

## **30 Core Competencies of a Faithful Follower of Christ**

Members of New Life commit to grow in the following 30 Core Competencies, so that as we mature in relationship with God, our beliefs, practices, and virtues continually deepen.

Of our core beliefs, we hold the first two (Bible & God) to define the essential aspects of Christianity. We broadly assent to the theology of the reformation by heartily agreeing that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, for the glory of God alone, as revealed in scripture alone.

Additionally, while our teaching is more comprehensive and deeper than these Core Competencies can mark out, our Teaching Doctrinal Statement expands on and defines in greater detail the theology that undergirds our teaching. It is something our elders and pastoral staff affirm, and all Bible teachers representing New Life agree to teach in concert with.

### **10 Core Beliefs – Knowing**

#### **B1 – Bible**

We believe the Bible is the only inspired, inerrant written Word of God. It is infallible, sufficient, and the supreme authority in all matters to which it speaks. As the objective self disclosure of God it is living and active, transforming us to know Him and follow Him. (Ps. 19, 119; Is. 55:10-11; Mt. 5:17-20; Jn. 5:39; Rom. 12:2; II Timothy 3:16; Heb. 4:12; II Peter 1:20-21)

#### **B2 – God**

We believe in one God, eternally and perfectly united in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (present throughout all time and space), and omniscient (all knowing). He created everything out of nothing for His own glory. He is holy, righteous, and just; slow to anger and abounding in love. (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 34:6; Dt. 6:4; Ps. 139:1-4; Rom. 11:36; II Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2)

##### **A. God the Father:**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, living, active, personal Spirit; who sovereignly concerns Himself in all things. He is the one who answers prayers and saves from their sins all those who come through His Son. (Ps. 103, 147; Is. 43; Hos. 11:1-4; Jn. 4:24; Eph. 1:11; 1 Jn. 3:1; Rev. 4)

##### **B. God the Son:**

We believe Jesus is fully God and fully man: conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He is the eternal Son of God; having precisely the same nature,

attributes, and perfection as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is the only savior of God's people, the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He humbled Himself to become a servant, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, arose victoriously from the dead, ascended into heaven, intercedes on our behalf and will personally return in power and glory. (Jn. 1:1-18, 8:58; Philippians 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 1)

C. God the Holy Spirit:

We believe the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ and implements His work of redemption. He empowers believers for godly living and service, and convicts the world of sin. He indwells the Christian, gives new life, imparts gifts for ministry, instructs, guides, and illumines our minds to truth. He is active in the works of regeneration, sanctification, and preservation. (Ps. 51:11; Jn. 3, 14-16; Acts 2; 5:3-4; Rom. 8:1-17; I Corinthians 2:14 & chapters 12-14)

B3 – Glory

We believe God is glorious, that each of His attributes is the embodiment of beauty. He is passionate for His own glory, upholding and displaying the splendor of His name in all things. We further believe that in recognizing His worth, our highest purpose is to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. (Ex. 15:11; Ps. 50:2; 72:19; 73:26; 84:10; 113:4-5; Is. 6:3; 48:9-11; Jn. 17:5; Rom. 11:36; Eph. 1:11-12)

B4 – Fallen Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His own image, without sin. However, sin spread to all people, through their disobedience, so that all humanity is born spiritually dead. We share in the guilt and corruption of that first sin and are by nature children of wrath. (Gen. 2:17; Ps. 14:1-3; Rom. 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3)

B5 – Image of God

We believe that because we are created in the image of God we have intrinsic worth and value. This divine stamp on humanity remains even after the fall so that all people share the blessings, responsibilities, and rights of being human. (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; Ps. 8; Mt. 7:11; James 3:9)

B6 – Salvation by Grace

We believe salvation is a gift from God, apart from anything we have ever done it is given to us by grace through faith. When we respond to this gift with faith and repentance we become children of God. (II Corinthians 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9; II Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5)

B7 – Identity in Christ

We believe there is great significance in being children of God, chosen by Him to be new creations in Christ, adopted into a new family. As children we have the privilege of direct

access to our Father and He raises us to be obedient sons and daughters. (Jn. 1:12-13; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6; 1 Jn. 3:1)

#### B8 – Abiding in Christ

We believe that in Christ we will bear much fruit and that all true Christians will progressively live God honoring lives by nature of His transforming work. God will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear and His power will enable us to live a persevering life to the end. (Jn. 10:28-29; 15:5-6; Rom. 8:28-39; I Corinthians 10:13; James 1:12; 1 Jn. 3:6-9; 5:18; Rev. 1:9; 2:7)

#### B9 – Church

We believe the local church is God's primary instrument to accomplish the Great Commission. As the body of Christ, we are the physical presence of God in the world to push back the curse, expand His kingdom, influence our culture, love our neighbors, and carry on the work of Jesus to the world. (Ex. 19:4-6; Mt. 16:18-19; 28:18-20; I Corinthians 12:27; Eph. 4:11-15; I Peter 2:9)

#### B10 – Eternity

We believe that Jesus Christ will return in power and great glory to judge the living and the dead and unveil heaven and hell. Soon, the groaning of creation will be satisfied, everything will be made new, the final resurrection will triumph, Christians will be glorified, and every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God our Father. Come, Lord Jesus! (Is. 34:4; Jn. 5:24-29; Philippians 2:10-11; Rev. 21:5; 22:20)

## 10 Core Practices – Doing

### P1 – Biblical Community

We are intimately involved in fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in our lives, others' lives and the world. (Acts 2:44-47)

### P2 – Outreach

We are messengers and vessels of God's love to the world. This means we actively pursue ways to get involved with non-Christians and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Mt. 5:13-16; I Corinthians 9:22-23)

### P3 – Inward Disciplines

We hunger and thirst for God, seeking and submitting to Him through a consistent life of meditation, prayer, Bible study, memorization and fasting. (Ps. 1:1-2; 42:1-4; Mt. 5:6; 6)

### P4 – Outward Disciplines

We organize our lives to serve others. In Christ, we pursue simplicity and times of solitude to give ourselves in service and generosity. (Philippians 2:5-8)

### P5 – Corporate Disciplines

We are spiritually united with the Church in our journey. We confess to one another, worship, submit to guidance and give of our finances generously. (Eph. 4:1-6; 5:18-21; James 5:16)

At New Life we celebrate two church sacraments:

#### Believer's Baptism:

The two prerequisites to baptism are receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:47), and a commitment to follow Jesus as Lord (the pledge of a good conscience toward God, I Peter 3:21). Baptism identifies a person as a disciple and shows outwardly how a Christian has been spiritually united in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord (Rom. 6:1-7). To best represent this we normally practice baptism by immersion.

#### Christian Communion:

The sacrifice of Christ is utterly sufficient to secure all the benefits of salvation for God's people. Communion – receiving and proclaiming the body of Christ broken for us and the blood of Christ shed for us by partaking of the bread and cup – is practiced in remembrance of that sacrifice and is open to any who call on Jesus for salvation. (I Corinthians 11:23-34)

### P6 – Household

We recognize the home as a primary place of worship; therefore we participate in discipleship and regular worship with those in our household. (Dt. 6:4-9)

P7 – Spiritual Gifts

We use the spiritual gifts God has given us to build up the Body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:7)

P8 – Accountability

We answer to other Christians for the integrity of our lives. (Prov. 27:17)

P9 – Receive Correction

We are quick to repent, receiving correction as a means of grace. (Prov. 10:17; 12:1; 15:5; 15:10)

P10 – Gracious Life

We assume the best and forgive the worst in those around us. We cast off judgmental thoughts and avoid the traps of being offended. (Mt. 7:1-6, 18:21-22; II Timothy 2:24-26)

## 10 Core Virtues – Being

Our Core Virtues are essentially the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. Collectively they are one fruit, possible only by the Holy Spirit's transforming work in our lives.

### V1 – Love

Our attitudes, lives and priorities revolve around loving God and our neighbors. (Mt. 22:38-40)

### V2 – Joy

We have a deep inner contentment in Jesus which is not contingent on our circumstances. (Mt. 13:44-46; Rom. 12:12; I Thessalonians 5:16)

### V3 – Peace

We are free from worry and anxiety because God has reconciled us to Himself and others. (Philippians 4:6-7)

### V4 – Patience

We are patient with others because God is patient with us. (Eph. 4:2)

### V5 – Kindness / Goodness

We do to others what we would want them to do to us. (Mt. 7:12)

### V6 – Faithfulness

We are faithful to fulfill God's will and responsibilities for our lives. (Mt. 25:21)

### V7 – Gentleness

We are thoughtful, sensitive, considerate and calm in dealing with others. (Rom. 12:14-19)

### V8 – Self-Control

We have the power in Christ to control ourselves and yield our lives to the Spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:6-8)

### V9 – Humility

We count others more significant than ourselves. (Philippians 2:3-4)

### V10 – Hope

We persevere through the hardships of life and death because of the glorious hope we have in Christ. (Heb. 6:19)