

## ***Do you have a statement of faith that I can read?***

Members of the church of Christ do not follow a statement of faith written by the members. Our only creed is the word of God. We believe we must follow the words of Jude 3: "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints." NASU. The faith once for all delivered to the saints came to us through the apostles and holy prophets who wrote what they were given and which when read, can give us an understand the mystery of Christ. Eph 3:3-5 states the case clearly:

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit.

We take what was written to be the scriptures and, therefore, the inspired word of God, according to 2 Tim 3:16-17: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Since we take seriously the statement "adequately equipped for every good work," we see no need to add to the written word of God. In fact, we would consider it sinful to add or take away from God's word in any way. The apostle Paul warned that those who alter the gospel would be cursed. He wrote in Gal 1:6-10:

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

Against this background of Scripture, I cannot direct you to a denominational manual or creed book or any laws made by conventions or synods or presbyteries. The New Testament is the only rule of faith and practice that we have. Our effort should be to obey its word and teaching by doing everything in the name of the Lord. In order to direct you to the specific ways in which this principle may apply, I offer two articles from the Gospellessons.info web site. These articles are for instruction, and they cannot take the place of the word of God. Peter tells us to speak as the oracles of God, "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God."

These two articles amplify why we should take the New Testament as our only standard of faith and practice. Both are found at <http://www.gospellessons.info/id56.html>

*Just Christians*

*Being Christians Only*

If you have not done so, please attend a church of Christ near you and invite them to show you how they are practicing the New Testament teaching as regards the church.