

Membership Matters



King's Gate Church

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Greetings From the Pastor

Greetings, it is a pleasure to welcome you to this document regarding membership here at King's Gate.

If you are already a member of King's Gate Church and are just rereading this to refresh your memory or if you are a non member reading this for the first time, I want to thank you for your interest in what King's Gate Church and its membership is all about.

I believe church membership is important for all saints. It is not about exclusivity, or money, nor is it about control, control of the church over the saints, or the saints over the church. It is about covenant relationship and taking ownership of the vision of a particular church. God has not chosen to express Himself through just one church or denomination but through many. I believe God has called and is continuing to call people to churches where their gifts and talents will be an asset to the saints and the vision of that particular local church. No local church can ever hope to fulfill the vision that God has called them too, without saints that are committed to the local church and it's vision.

I pray as you read this document that God will excite you to join with us in the vision of this house and to become members of King's Gate Church.

God Bless

Pastor Matthew Butler

What We Believe

Jude 1:3 *“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.”*

The letter of Jude was written to defend the apostolic faith that had been handed down, against the false teachings that were arising in the churches around 70-80 AD. In it, Jude condemns heretics in no uncertain terms and exhorts his readers to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.” He was clearly emphasizing the necessity for the Church to hold on to the pure truth of the Christian faith. This has been true throughout the ages as Satan has sought to pervert sound doctrine and confuse the teachings of the Bible, so as to malign the truth and make obscure the way of salvation. This is as true today as in any other age that has passed before. God has entrusted the Church with His Truth, which is the Word of God.

1Timothy 3:15 *“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”*

The Church is to be the pillar and the support of the Truth contained in the entire Word of God. It is responsible to handle the Word accurately, through preaching, teaching, defending and administering God’s Word.

2Timothy 4:1-5, 15. *“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the*

truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

While we do not consider ourselves to be ‘the perfect local church’ or claim that our revelation is full and complete in every area, we do believe that sound doctrine is paramount, and that there are doctrines of fundamental Bible truth regarding salvation, faith, and practice that are complete and will never change in their revelation. That is to say, there is nothing to add and nothing can be taken away from these fundamental truths. At King’s Gate Church we are dedicated to upholding these beliefs with the utmost tenacity. The following is a summary of our fundamental beliefs, which form the foundation of our core values and the implementation of our vision in the will of God.

Statement of Faith

We believe most assuredly:

1. The Bible (excluding the Apocrypha) is the inspired Word of God and is the only true, earthly, full revelation of God’s truth that exists (2Pet. 1:20; 2Tim. 3:16).
2. That God has revealed Himself as “One God” existing and manifest in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2Cor. 13:14; 1John 5:8).
3. In the test and fall of man, his lost state as recorded in the Bible, and in his subsequent depravity and inability to attain righteousness before God outside of Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:1-22; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:12; 6:23).
4. In the reality and personality of Satan who is a fallen cherub. He was once the covering angel called Lucifer of the very throne of God. Now he chooses to oppose God’s will and confuse God’s people (Is. 12:12-14; Rev. 12:1-17).

5. In the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of mankind, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is very God and very man (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18).
6. That Jesus died for our sins, was buried and rose again from the dead on the third day, which is the Gospel stated in the Bible. He also after His resurrection appeared in person to His disciples (Rom. 4:25; 1Cor. 15:1-19).
7. In Jesus Christ's bodily ascension into heaven and He is now seated at the place of all authority at the right hand of the Father. That this same Jesus will literally, bodily come again the second time with and for a victorious Church (Matt 28:18; Col. 3:1; 1Thess. 4:13-18).
8. That the salvation of man was provided through the Cross of Calvary and that through repentance and faith in Christ's atoning work we can be saved (Rom. 5:11; Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 9:12).
9. That through apostasy, unbelief, and neglect, a person can backslide and fall away from the living God. (Heb. 6:4-6; 2Tim. 4:3-4; 2Pet. 2:20-22).
10. In the necessity of Water Baptism by immersion at or subsequent to a sincere profession of faith in Jesus Christ, as saviour and Lord. This Baptism is a commandment not an option (Matt. 3:13-17; 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-40).
11. In the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as taught clearly in the Bible. It is an experience subsequent to salvation with scriptural evidences, such as speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Matt. 3:11; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4, 38-39; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; Gal.3:14).
12. In the present-day operation of the supernatural Gifts of the Holy Spirit as was manifest in the early Church and taught about extensively by the Apostle Paul.

Further to this we believe in the healing power of God as manifest in both the Old and New Testaments, and that the release of God's supernatural power should naturally flow out of Christian believers living a Holy Spirit-filled life (Mark 16:17-20; Acts 4:30; 1Cor. 12:4-11; Rom. Eph. 3:20; 8:11).

13. In living a Spirit-filled life of obedience to God's will, in thought, word, and deed. That is, true Christians will progressively become more Christ-like as they walk with God and grow up to full maturity in the Lord. That spiritual growth and maturity comes directly from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, worshiping God, prayer, studying and walking in obedience to the Word of God, and actively serving God as part of a local Church. (Eph. 4:1-32; 5:1-21; Acts 2:41-47; 1Cor. 12: 12-27; 2Cor. 6:14-18; 1Pet. 2:1-25; 1John 2:15-17).

14. In the necessity of celebrating the Lord's Table (Communion) for all believers, as instituted and commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ, practiced by the early Church, and taught by the Apostle Paul (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:44-59; 1Cor. 11:23-32).

15. In the bodily Resurrection of the Dead and a Day of judgement when all those who have been born-again through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ will have eternal life, and all those who have not been born-again and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, shall be separated from God eternally by being cast into hell (Mark 9:43-48; 16:16; 1Cor. 15:1-58; Phil. 3:10-16; 2Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20: 10-15).

16. That the Church of Jesus Christ is the only true work of God in the earth through which He will reveal Himself and redeem mankind, and that the Church is the only vehicle through which He will accomplish His eternal purpose. To this end we believe in the current work of God to restore the Church back to spiritual power, and into God's original purpose to become the Holy Spotless Bride of Christ manifesting the image, truth, power, and glory of God. That the true Church represents God's kingdom on earth, being the place

of His rule and authority. (Matt. 3:2; Luke 6:20; 12:32; Acts 3:19-21; Eph. 1:1-23; 2:1-22; 5:27 Col. 1:13; Jam. 2:5).

17. That the work of the Church is to follow Christ, preach the Gospel, worship God, teach the Word, make disciples, live the truth, demonstrate God's power, and bring glory to His name (Ps. 50:23; Matt. 4:20; 16:24; 28:19-20 Mark 16:16-18; John 10:27; 15:8 Acts 1:8; Rom. 12:1-2; 1Cor. 6:20; 2Cor. 5:15; 12:9; Gal. 2:20; John).

18. That the Church is divinely mandated in purpose, prophetic in vision, and apostolic in nature. It will be built and structured by God upon the Biblical foundations and pattern which He has clearly given in the scriptures. Therefore, we believe in the present-day working of the five-fold ministry gifts to the Church in the form of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (1Cor. 3:9-23; Eph.1:1-22; 2:19-22; 3:1-21; 4:1-16).

19. That the true Church is made up of those who have been born-again through repentance and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who have been baptized in water, and filled with the Holy Spirit as Jesus demonstrated in His example, and commanded in His teaching (Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 4:1; 24:49; John 3:1-21; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; Acts 1:5-8 2:4, 38-39; 10:46-48; 1Pet.1:3).

20. That the Church is the place where Christ is irrevocably proclaimed and seen to be the Living Head of the Church, and where the Father is worshiped in Spirit and Truth, where the presence of God is manifest in power, and the Holy Spirit is allowed to freely move as He wills, where the priesthood of all believers is taught and manifested in the life of the local Church and the individual believer (John 4:20-24; 1Cor. 2:1-16; Gal.5:16-25; Eph.5:23-27; Eph.4:30; 1Thess.5:19; 1John 5:7-8; 1Pet.2:5-10; Rev.1:6; 5:10; 20:6).

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Our Mission & Core Values

Mission

Mission Statement: Releasing the Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.

(Psalm 24:7 Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in!)

We are called to establish heaven here on earth by embracing the culture of the King.

Kingdom Culture is:

- a culture of grace
- a culture of honour
- a culture of generosity
- a culture of freedom
- a culture of courage

Core Values

As we have sought God together over the years we have come to hold fast to the following core values.

God's Presence - We pursue God relentlessly so that our lives become a dwelling place for His presence and when people encounter us they encounter Him.

Family - There is room for everyone at the table. God is a good Father and we are His children. All kingdom government is based on family; He places the solitary in families.

Restoration - Salvation brings healing and freedom to all things so that we can reign in life through Jesus Christ. He is returning for a Bride without spot or wrinkle.

Trailblazing - There is always more to explore. We passionately press forward to advance the Kingdom until an awareness of His Glory covers the earth as the waters cover the seas.

Mobilizing - Our mandate is to change the world through acts of supernatural love and generosity in every sphere of society. Every believer is a supernatural minister.

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Our Vision

In **Proverbs 29:18** it says, *“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.”*

Vision is important in a local church because it helps guide and brings focus to the governing board, ministry leaders, greater leadership, church members, and all who wish to join with King’s Gate Church in the future. Without vision we have no future and no guiding posts by which we make purposeful decisions. Therefore the vision should be kept at all times before the governing board, leaders and the people.

King’s Gate Church is a kingdom culture church that is apostolic in nature. We want to be a place where the presence of God is tangibly felt and where kingdom culture and the superior reality of heaven is seen and realised. **Matthew 6:10** *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* This will be achieved and maintained by our faithful following of the Lord’s leading. The Lord will continue to give us short-term and long-term visions that will guide us to this destination. Here at King’s Gate Church the senior leader sets out short-term vision on a regular/annual basis that provides a framework by which the larger long-term vision can be achieved.

We believe there are long-term visions that God lays out for a generation to fulfill, call them legs of the journey. The founding Pastors were faithful to complete their leg of the journey. This leg was to plant and establish a local spirit-filled work here in Cochrane Alberta. God asked them to follow Him on a journey that has lead them to the place we are currently at. This building we meet in was a part of this journey and we thank God for His provision.

We are currently embarking on a new leg of the journey. A new long-term vision is being laid out for this generation to fulfill. In this leg we are being called to create an apostolic house that is a training and resource centre for the Kingdom of God. We are called to equip the Church (both the local and the greater Church) with the resources

needed to transform our world. When Jesus said “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” we do not believe He was only teaching us to pray in a like manner. He was telling us that it is possible for the Kingdom of God to invade this earth here and now. Jesus also displayed this with the life He lived here on earth. He imparted this lifestyle to His disciples (the apostles), and they lived lives that spread the Kingdom of heaven everywhere they went. We have been called to follow this example and to rediscover the things that the Church lost. The call to carry the wonders of heaven, to heal the sick, cast out demons and the like (signs, wonder, and miracles) did not die with the apostles. We believe it was forgotten and lost over time and God wants to restore it to His Church. So we pursue God and invite the Holy Spirit to teach us, and work through us as He did in the apostles. As we embark on this journey we will train and equip others to walk in this same grace.

With this vision before us we will build a house that will pursue God and that will be ready and open to the Holy Spirit. We will build a church that knows how to release the Kingdom of God and has the resources to equip and train those who have the passion to follow. To accomplish this leg we must understand several things that God has called us to be and not to stray from, they are as follows:

1. Our Foundation Values
2. Organism vs Organization
3. Apostolic vs Pastorate

Foundational Values

These values are the foundations on which this church was established and should not be altered. These are not the [doctrinal statements](#) of our faith.

1. The Holy Spirit (the presence of God) is paramount and is at the centre of everything we do. He has full rule and reign of all aspects of our church, He is the main theme and we will not change the subject.
2. The local church is an expression of the Kingdom of God in a geographical area, in this case Cochrane Alberta. It has a specific mandate for that region.
3. We are an autonomous church (non-denominational) with a local governing board. We chose networks and apostolic bodies to join with to create accountability and to provide training. These networks and apostolic bodies are a resource and ministry building tool only and do not govern our local church.
4. The senior leaders are appointed by God and are recognized by the governing board as having that call upon their lives. They are the head of the local church and the leaders of the governing board.
5. Elders are appointed by God and recognized by the governing board as having that calling upon their lives.
6. The governing board is made up of the senior leaders, and elders.
7. The local church exists to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.
8. We are a restoration church and will not camp around a single revelation or theology.
9. The Kingdom of God is a superior reality, which needs to come and change the inferior reality of this world.

Organism vs Organization

King's Gate Church is a living organism made up of a vision and calling (given by God) and by all the wonderful saints that God has brought together to fulfill this vision and calling. Although it has an organizational side that is required to run the day-to-day functions of the church and its' building, King's Gate Church is not just a building or a non-profit organization. These things are necessary and good since our inclement and harsh weather requires an indoor place to meet and for the security of the saints

and a non-profit status keeps us accountable financially. However, the building could be lost and the government could take away our non-profit status and yet, King's Gate Church will remain while ever there are faithful saints to carry on the vision.

Apostolic vs Pastorate

For the past several hundred years the Western Church has typically recognized and placed a Pastor as the head of a local church. Due to the nature, calling, and gifting of the Pastor the church style we have come to know and expect in Canada is a Pastorate style church. Pastorates are very people and needs focused. They typically draw people in, shepherd, and love people well. However, the Pastor is only one of the fivefold gifts / offices talked about in the Bible. **Eph 4:11-16** *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

The Pastor, Teacher and Evangelist have been active and recognized in the Western Church for a long time, however the Prophet and Apostle are still new and still being established in the Western Church. Although some churches have had people who are actually not a Pastor but have the anointing, gifting and calling of one of the other Fivefold ministries as the leaders of their respective churches, generally speaking, most Western Churches are Pastorates. The Pastorate has become so strong and recognized, and the role of Pastor has become so integral to the Western Church that

we call all leaders of churches “Pastor”. Even if a person is not leading a church but ministers to the Church as a Prophet, Teacher, Evangelist, or Apostle we address and title each person as Pastor. Our culture both in the Church and outside the Church is not ready to recognize these other titles and so we are in a transitional season where we are unsure of how to address people who minister in the Church that are not Pastors.

Where the Pastor is focused on the sheep and worried about their care, the Apostle is focused on the plans God has for the Church. The Apostle spends time seeking God for the blueprints for what God is going to do. They see the big picture, all the moving parts, and how everything works and fits together. They are Kingdom builders and are focused, determined, and anointed / appointed to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. The Apostle is able to see and understand all of the different perspectives of the five-fold ministry. This makes the Apostle the key ministry of the five-fold.



We at King’s Gate have a revelation that the Apostle is the key office in all of the five fold offices. The Apostle is the key to unlocking the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This does not mean that the Apostle is more important, or more anointed, or even the head

/ boss of the other fivefold ministries. However, this revelation directs us to the understanding that the Apostle's anointing is different than the other four offices and brings everything into alignment. The Apostle gifting increases the gifting of the other fivefold offices.

Here at King's Gate Church we recognize that God has called us to be an apostolic Church lead by an Apostle. Therefore we are making the shift from a pastorate style church to an apostolic style church. Fortunately our founder carried an apostolic anointing and so the transition from a pastorate to an apostolic house is not a huge step. Although we believe that all of the fivefold ministries are necessary and should be operating in our house, and that any of the fivefold can lead a church, we are centered around the office of the Apostle and should always ensure that the one who leads this house has that office and calling.

Conclusion

It is imperative that the vision be kept open and flexible before the Lord as He will expand and alter aspects of the vision as He sees fit. However the foundational values of this church should never be altered, as they are the foundations that this house is built-on and they are the keys to the visions of this house coming to fruition.

Habakkuk 2:1-3 *"I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it. For it will certainly come, it will not delay."*

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Church Government

Introduction

One of the greatest needs in the Church of Jesus Christ today is the need for Biblical leadership. Biblical leadership is leadership that conforms to the clear teaching and standards of God's Word.

There are several reasons why the Church needs Biblical leadership:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself spent much time and energy in training His original twelve leaders of the Church.

As we study the gospels, we discover that in their accounts of actual events, they only cover about thirty-four days of our Lord's three and a half years of ministry upon this earth.

So what did Jesus do with the rest of His time?

It is reasonable to assume that our Lord did not waste His time, but rather used it wisely and diligently to accomplish the Father's will. John's Gospel ends with these words, *"this is the disciple who bears witness of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his witness is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that were written"* **John 21:15-25**.

With this in mind it is also reasonable to assume that Jesus spent a large portion of His time teaching and training the men who would lead the work of God after His mission on earth was accomplished. In fact the Scripture bears testimony that this is true; time after time we see Him withdraw from the multitude and spend time instructing the twelve. (See Matt.10:1-42; 11:1,

16:5-28; 17:1-13; John 17:6-26). These are just a few examples showing that Jesus actually spent more time with the twelve than He did with anyone else. Why did He do this? It was because He needed to prepare them for the establishing of the Church which would begin on the Day of Pentecost. These men would be the founders and first leaders of Christ's Church. They would be His ambassadors and they would have authority in His name, to carry on the work of God in the earth (See Matt.16:18-20; John 14:12-14; Acts 2:14).

2. The Church needs Biblical leadership because without it people may fall into sin or compromise.

Note what happened in the book of Judges to the people of Israel in each generation where they did not have a God-appointed king or judge.

In **Judges 2:10-13** it says, *"And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served Baals, and they forsook the Lord the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and followed other gods of the peoples who were around them; thus they provoked the Lord to anger. So they forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashtaroth."*

During this period, the apostasy was so great among God's people that a state of anarchy existed amongst them. In **Judges 17:6** and **21:25** it says, *"In those days there was no king in Israel, every man did what was right in his own eyes."* Today there is an alarming similarity in our society and also within the Church of Jesus Christ around the world.

3. There is a need for people to have a true godly example to follow.

The church has suffered greatly over the years at the hands of leaders who talked the talk, but did not walk the walk. A true Biblical leader however, following the pattern of God's Word will always examine himself. Though human and therefore imperfect, he/she will take great pains to ensure that his/her character and leadership will bring glory to God and blessing to God's people (1Timothy 4:1-16). The cry and need for the Church today, is for leaders to set an example for their people to follow, one that will raise the standard of God and bring the Body together in integrity. In these last days, God is raising up and establishing true Biblical leadership, who will seek for God's way and not their own in the leading of His people.

4. The Church needs a restoration of true Biblical leadership because the Church has been greatly corrupted by adopting non-biblical methods of leadership, training and functioning.

It is interesting to note that today the world spends several billion dollars annually on training leaders at all levels. Thousands of books and articles have been and are being written in an effort to produce good leaders in our society, but unfortunately the majority of principles taught are worldly and humanistic, and so far removed from the Biblical pattern that they are ultimately doomed to failure. Sadly, the Church has fallen victim to these worldly teachings by adopting many of the practices taught by non-Christian institutions. As a consequence, the Church suffers the same upheavals as the world because of the ever-increasing fluctuation of standards, trends, and styles that are put forward by worldly-wise men in an effort to achieve perfection in the area of leadership. The final result is a disturbed, unstable, and, more relevant to our interest here, a weak and ineffective Church.

Whenever the Church departs from the true Biblical pattern in any of its practices or activities, it violates the clear teaching of God's Word and places itself at the mercy of Satan, "who rules the whole world" (Rev.12:9). Only by the adoption of God's design and plans for leadership will the Church succeed in her mission. Only then will we have the framework in place for the Church to arise as "the spotless bride" spoken of in Ephesians 5:27. We are in the "end times" and Satan's work of deception is at an all-time high (Rev.12:12). Biblical leadership is the only form of leadership that God will ultimately support and bless no matter how sincere the advocates of other practices may be because it, Biblical leadership, has His seal of approval and is the only method of government that will truly work.

The following study is based on Biblical truth concerning church leadership and government. King's Gate Church holds these teachings and practices as THE MANDATE OF GOD TO US as a local church, and we openly reject all other forms of government that do not measure up to what the Bible clearly teaches on this subject. Having said that however, we do not believe that our revelation of Biblical truth is yet full, or that we are administering our church perfectly, indeed we yet have much to learn. But we do believe that we have a comprehensive understanding of God's will in this regard and that He will cause us to grow in knowledge and wisdom as we are obedient to Him.

The Nature Of Biblical Leadership

By nature, Biblical leadership is not a bureaucratic political system, it is not an Autocracy (ruled by one man), not Oligarchical (ruled by a few) and not Democratic (ruled by the people), but rather it is **Theocratic - Ruled by God**.

Since the passing of the Apostles and the subsequent decline of true spiritual life that occurred in the years that followed their death and the adoption of Christianity as the state religion by Rome, the Church has been plagued with an assortment of unbiblical

governmental systems, some of which still exist today. The result of this is a weak, confused, ineffective and divided Church. However, in the 21st century we have seen the Holy Spirit move mightily to turn this situation around and restore true Biblical government back to the Church. The good news is that many churches are now rediscovering the necessity of theocratic rule and the blessing that results when God is given His rightful place as head and His pattern for government followed and allowed to function under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. King's Gate Church is wholly dedicated to this form of Government for the right function of our local church and related ministries.

The Biblical Hierarchy

Because of some unprincipled leadership in the world and church, over the years the term Hierarchy has become a bad word resulting in the term being dropped. As a result, the concept of a hierarchy has been almost visibly decimated in an effort for leaders to distance themselves from any form of government that may, even remotely, suggest the possibility of control. However, just because of a few bad apples, it is no reason for us to overreact and throw the baby out with the bathwater, in fact in doing so we actually do ourselves great damage, because a hierarchy in its true form is part of the Biblical pattern for the right leadership of God's people. The truth is, all Biblical leadership is correctly termed as a hierarchy, and can only truly be understood when we understand the nature of a hierarchy.

Now before I continue let me say this, God never intended for His hierarchy to become a system of ruling dictatorships over God's people. He did not intend for it to become a form of government without checks and balances or accountability. Neither did He intend for it to be a democracy, which much of the Church has adopted. To the contrary, His government is to be led by those whom He appoints and gifts for ministry accordingly. This becomes a chain of authority that involves a mutual accountability among the whole Church from Lead person to all the saints. That

means there is to always be a place for counsel, reason and input from among God's people. For instance, Moses was a great leader and ruler over God's people, but he was never a law unto himself, since he was open to the counsel of others in the governing affairs and leadership of God's people (Exodus 18:13-27; 19:1-8). King David took advice from Nathan the prophet, his commanders, and his mighty men (2Samuel 12:1-23; 19:1-8).

We can also look at the Apostles and how they functioned in the New Testament. The book of Acts records many instances of leaders counseling together and receiving each other's opinions and input to resolve the leadership issues of God's people. For instance in Acts 15:1-21, the Apostles had to make a decision regarding circumcision and Salvation. It is clear that Peter was the chief hierarch, but together they made the decision, and it was James who took the initiative to speak out their judgment. Then they and the whole church together made another decision to send Paul, Barnabas, and Silas to Antioch to take news of the decision to the Gentile church (Acts 2:22-35). But none of this took away from the fact that they were a hierarchy. There was a chain of authority which was respected, but no one alone had absolute power in decision making. In Acts 13:1-5, we see that the Prophets and Teachers in the church at Antioch commissioned Paul and Silas to go out from there and take the Gospel to others. This was the great Apostle Paul, a man of anointing, stature, and authority, but he was not a law unto himself, and he remained accountable to the church at Antioch all of his life (Acts 14:26-28).

If we are to truly understand Biblical Leadership, we cannot do it without understanding the nature of the hierarchy.

The word "*Hierarch*" comes from a compounding of two Greek words:

"Hieros" meaning "*sacred.*"

"arche" meaning "*rule.*"

In Biblical terms a hierarch is one who is appointed by God and who has authority from Him to rule in sacred things, like a priest, bishop, elder or other Biblical leader. Therefore, in New Testament terms, when we are talking about Biblical leadership, we are speaking specifically about a divinely appointed chain of leadership (hierarchy) which functions under the headship of Christ in administering the affairs of God in the earth and more specifically, in the local church.

Appointed Leadership

Nowhere in the Bible do we find God asking men to elect their rulers. God appointed them all directly or through His personally appointed representative. They were never elected by popularity vote among the people. There was no campaigning and no political speech - just a simple appointment. For example:

- God appointed Noah to build an Ark (Gen.6:5-9).
- God appointed Abraham to be the father of many nations (Gen.12:1-3).
- God appointed Joseph to save Israel in a time of famine (Gen.37:50).
- God appointed Moses to deliver Israel from captivity (Ex.3:1-22).
- God instructed Moses (through Jethro) to appoint elders to help him (Ex.18:1-27).
- God appointed Joshua to give Israel possession of the promised land (Josh.1:1-9).
- God appointed Samson to judge Israel (Judges 13:1-25).
- God appointed Gideon to deliver Israel (Judges 6:1-40).
- God appointed Samuel to be His prophet (1Sam.1:1-3:21).
- God appointed Saul to be king and also rejected him (1Sam.9:1-15:35).
- God appointed David to be king in Saul's place (1Sam.16:1-13).
- God appointed Solomon to be king and build the temple (1Kin.1:1-8:66).
- God appointed Elijah and Elisha (1Kin.17:1-22:53).
- God appointed Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and all the prophets.

- God appointed His only Son Jesus to be the Christ (See the Gospels).
- Jesus (God) appointed the Twelve Apostles (See the Gospels).
- Jesus (God) appointed the apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-31; 26:1-32).

The above are clear examples of God directly appointing the men of His choice to give rule and lead His people, and there are certainly many more examples to be found in the scriptures.

In terms of the New Testament Church God has appointed the following:

- Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Eph.4:11-12).
- Elders, deacons, deaconess, ministries of helps, and administrations (Acts 14:21-23; 1Tim.3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1Cor.12:28-29).

God appoints these ministries to, rule, lead, or help in the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Divine Call

The Biblical fact that God is the one who appoints or directs the appointment of His leadership establishes clearly the necessity of the divine call for all leaders.

What is the divine call?

The call of God is established and confirmed in three specific ways:

1. The awareness of individuals that God is speaking to them, or calling them to a specific area or areas of ministry, or of being available to Him for whatever ministry He may direct. It is the personal inward conviction that comes when the Holy Spirit speaks specifically to someone about ministry.

2. The visible evidence that God's hand is upon them. That they meet the Biblical criteria and qualifications for ministry with prophetic confirmation and obviously have the manifestation of supernatural gifting and anointing upon them.
3. The response of God's people to the leadership of the called person. Do people willingly follow them?

These three things are clearly evidenced in the scriptures. Let us look at the call of two famous Bible characters, Moses and Paul.

1. The Personal Awareness of God Speaking

Exodus 3:1-22 - The Call of Moses.

Acts 9:1-31 - The Call of Paul.

Though both of these accounts are dramatic encounters with God, whereby supernatural occurrences were experienced along with hearing God's audible voice, they serve as classic examples of the necessity of receiving a personal call from God.

In Exodus 3, the burning bush attracted the attention of Moses, and when God had his attention He spoke directly to him and called him into His service. Likewise the apostle Paul was captivated by a blinding light out of heaven and then Jesus called him into ministry.

God's call can and still does sometimes come through dramatic encounters and experiences, but that is not always the case. The norm is, that God speaks directly to the heart of an individual regarding ministry, resulting in a deep inner conviction that God has spoken. For example, the word of the Lord came to Joel, not audibly, but in his spirit (Joel 1:1). The word came to Obadiah in a

vision (Ob.1:1). The word came to Elijah in his spirit (1Kin.17:2). The word came to David prophetically by human messenger (1Sam.16:1-13). The necessity of God's personal call is found without contradiction throughout the whole Bible. One must know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has called them. Unfortunately, there are many who enter an area of ministry out of good intentions, but they have never received a true personal call from God. When God has spoken it will produce a Holy Spirit led burden and desire within a person to serve God to the full in any capacity that He may lead in the future, no matter how menial or challenging the task.

At King's Gate Church, we require that a leader in our church have a definite personal inner witness from God and be able to adequately articulate and demonstrate that they are called to serve Him in a leadership role.

2. The Visible Evidence That God's Hand is Upon a Person.

If individuals are called of God, there will be proof in their lives, through visible evidence that God's hand is upon them, confirming the call. This confirmation is evident in three specific ways:

Meeting Biblical qualifications.

The presence of gifts and anointing from God.

The confirming prophetic word.

a) Meeting Biblical Qualifications

When God calls a leader, He does not call him/her on the basis of natural appearance and abilities, but on heart attitudes and a willingness to be obedient to Him (1Sam.16:7; 13:14; Acts 13:22). In terms of Church leadership, these criteria are clearly documented in what the New Testament teaches us concerning the character qualifications of those who

are chosen to lead God's people (1Tim.3:1-13; 2Tim.4:1-5; Titus 1:5-16; 2:1-10).

In the Bible we are warned to beware of those who are false teachers and leaders, because they do not have the right heart or the right motivation. These people will lead the people of God astray and cause His sheep to perish (1Tim.1:1-11; 6:3-5; Titus 3:8-11; 2Pet.2:1-22; Jude 5:23). Regarding leaders and teachers, Jesus said, *"...we will know them by their fruit..."* (Matt.7:15-20). God desires to give us *"shepherds after His own heart, who will feed His people with knowledge and understanding"* (Jer.3:15). God knows those whom He has called and those whom He calls will have His heart in them (John 10:1-30).

b) The Presence of Anointing and Spiritual Gifts

The call of God is also confirmed by the presence of God's anointing and gifting for the task to which one has been called. The essence here is the equipping and support of God in doing the ministry to which one is assigned. In 2 Chronicles 16:9 it says, *"The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may support those whose heart is completely His."* When God calls someone He equips them supernaturally for the task. The scriptures say *"It's not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord"* Zech.4:6. This is the visible evidence that God is with the person. It is God's seal of approval.

In Mark 16:15-20, we find Jesus commissioning His disciples, *"...to go into all the world and preach the gospel. ..."* The important thing to note here is in verse 20, when it says, *"...and they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word with signs that followed."* The Lord always confirms that which is of Him with signs so that others might believe and, in this case, follow the one who is called of

God. When individuals are called of God they will have the unquestionable presence of God's Holy Spirit upon their lives that proves God is with them. For example, when God called Moses, He equipped him for every task and encounter in his ministry.

This is seen:

- Through the ten plagues (Ex.5-11).
- The drying up of the Red Sea (Ex.14-15).
- The bitter water (Ex.15:22-27).
- The Manna from heaven (Ex.16).
- The Water from the rock (Ex.17).
- The supplying of elders (Ex.18).
- The giving of the law (19:1-24:18).
- The instructions for the tabernacle (Ex.25-31).
- Giving wisdom when the people sinned (Ex.32-34).
- The construction of the tabernacle (Ex.35-40).
- Through God's support and protection when other leaders and the people rebelled against his authority (Num.11-13; 15:1-20; Num.16:1-5).

Satan sets many things against God's leaders, but as long as they walk in integrity and stay obedient to God, they can always count on His equipping and support. As God said to Joshua, *"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you"* Joshua 1:5.

c) The Confirmation of the Prophetic Word.

No call is ever complete without prophetic confirmation. In both the Old and New Testaments we find this to be the pattern of God in confirming a

person's calling. For example, when God called Joshua, He had Moses set him before the people as prophetic confirmation that he was God's choice (Num.27:12-23).

In Acts 13:1-3, Paul and Barnabas were prophetically confirmed and commissioned. In 1Timothy 4:14 Paul says, *"Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through the prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery."* The scriptures also tell us that *"leaders should first be tested or proved."* (1Tim.3:10).

3. The Response of God's People.

The final proof of confirming God's call upon a leader is that of the response of God's people to his leadership. It has been well said, "You only lead someone to the degree that you can influence them." In other words, do people see the gift and call in you and are they willingly and respectfully responding naturally to it?

In Joshua 1:16-18 we find the children of Israel responding to new leadership. They recognized the call because Joshua had been proven amongst them over a long period of time, and they responded by verbally accepting him as their leader in place of Moses. Had the people not seen God in him and that God was with him, they would not have followed him anywhere. You see, Joshua was no stranger to them as he had been with Moses since they left Egypt. He had become Moses' personal servant and Moses himself had commissioned him as their future leader in the eyes of the people. Jesus said, *"My sheep know My voice and a stranger they simply will not follow..."* (John 10:4-5).

When leaders are recognized by other respected and proven leaders and are commended by them, God's people will be more ready to accept their recommendation and respond to them when the time comes. Joshua was

groomed for leadership under Moses, which helped prepare the ground for the day when Joshua would take command. By the time he took command, he was so well known among the people that his character was proven and established in their eyes well in advance of his official appointment. Over the years he had paid the price of commitment to them and had gained their respect. He and Caleb had a good reputation for standing in times of adversity, being with Moses at Kadesh-Barnea, and were part of the twelve spies who were sent to spy out the land. They were the only two out of the twelve who stood with Moses and Aaron when the people refused to do God's will and go into the land. Joshua's strength of character and willingness was proven at that time.

It is essential that all leadership is established and proven in the eyes of the people, prior to the appointment. They must be seen to be called and have qualities of leadership that are evident in their lives. The respect of God's people is not gained by an official appointment, but rather by a leader's relationship to God, other leaders, and the people whom they are to serve.

The Honor Of Leaders

Because of their standing with God and the high calling of their ministry, God strongly supports His appointed leaders. As a result, God commands that the people honor them accordingly. The basis of this honor is respect, obedience, loyalty and support (1Cor.16:15-18; 1Tim.5:17-19; Heb.13:17). King David gives us an impeccable example of how we are to respond to those who lead us in his dealings with King Saul. Even though Saul was not leading well and he had been rejected by God, David would not raise his hand against him, but rather he still gave the honor that befits those whom God has called (1Sam.24:1-8).

Anointed leadership is God's gift to His people because He loves them dearly. God has given us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders, deacons, deaconesses, Sunday school teachers, etc., because He loves the Church and wants to see her come into full maturity (Eph.4:11-16). The scriptures say *"that she will be presented to Him in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she will be holy and blameless"* (Eph.5:27).

King's Gate Church is a New Testament Theocracy and accepts the Biblical pattern of Church government in all aspects of its operation. We recognize the five-fold ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as God-given ruling offices in the Body of Christ as a whole.

In the local church the Lead-man should be one of the five-fold ministries listed above. The Elders might also be of the five-fold gifts and they become the set-man's advisors and councilors. Together they form the ruling body of the local church in all of its affairs, spiritual and otherwise. The deacons or deaconesses are those who are appointed to help the set-man and elders with the administration and ministry to the people as the elders direct. Helps and administrations are other practical areas of ministry. In the Biblical Pattern, a local church body of believers should all work together with each person being a supplying joint according to the will of God (Eph.4:11-16).

Accountability

All ministries in the local church, who meet the Biblical criteria should be appointed by and are accountable to the Senior Leaders and Elders, with the Senior Leaders being the overseeing human authority. Although there is a God given established rank within the leadership of any church, a state of mutual accountability should exist first, between the Senior Leaders and Elders and then to the other leaders and the official membership of the church. The Senior Leaders of a church should have relationships that also make them accountable to other five-fold ministries outside of

his own church that can be called upon in matters of questionable integrity or moral failure in his role as leader of the church.

Servant Leadership

One of the most important qualities of any leader is that they are first and foremost a servant of all (Mark 9:35). All leadership and government in the church is not there to create a cap or ceiling for everyone in the church. Instead, it is to create a floor by which others can launch from. It is to lead by example and to encourage others to go further and higher than you yourself have achieved. It is a poor master whose apprentice does not exceed him. Everyone in leadership must learn that it does not take away from your leadership or your ability to lead if others have exceeded you. Rather, it proves your leadership to launch those you lead higher than yourself. Your character, relationship with God, relationship with your team, and honor for those you serve and those who serve you, will ensure that your leadership is continually recognized, not your ability to be the best at everything. We lead to make those who follow greater than ourselves.

Conclusion

Finally, Theocratic church government thrives when the Holy Spirit is given freedom to direct the appointment of the leaders of His people, and when the Biblical pattern is properly observed. The Biblical pattern provides adequately for checks, balances, and accountability. It works perfectly when each person in a local church is personally submitted, first to God, and then to one another, in the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. That is why it is essential that all of God's people be totally committed and submitted to Him through the Holy Spirit.

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Christian Rites

Baby Dedication

Within the Christian Church and in society in general, there is a wide margin in interpretation of the meaning and practice of infant dedication. As a rite it is without specific scriptural commandment, but it is most definitely supported by scriptural example. It is certain that one cannot insist that parents were actually dedicating their children when they brought them to Jesus to be blessed by Him. However, it does show clearly that parents recognized God as their source for all things and there was a benefit in their children receiving an impartation of divine life and God's approval. It also shows that parents recognized the supremacy of God as the giver of life, giver of blessing and director of our destiny. The Bible also illustrates clearly the claim of God on the children of the Israelites, and in particular the dedication of the firstborn. For instance, we see it in the record of Hannah with her son Samuel and specifically in the presentation of Jesus in the temple (1Sam.1:1-28; Luke 2:21-24). These and other scriptural examples serve to show us the importance of bringing our children up in the ways of the Lord. Perhaps the most important scripture that we have that encourages us to bring our children to God is in the book of Psalms. Psalm 127:3 says, *"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward."* In Psalm 139, we find the most pointed and encouraging teaching on God as the author and director of life. The Psalm speaks clearly of God knowing us even before we were born, and that it was by His hand that we were each secretly formed in the womb of our mother', and how all the days of our lives are appointed by God (Psalm 139:1-24).

If children are a gift from God, then they ultimately belong to God. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that returning thanks to Him for His gift of children is not only appropriate, but also necessary, and we need to invite God to give leadership and guidance to our children as they go through life. To dedicate them back to God is an acknowledgment of a thankful heart and illustrates our dependence upon Him for

help raising our children in His ways. It is an appropriately humble act of worship and honor to our Lord and King.

While this practice is not mandatory in our church, at KGC we encourage the practice of child dedication and offer a place for parents to arrange to bring their children to God for formal dedication and prayer during a regular church Service.

Infant Baptism

Infant baptism is not in the Bible and is not sufficient for initiation into God's family as some teach. Initiation into God's family comes through a person making a conscious decision to follow Christ by confession and repentance of sin, and being water baptized as commanded and exemplified by Jesus, and practiced by the Apostles. We see that infant baptism is a direct contradiction to the command and example of scripture regarding the true purpose of water baptism in salvation. Though some denominations teach otherwise, we believe that infant baptism is simply a baby dedication and that the symbolic sprinkling or pouring of water over a child's head has no significance or relevance to the believer's water baptism that the scripture commands for all those who make a personal choice to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian Marriage

Christian Marriage is God's institution and is intended for the happiness and welfare of mankind. It is the closest and dearest relationship into which human beings can enter and is founded upon mutual respect and affection. Marriage is also a human example of Christ's relationship with His Church. Therefore, a union embodying such ideals should not be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of the Lord. We advocate Marriage as the only legitimate means of a man and woman cohabiting together in an intimate sexual relationship.

The Definition of Marriage

Because of rebellion to God and the attitudes that now prevail in our nation, we find it necessary to clearly define our stand on marriage from a Biblical point of view. The Bible teaches clearly that **marriage is between a man and a woman**, and no legitimacy is given to same gender unions. In fact, the scriptures refer to such practices as sinful. Consequently, in honor of God and the sanctity of His purpose for mankind, King's Gate Church does not recognize or perform same gender marriage.

In the past the Pastors of King's Gate Church have performed marriage services on a personal relationship basis. Due to the volatile nature of refusing marriage services to same sex couples and to protect our pastors, King's Gate Church will now only offer to perform marriage services for those who are members and for member's immediate family. Pastors do retain the right to offer their services outside of this framework if they wish, but King's Gate Church will not volunteer or require their Pastors to do so. All Pastors have the freedom to refuse to perform marriage services as they see fit, even if the request comes from a member. No Pastor at King's Gate Church is permitted to perform a same sex marriage or any other marriage that does not meet the Biblical definition of marriage stated above.

Divorce

The Bible teaches that divorce is sin and fundamentally wrong. It is not God's design for people. He intended that a man and woman should come together, cleave together, and stay together until by death they are parted. Having said that however, we do not believe the scripture teaches that divorce is an unforgivable sin. Like any other sin, it can be dealt with through repentance and forgiveness. While the church has a God-given responsibility to uphold the sacredness and integrity of Marriage, we do not see that as having license from God to punish, persecute, or alienate those who have experienced divorce. We see that divorce is an unfortunate product of man's fallen nature, and in our fallen state the Bible says, "*we all have sinned and fall short*

of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). When Jesus was asked to judge a woman caught in adultery, He did not condemn her, but rather showed grace and forgiveness as He told her to ‘go away and not to commit that sin any more’ (Gen.2:23-25; Isaiah 43:25; Matthew 5:27-32; John 8:3-11; Romans 3:23; 7:14-25; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17).

Remarriage

Since the Bible teaches that through true repentance forgiveness is complete (Acts 2:38-39), consequently through grace we have a clean slate before God, then we must also believe that remarriage is not only possible, but also permissible. We see it to be part of a loving God’s healing plan for those who have suffered through a marriage breakup and have found a new love in the leading of the Lord. God does not condemn people to live a hollow and empty life, but rather He comes to give us abundant life through Jesus Christ (Isaiah 43:25; John 10:10; 1John 1:8-10). There is obviously wisdom needed in approaching remarriage and each situation is to be prayerfully evaluated upon its own merits. However, we will marry divorced people who demonstrate true repentance in the Lord.

Funerals

No demand upon a Pastor and Congregation is as urgent as the call of sorrow in the hour of bereavement and death. Never do people need to lean so heavily upon their Pastor and fellow Christians to bring them love and comfort as they do at this time. In such matters, King’s Gate Church does not discriminate between believers and non-believers in times of bereavement, and we will provide prayer, counsel, and funeral services to all people who seek our help in laying a loved one to rest. At no time are people in more need and more ready to receive God’s grace and mercy, than at times when a loved one passes away. We consider that these times present us with an open door for a tasteful presentation of the Gospel, and it offers an opportunity to lead people into a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. However we will not

provide services where people desire to include rituals and practices of other religions. We only offer services and perform funeral rites that are totally Christian. In addition, we will not participate in any ecumenical service that is not totally Christian in its content and presentation. In performing the rite of Christian Burial, we may choose at our discretion, not to permit the use of inappropriate or questionable secular music or customs in any services that we conduct.

The question of burial or cremation

It is clear that the Biblical example and practice is the burial of a body, but we do not present a bias in this area. We believe that *“to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”* (Rom. 14:8; 2Cor.5:6-9). We feel that it is a matter of personal conscience and choice of the deceased and the bereaved family.

Deliverance / Exorcism

Because of Satan (the devil), evil exists in many forms. He schemes to thwart the purposes of God by means of spiritual control and manipulation through his demons. We believe that God has given the Church authority and power in Jesus' name, to effectively deal with these spiritual forces of darkness that are working against God's plan. In obedience to the commandment and example of Jesus in the "Great Commission," and in following the example and teachings of the Apostles, we offer prayer for spiritual healing and deliverance from all forms of demonic activity, be it the oppression or possession of people, or supernatural disturbances to property (Luke 4:18-19; 10:19; Matthew 10:8; Mark 16:15-18; Ephesians 6:10-18; Revelation 12:1-17).

Water Baptism

To keep the commandment and follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will administer water baptism by full immersion to all those who make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:1-11; 28:19; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:38).

Communion

In obedience to Jesus' command, we will regularly partake of the Lord's Table to remember His death until He comes (Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22: 7-22; 1Corinthians 11:17-34).

Prayer For The Sick

The ministry of Jesus is filled with examples of Him healing the sick. According to His commandment and the example of scripture, we will offer prayer with the laying on of hands for healing to all who seek it (Mark 16:18; Luke 4:18-19; James 5:13-16).

Dedication Of Buildings & Homes

We believe that God ordains certain places, buildings, and properties to be set aside as holy unto the Lord. We have a number of Biblical examples of this. In Exodus chapter 40 we see the consecration of the Tabernacle of Moses. After everything was put in its place and the rituals of cleansing were performed, the Lord came and indwelt the Tabernacle Himself. In 2Chronicles 5, we see the dedication of the Temple that Solomon built. After it was consecrated to the Lord, the presence of God filled the house.

Although the New Testament teaches us that *"God does not dwell in houses built by human hands"* (Acts 7:44-50), we do believe that it is appropriate to honor God by

formally setting aside church buildings, properties and homes to bring glory to His name.

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Stances On Common Issues

Human Sexuality

The Bible is clear in its teaching regarding sexual relations - all sexual activity is to be confined to a monogamous relationship between a man and a woman, within the confines of a marriage union. Unfortunately Satan has perverted God's design to the degree that our society is totally out of control in this area. Premarital sex is now the norm and anyone who chooses to abstain until they are married is labeled by our society as abnormal. Infidelity is also rampant and extra-marital affairs are at an all-time high. Promiscuity is a major problem with many people having multiple sexual partners, which in turn adds to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Statistics show that these diseases are reaching epidemic proportions. To add to this, homosexuality and lesbianism have now become acceptable alternative lifestyles in our society. Our society is actually so sated with sex it is obsessed by it, with some practices that are beyond decency to describe. Never has there been a greater need for the Church to lift up the Biblical standard regarding sex, and set an example for the world to follow, than there is today.

We teach the following areas of human sexuality as SIN:

- Premarital sex (Fornication)
- Extra-marital affairs (Adultery)
- Homosexuality (Men with men)
- Lesbianism (Women with women)
- Bestiality (People with animals)
- Incest (Sexual relations among family members other than a husband and wife)
- Pornography (Sexually explicit literature and audio-visual publications)
- Sexual perversion (Deviant and bizarre sexual behavior, all LGBTQ tendencies would fit into this category)

- Rape (Forced sexual participation)
- Pedophilia / Sexual Abuse (Seduction of the naive, or aggressive coercion to sex)

LGBTQ

The LGBTQ movement is probably the biggest issue currently plaguing the church at this time in history. To begin with, we consider, as stated above, homosexuality and lesbianism to be a sin. With that belief firmly entrenched into our DNA as a church, we obviously believe bisexuality to be a sin since really it entails being able to have both homosexual / lesbian relationships as well as heterosexual relationships.

We also firmly believe what is says in **Genesis 5:1-2** *In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.* Based on what the scripture states, we believe that gender is not a feeling and is not something that can randomly be changed (gender is not fluid) but is rather a simple genetic fact. God created them both male and female therefore we consider the transgender / transsexual and questioning / queer lifestyle to be sin as stated above.

Although we consider these things to be sin, we understand that many people will come to know Jesus after they have been living in this type of sin, maybe even for many years. The truth is, as the bible says, “all have sinned”. Everyone needs the saving grace of the cross, all need to repent and turn away from sinful lifestyles and be healed emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We want to help all people come into a relationship with Jesus and to find their true selves and freedom.

Intersex

Intersex individuals, previously called hermaphrodites, which is rare and currently considered a birth defect, is a physical condition we consider a sad reality of sin and the fall of man. In most cases, medical doctors are able to determine which sex will work best for the child based on functional / non functional sex organs, and chromosomes. Most babies are given treatment, surgeries and hormones to help develop into either a male or female. We still believe that gender is not fluid or something that fluctuates and would therefore expect a person to stay in keeping with the gender they were raised or, if their parents decided to wait and let them choose as adults, we would expect them to discover / decide their gender as an adult before entering into an intimate relationship / marriage and once decided (or after entering into an intimate relationship or marriage) to stay with that gender for the rest of their natural life.

Here are some good sites to view for intersex information:

Biblical Perspective

<https://www.gotquestions.org/hermaphrodites.html>

Medical Information

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/ambiguous-genitalia

Dating

We do understand that this subject is sensitive and carries a wide variety of interpretation even among Christians. With this in mind, it is not our intention to lay down a list of rules and regulations concerning dating. Most mature Christians realize the folly of casual dating. They also know that dating, when properly carried out, can produce great blessing in finding one's soul mate, but they also know that if not entered into properly it can become a snare that leads the naïve into emotionally destructive relationships, leading to broken hearts and sometimes premarital sex

with all of its possible complications. I am sure that we would all agree that God wants us to be whole, and to stay whole. He does not want us to get emotionally or physically battered by being involved with things that produce confusion and unnecessary pain in our lives.

While we understand that our society's norm is to endorse the practice of dating and 'checking out the territory' for prospective mates, and we are also aware that in order for any couple to build a relationship that leads to a life-long, loving and happy marriage it is essential that they get to know each other in a godly and meaningful way before they actually marry. We are also acutely aware of the pitfalls of casual or careless dating.

Therefore, with regard to dating, we advocate that it is necessary for Christians to prayerfully seek God in all areas of their relationships, particularly in seeking out the one they will eventually marry. We truly believe that God has a plan for our lives, and that He also appointed the one to whom we will eventually be married. The key is in the exercise of patience and godly wisdom in how we go about relating with members of the opposite sex. If we are wise, we will also be patient. If we are patient, God will bring us into the right relationship, at the right time for, the right reasons. I believe strongly that finding the right mate is not a matter of chance, but one of divine guidance!

Abortion

"Abortion" is exactly what the word suggests - it is the premature termination of something that is already set in motion. It is the willful ending of something before the ultimate goal is realized. In human terms, and accepting that natural miscarriages do occur, when we talk of abortion it refers to the termination of pregnancy by willful human intervention to end the life of the unborn. Dr. James Dobson of "Focus on the Family" says "if we could visit the in-utero world of a developing fetus, we would be amazed at the complex delicate process that begins upon conception. To visualize the

abortionist's instruments invading that world is repulsive, particularly if we understand God's perspective on the unborn."

That is a powerful statement that we wholeheartedly endorse. Consider briefly what the scriptures say about the unborn. Psalm **139:13-16** says *For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.*

To Jeremiah, God said *"before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."* **Jeremiah 1:5.**

In light of these scriptures and other relevant teachings in God's word, we conclude that the God who creates life would consider the unnatural aborting of life an abomination. We understand that there may be some serious life-threatening circumstances by which a woman might need to consider aborting her unborn child, but we do not believe that abortion is an acceptable option for a normal, healthy woman to consider. So in our stand in this matter we are Pro-Life! Having said that, we are aware that there are multitudes of women who have gone through abortion, and that as a result need to be healed emotionally and spiritually. Our role is not to play judge, but to lead them to the One who is the righteous judge of all men, Jesus. He is the only one that can provide the forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing these women need.

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Role Of The Saint

1 Cor. 1:2 *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

Eph. 2:19 *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God*

It is imperative that each believer realises that they are no longer sinners bound to their sin, they are a new creation with a new nature. Our flesh may be weak but we are children of God. Each believer must understand that they are saints and members of the kingdom of God. As a member of King's Gate Church and as saints you will need to understand that you have three main areas of ministry.

1. **Ministry to the Lord** - This refers to the activities that are primarily directed to the Lord.
2. **Ministry to the Body** - This refers to our activities that are directed specifically to the needs of believers, first to our own church, and then to the wider Body of Christ.
3. **Ministry to the Lost** - This refers to our outreach activities in spreading the gospel at home and abroad.

A church cannot function without the people of God getting involved in the local church. As a saint and a member of this house you will have a responsibility in carrying out and becoming involved with the practical aspects the local church and help create a church that is:

1. A church with a passion to see the Kingdom of God manifest in our city, region, province, and nation.

2. A church with a passion to know Jesus intimately.
3. A church where people grow in the knowledge and grace of God.
4. A church with a passion for true worship and the presence of God.
5. A church with a passion for prayer and to become effective in intercession and spiritual warfare.
6. A church with a passion for the Holy Spirit to provide daily leadership, guidance, help, and empowerment for ministry.
7. A church with a passion to reach the lost at home and abroad.
8. A church with a passion to build upon the truth of God's Word.
9. A church with a passion to see the Church restored to the image, truth, power, and glory of God.
10. A church with a passion to see the prosperity of God realized in every aspect of life.
11. A church with a passion to see God's healing released.
12. A church with a passion to hear the prophetic voice of God speaking into our present day reality.
13. A church with a passion to live in and release the true fruit of the Holy Spirit.
14. A church with a passion for the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit to be powerfully manifested in the church and our daily lives.

15. A church with a passion to train and equip the saints for the work of service.
16. A church with a passion to raise up Biblical leadership.
17. A church that recognizes, trains, and ordains the five-fold ministries.
18. A church with a passion to do God's work through missions at home and abroad.
19. A church with a passion to plant other churches in places as God leads.
20. A church with a passion to become a wise, liberal giver with an unselfish attitude to bless others.
21. A church with a passion for unity in the Holy Spirit according to God's purpose for our church, community, nation, and world.
22. A church with a passion to see people set free from demonic oppression and possession, and see people become emotionally, physically, and spiritually whole.
23. A church with a passion to do all things well in a spirit of excellence.

The practical outworking of the church in all of these areas will be seen in our activities through the institution, support, and participation in various ventures and projects as the Lord leads. We want to see the Church glorify God by becoming all that He intends for her to be. This is summed up in the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 5:27:

Ephesians 1:15-23 *For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 3:14-21 *For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 5:27 *That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.*

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