The Trustee Board is the official representative and policy making board of the congregation.
The pastor is the spiritual overseer and leader of the church and serves as the chairman of the Trustee Board.
The Trustee Board finalizes the major decisions concerning the church, such as; the church budget, building projects and hiring of key personnel.

TENETS OF FAITH

1. **The Scriptures are Inspired**

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, revealing the will of God. It is the infallible rule of faith and practice for our journey through life. II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet. 1:23-25; Heb. 4:12; Psa. 119:89; Matt. 5:18; Isa. 40:8

2. **The One True God**

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealing "I AM", and has further revealed Himself in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10; Isa. 40:10-31; I Tim. 6:15-16; I John 5:7; Matt. 28:19

3. **Man, His Fall and Redemption**

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness". Man, by voluntary transgressions, fell into sin and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Gen. 1:26, 31; Psa. 8:4-8; Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21; I Cor. 15:21-22; II Cor. 5:17.

4. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus, eternally with the Father, took upon Himself the form of man, being born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life and gave His life on the cross as the supreme sacrifice for our sins, purchasing our redemption with His blood. Being raised the third day from the dead, He ascended into heaven and is seated at God the Father's right hand. Matt. 3:17; 17:5; Luke 3:22; John 1:14, 18; John 3:16, 18; I John 4:9; Isa. 9-6; John 1:33, 34; Matt. 1:18-25; Phil 2:7-11

5. **The Salvation of Man**

Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. Christ came to seek and to save the lost. It is in Him that we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins. While salvation was provided by the shed blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, it is our responsibility to receive this salvation of grace through faith, knowing that it is not of ourselves but is indeed a gift of God.

The inward witness to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit to our spirit that we are the children of God. The outward witness is a life lived in obedience to the will of God in all holiness by the power of the in-dwelling Christ. John 3:16, 17; Heb. 12:2; Acts 4:12; Luke 19:10; Eph. 1:7; John 10:9; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 8:16

6. **Baptism in Water**

Believers are commanded to follow our Lord in this. Water baptism by immersion shall be administered

to those who have repented of their sin and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36, 38; Acts 16:14, 15; Acts 10:47, 48

7. The Lord's Supper

Our Lord Himself instituted this ordinance of Holy Communion and we are to observe it till He comes again. The bread and the wine are symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ and are a memorial of His suffering and death and a prophecy of His Second Coming. All believers are encouraged to partake with reverence and understanding. Luke 22:19-20; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; John 6:48-58; I Cor. 11:23-29

8. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This is the promise of the Father that all believers are entitled to and should expect to receive, with the evidence of speaking in tongues as the spirit gives utterance. This was the normal experience of all the early Christian churches. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. This wonderful gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is distinct from and subsequent to the New Birth. Acts 1:4-8; Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-6; John 7:37-39; Joel 2:28-29; Mark 16:17; I Cor. 12-14

9. Sanctification

The Scriptures teach a life of holiness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to obey the Word of God, and not be dominated by sin. Heb. 12:14; I Pet. 1:14-16; I Thes. 5:23-24; I John 2:6; Rom. 8:3

10. Divine Healing

Sickness and death are the result of man's initial sin. Christ came to set us free from the law of sin and death and purchased our physical healing in the atonement. The words of Jesus before He ascended into heaven were, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover". The practice of laying on of hands for healing is an active witness to our Lord's power to heal. All believers have been given this privilege. Rom. 5:12; Rom 8:2; Gal. 3:13; I Pet. 2:24; Matt. 8:16, 17; Mark 16:15-20; Jas. 5:14-15; Matt. 9:29

11. Tithing

We believe and teach the giving of ten percent of one's income to be an integral part of the Christian's walk with the Lord. Abraham paid tithe before the Law was given and in the New Testament Christ affirmed the paying of tithes. God's blessings of prosperity are promised to those who tithe. Tithing demonstrates God's ownership in our lives. Gen. 14:20; Gen. 28:2; Lev. 27:30; II Chron. 31:5; Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42; Heb. 7:6-8

12. The Blessed Hope - The Rapture

The resurrection of the dead in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain at Jesus Christ's Second Coming is imminent, and is the blessed hope of the church. We are looking for the coming of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ when we will be changed and will be like HIM. I Thes. 4:13-17; Titus 2:11-14; I Cor. 15:51-52; Heb. 9:28; II Thes. 2:1; I John 3:2

13. Heaven and Hell

Heaven is a real place that God the Father has prepared for all those who follow after His Son, Jesus Christ. There will be a new heaven and a new earth where we will forever be with our Lord.

"The Devil and his angels, the Beast and the False Prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be confined to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death". Rev. 19:20; Mark 16:16; Rev. 20:10-15; John 14:2-3; Rev. 21:1-31; I Cor. 2:9

The Value of Church Membership

PURPOSE OF MEMBERSHIP

1. The local church provides the setting where you can put your roots down and grow. Psalm 1:3, Psalm 92:13
2. Membership is a tangible way of expressing a commitment to a local congregation.
3. It enables the church leadership to know for whom they are to provide care, protection and training. Heb 13:17; I Peter 5:2; Eph. 4:11, 12
4. Provides an opportunity where the parts of the body of Christ can be joined together in relationship to grow to maturity and fulfill the vision of the church. Eph. 4:15, 16; I Corinthians 12:21.
5. Membership provides a way to “know those that labor among you.” (I Thes 5:12). Membership is required for those who serve in any area of ministry.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Be a born again believer having received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. John 3:3; Romans 10:9,10
2. Be water baptized since salvation. Acts 2:38
3. Live a lifestyle that reflects a commitment to the standards of God’s Word. Matt. 7:20, 24-27; James 1:22 (see “Godly Lifestyle” below).
4. Be in agreement with the Tenets of Faith.
5. Complete the Membership Class.
6. Be willing to be a vital part of the life of the church through:
 - a. Regular attendance of services.
 - b. Participating in a church group when possible.
 - c. Giving of tithes and offerings.
 - d. Prayer for the congregation and leadership.
 - e. Using your gifts to serve as opportunities are presented.

VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP believes God calls each believer to be an active, vital part of a local congregation. Our membership list reflects that belief. It is not a permanent list. It is revised and updated often. Any member who is not participating in the life of the church may be removed from the membership listing.

A GODLY LIFESTYLE

Because we live in a world that is morally corrupt having no real standards, the enemy has been able to deceive some Christians concerning the Truth of God’s Word, when it comes down to lifestyle decisions. While we do not dictate specific “rules” for members' lives where it is their responsibility to follow the Holy Spirit and their conscience, we do stand strongly on the uncompromised Word of God. The following areas, though not all inclusive, are some that God’s word plainly addresses.

1. We believe the 10 Commandments are still in effect. God loved us so much that He gave us His commandments to protect us from the consequences of sin. Ex. 20:1-17, I John 3:24.
2. Sexual Purity – Marriage was designed by God to be a permanent commitment between one man and one woman. God created the sexual relationship to be shared only in the context of marriage. Gen 1:28; Matt. 19:4-6; Heb. 13:4.

- a. This means that the following practices are clearly in violation of the Scriptures:
 - i. Pre-marital sex (fornication)
 - ii. Sex with anyone other than marriage partner (adultery)
 - iii. Living together outside of marriage with someone of the opposite sex
 - iv. All forms of homosexuality. Lev 18:22; Rom 1:24-27
 - v. Divorce for non-scriptural reasons. Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 19:8-9; I Cor. 7:15
- 3. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost; we are to glorify God with our bodies. I Cor. 6:19, 20
- 4. Occult practices and participation in oath-bound secret societies are forbidden. Deut. 18:9-14; Acts 19:18-19; Matt. 5:34-37
- 5. Sowing discord, strife, or false doctrine among the brotherhood cannot be allowed in a congregation. Prov. 6:16-19; Tit. 3:9-11

The good news of the Gospel is that forgiveness and deliverance are available for all of the above (and more) Luke 4:18, 19; I Cor. 6:9-11; I John 1:9. The church is responsible to preach the Word, confront sin, and bring discipline for the purpose of repentance and restoration. II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 5:1-13; II Cor. 2:6-11.

LEAVING A CONGREGATION

If you are coming here from another congregation, it is important that you properly communicate with that church leadership so they are aware of where you are and know they are released from pastoral oversight. It is also very important that you do all you can to be sure relationships at any previous church are clear. Unresolved conflicts will hinder your ability to connect and flourish in this church.

We do not offer “membership transfers” in or out, because each local congregation has a unique vision and way of carrying out that vision. Therefore, we ask all prospective members to go through our membership class.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Victory Christian Fellowship's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Victory Christian Fellowship family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members by:

1. Protecting the unity of my church
Acting in love toward other members refusing to gossip by following the leaders – Romans 14:19, I Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29, Hebrews 13:17
2. Sharing the responsibility of my church.
Praying for its growth. Inviting the unchurched to attend warmly welcoming those who visit – I Thessalonians 1:1, 2; Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7
3. Serving the ministry of my church.
By discovering my gifts and talents. Being equipped to serve by my Pastor and oversight. Developing a servant's heart. I Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11, 12; Philippians 2:3, 4, 7
4. Supporting the testimony of my church
 - a. By attending faithfully – Hebrews 10:25
 - b. Living a Godly life – I Corinthians 10:31; Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:10

I understand the above mentioned covenant and choose to do the best that I can with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Signature

Date