



APPLICANT

NAME _____

STUDENT'S NAME(S) 1. _____ Age _____ Grade _____

2. _____ Age _____ Grade _____

3. _____ Age _____ Grade _____

ADDRESS _____

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

INTERESTED in ASAP/FALL/SPRING



LIFEGATE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



395 Lifegate Lane Seguin, Texas 78155 (830) 372-0850

<http://www.lcsfalcons.org>

www.facebook.com/lifegatechristianschool

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Date _____

<p>Student 1 Birth date ____ (M) ____ (D) ____ (Y) First Name _____ Last Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Social Security # _____ Gender: Male or Female? ____ Email (if applicable): _____</p> <p>Is the student a committed follower of Jesus Christ who trusts in Him alone as his/her salvation? ____ Has the applicant ever been expelled, dismissed, suspended, or refused admission to another school? ____ Explain: _____ Has the applicant ever used tobacco, drugs, or alcohol? ____ Has the applicant had any particular disciplinary problems? ____ Ever been sent to an alternative school? ____ Does the applicant subscribe to any social media sites? ____ If so, which ones? _____</p>	<p>School History School to transfer from _____ Address _____ City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____</p> <p>Prior School _____ City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____</p> <p>Grade Student is Applying for _____</p>
<p>Student 2 Birth date ____ (M) ____ (D) ____ (Y) First Name _____ Last Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Social Security # _____ Gender: Male or Female? ____ Email (if applicable): _____</p> <p>Is the student a committed follower of Jesus Christ who trusts in Him alone as his/her salvation? ____ Has the applicant ever been expelled, dismissed, suspended, or refused admission to another school? ____ Explain: _____ Has the applicant ever used tobacco, drugs, or alcohol? ____ Has the applicant had any particular disciplinary problems? ____ Ever been sent to an alternative school? ____ Does the applicant subscribe to any social media sites? ____ If so, which ones? _____</p>	<p>School History School to transfer from _____ Address _____ City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____</p> <p>Prior School _____ City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____</p> <p>Grade Student is Applying for _____</p>
<p>Student 3 Birth date ____ (M) ____ (D) ____ (Y) First Name _____ Last Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Social Security # _____ Gender: Male or Female? ____ Email (if applicable): _____</p> <p>Is the student a committed follower of Jesus Christ who trusts in Him alone as his/her salvation? ____ Has the applicant ever been expelled, dismissed, suspended, or refused admission to another school? ____ Explain: _____ Has the applicant ever used tobacco, drugs, or alcohol? ____ Has the applicant had any particular disciplinary problems? ____ Ever been sent to an alternative school? ____</p>	<p>School History School to transfer from _____ Address _____ City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____</p> <p>Prior School _____ City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____</p> <p>Grade Student is Applying for _____</p>

Does the applicant subscribe to any social media sites? _____ If so, which ones? _____

Marital Status (circle one) *married widowed divorced single*

Legal Guardian

S/S# _____ - _____ - _____ Driv Lic St/# _____
First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone (____) _____ - _____
Fax (____) _____ - _____ Cell _____
Email _____
How long have you occupied this residence? _____

Work History

Employment _____
Position _____ Length of Time _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____
Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____

Previous Employer _____
Position _____ Length of Service _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____
Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____

Spouse

S/S# _____ - _____ - _____ Driv Lic St/# _____
First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone (____) _____ - _____
Fax (____) _____ - _____ Cell _____
Email _____
How long have you occupied this residence? _____

Work History

Employment _____
Position _____ Length of Time _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____
Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____

Previous Employer _____
Position _____ Length of Service _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____
Bus. Phone (____) _____ - _____

Church Membership

Church Attending _____ Pastor _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Is the parent/legal guardian a committed follower of Jesus Christ, who trusts in Him alone as his/her salvation? _____

Is the spouse a committed follower of Jesus Christ, who trusts in Him alone as his/her salvation? _____

****Please note that it is the mission of Lifegate Christian School to serve Christian families who are attending church on a regular basis and who subscribe to the beliefs of Lifegate Church.****

**PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF THE STUDENT(S)
BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOLLOWING THIS PAGE.**



DISCIPLINE POLICY

We at Lifegate Christian School believe that discipline is an integral part of the educational process. We understand discipline as an environment in which children can best learn to follow the Lord and to respect authority. Discipline is more than correction; it is a total environment where growth is maximized by drawing the proper boundaries and enforcing the necessary policies for good personal development.

When correction is necessary, the school reserves the right to use the rod of correction when appropriate. We also reserve the right to place students on probation or to dismiss a student should this become necessary.

I realize that from time to time children take issue with actions that they do not agree with, and they are prone to criticize statements out of context. This being normal for children, I pledge that should such occur, I will not criticize the teachers in front of my child. I will try to be supportive of the school personnel, and call in for full details any time I have a question concerning an incident.

I further realize that building strong relations with my child’s teacher to aid in their training is as much my responsibility as it is that of the school. I will pray for the staff and program, cooperate with them in discipline and give them the benefit of the doubt until I have checked with them. I will endeavor to a lay spiritual foundation by providing a good example in the home. I will support the spiritual training of chapel.

I will follow through with any work assignments or slips to be signed; see that the child reaches school on time, send written excuses for absence or tardiness, cooperate in training the child to respect school property and pay for irregular abuse of the same, attend all parent functions, and assist in publicizing the school and its programs among friends.

I realize that attending LCS is a privilege and not a right. It is my intention to abide by the decision and support the discipline of the administration.

Legal Guardian’s Signature

Date

Spouse’s Signature

Date

Medical History

Please fill out one for each student.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Phone: _____

IT IS MANDATORY THAT STUDENTS WHO SHOW SYMPTOMS OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BE EXCLUDED FROM CLASSES UNTIL RE-ADMISSION IS ACCEPTABLE TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

I. PAST DISEASES – If your child has had any of the following, state age when he/she had them.

Mumps _____

Chicken Pox _____

Measles _____

Pneumonia _____

Whooping Cough _____

Polio _____

Asthma _____

Convulsions _____

Hay Fever _____

Heart Disease _____

Diphtheria _____

Diabetes _____

Scarlet Fever _____

Discharging Ears _____

Rheumatic Fever _____

Other _____

II. Please check any one of the following noted recently:

4 or more colds yearly

Fainting spells

Hearing difficulties

Frequent sore throats

Abdominal pain

Tires easily

Poor vision

Frequent urination

Breath shortness

Frequent leg pain

Allergies

Hernia (Rupture)

Dizziness

Persistent cough

Ringworm

Frequent sties

Speech difficulties

Nose bleeding

Dental defects

Crippling conditions

Growing pains

Does your child have a disability due to disease or accident? _____

Has your child had a skin test for tuberculosis? _____ Date _____ Results _____

*Please note that no child will be excluded from PE without a written note from the parent.

III. PERSONAL RECORD: Please check any of the following that apply to your child.

Is he/she shy?

Overactive?

Bites fingernails?

Sucks thumb?

Has excessive fears?

Has temper tantrums?

Inquisitive?

Plays well with others?

Eats breakfast?

Has your child been diagnosed with any learning or behavioral disabilities? _____ If so, please list and describe the disability and any accommodations they have received that were effective: _____

(Include additional school/medical documentation of the disability with this application if applicable.)

Please list anything that we may need to know concerning your child: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Immunization Record

Please fill out one for each student.

To the Parents/Guardians of: _____
 Birthday: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Texas law requires proof of immunization. This is required of every student, according to prescribed school grade criteria, seeking admission to or enrolled in Lifegate Christian School. This information is required no later than _____ for continued school attendance.

Diphtheria/Pertussis/ Tetanus/Td DTP/DTaP/DT 4 years through 7 years	Minimum of four doses of any combination of diphtheria-tetanus/pertussis containing vaccine will meet the requirement if the fourth dose was given on or after the fourth birthday
Td 7 years and older	Three doses of a tetanus-diphtheria containing vaccine provided one dose was on or after the fourth birthday.
Tdap 7th grade	In addition to the above Td requirement, one dose is required unless proof of tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine within the last five years.
Tdap 8th - 12th grade	In addition to the above Td requirement, one dose required when ten years has passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine
Polio All grade levels	Minimum of three doses of polio as long as the third dose was received on or after the fourth birthday
Measles, Mumps and Rubella K-6th grade	Two doses measles, mumps and rubella with the first dose on or after the first birthday.
Measles, Mumps and Rubella 7th - 12th grade	Two doses of a measles containing vaccine with the first dose on or after the first birthday; one dose of rubella and mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday.
Hep B	Three doses required. For students age 11-15 years, two doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) are acceptable. Dosage and type of vaccine must be clearly documented (two 10 mcg/1.0 or Recombivax).
Hep A K – 6th grade	Two doses with the first one on or after the first birthday.
Varicella	Two doses with the first one on or after the first birthday.
Meningococcal 7th - 12th grade	One dose required for entry.

Medical Exemption: The law allows physicians to write a statement stating that the vaccine(s) required would be medically harmful or injurious to the health and well-being of the child. The written statement by the physician must be submitted to the school. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

Conscientious/Religious Exemption: The law allows parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. Instructions for the affidavit to be signed by parents/guardians can be found at www.ImmunizeTexas.com. The completed and returned form from the TDH must be submitted to the school. The affidavit will be valid for two years.

Please note: In the case of an outbreak, an un-immunized child may be prohibited from school attendance. If your health care provider is out of the required vaccine, but it is still available through the health department, the vaccine is still required for school entry.

LICENSED PHYSICIAN’S STATEMENT

Complete the applicable section(s).

- I. This is to verify that _____ has met all of the vaccination requirements for admission to Texas schools (include vaccination record).
- II. This is to verify that _____ had _____ (disease) on or about _____ (date) and does not need to be immunized.
- III. As of _____ (date), the above named student is unable to receive _____ (vaccine) due to _____ (explanation)

Physician’s signature: _____ Date _____
 Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date _____

Please provide a copy of your child’s immunization record.



CHURCH VERIFICATION

_____ has applied to attend Lifegate Christian School. We would like to ask for your response as an important reference for this family.

Question	Response			
1. How well do you know this student? <i>(Circle One)</i>	Not at all	Face & name	Close & Personal	Close to Entire Family
2. Based on your knowledge, does this student generally display Christian character? <i>(Check One)</i>	Yes _____		No _____	
3. How regular does this student and family attend the church where you serve? <i>(Circle One)</i>	Once per month or less	Two times per month	Sunday mornings only	Regular Involvement
4. How many years has the family been attending the church? <i>(Circle One)</i>	<1	1-2	3-5	>5
5. How involved is the father in the church? <i>(Circle One)</i>	Not involved	Attends	Participates	Leads Others
6. How involved is the mother in the church? <i>(Circle One)</i>	Not involved	Attends	Participates	Leads Others
7. How involved is the student in the church? <i>(Circle One)</i>	Not involved	Attends	Participates	Leads Others
8. Is (Are) the parent(s) and student involved in small group activities (e.g. Sunday school)? <i>(Circle One)</i>	Not involved	Attends	Participates	Leads Others
9. Has the student been removed from a church or school activity for any reason? <i>(Check One)</i> Explain:	Yes _____		No _____	
10. Do you recommend this applicant to attend Lifegate Christian School? <i>(Check One)</i>	Yes _____		No _____	

11. How would you briefly describe the applicant's personality, motivation, or any other qualities that you feel would be important for us to understand?

Date

Signature of Pastor/Leader

Please mail, fax or email directly to:
Lifegate Christian School
395 Lifegate Lane
Seguin, TX 78155

Name of Church

Fax: 830-372-0895
Email: lifegate@lifegateschool.org



MEDICAL AND LIABILITY RELEASE

I do not hold Lifegate Christian School or any individual liable for injury or death of my child (children) sustained at school or on any school related outing or function. This will apply not only to school staff, but also to any other sponsor involved with my child.

I also realize that Lifegate Christian School does not provide student insurance, therefore, I am responsible to provide accident insurance for my child if I so desire.

I also release Lifegate Christian School to secure emergency medical treatment for my child at a doctor's office or hospital if the need should arise.

Legal Guardian's Signature

Date

Spouse's Signature

Date



LIFEGATE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

395 LIFEGATE LANE ♦ SEGUIN, TX 78155 ♦ (830) 372-0850

PARENT HONOR CODE

(Please read and initial each line).

___ I will pray earnestly for Lifegate Christian School.

___ I will faithfully attend a Bible-believing Christian church realizing that scripture guides us in this very matter:

“... not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Heb. 10:25 ESV

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Ps. 22:6 ESV

___ I will cooperate fully in the educational functions of Lifegate Christian School, faithfully attending the parent meetings and corresponding quickly to requests from teachers for conference

___ I understand that my child/children will be taught Christianity as defined in the LCS Statement of Faith (see Handbook 2-D) and Position Statements (see Handbook Appendix F & G).

___ I will pay all of my financial obligations to Lifegate Christian School on or before the date due. If I am unable to pay on time, I will notify the bookkeeper to make arrangements for payment.

___ If I become dissatisfied with the school in any respect, I will seek to resolve the matter with the person or persons involved, rather than begin to spread criticism, listen to criticism, or hold a negative attitude in my heart

___ I will seek for the excellence and advancement of Lifegate Christian School in all areas, spiritually, academically, and physically.

___ I agree to pay for a full semester for my child/children, even if I have to move or for some *reason take* my children out of Lifegate. I realize that staff must be hired by contract, so my obligation is to finish paying for the semester in which my children are currently enrolled.

___ I agree to support the school by completing at least 20 service hours (per family). Service hours may be completed during athletic events, fundraisers, work projects, tutoring, etc.

___ I understand no progress reports, report cards, transcripts or other such services will be provided unless all tuition and fees are current.

___ No transcripts will be sent until all financial obligations to Lifegate Christian School are paid in full.

___ I understand that the fall Parent Orientation meeting is compulsory and at least one parent must attend.

___ I understand that there will be a trial period of nine weeks – a “get acquainted” time for students to be certain that Lifegate is right for the student and the student is right for Lifegate.

___ I understand if my child is in sports, I will help with the gate and concessions at games.

___ I will support all fundraisers with my time and my resources.

___ At sporting events, I will maintain Godly character.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Spouse Signature

Date



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*Each student will sign and return.

STUDENT CODE

- I will pray for Lifegate Christian School.
- I will abide by all the rules of classroom behavior and school standards as stated in the Lifegate Handbook.
- I will show respect for those in authority over me, even when I disagree with them.
- I will abide by the stated dress code and try to maintain a good attitude when judgments about clothing are not settled according to my desires.
- If I become dissatisfied, I will seek to resolve the matter with those involved, rather than becoming critical or bitter.
- During sporting events, I will conduct myself with good sportsmanship, and uphold the values of LCS.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes or take drugs. I will not bring alcohol, cigarettes or drugs to Lifegate Christian School.

Student's Signature

Date



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TESTIMONIAL

LEGAL GUARDIAN – Write a brief paragraph stating your relationship to Jesus Christ...

SPOUSE – Write a brief paragraph stating your relationship to Jesus Christ...

STUDENT(S) – Write a brief paragraph stating your relationship to Jesus Christ...



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TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

*One per student

_____ has applied to attend Lifegate Christian School. We would like to ask for your response as an important reference for this family.

Question	Comments
1. What is the student's overall average in your class?	
2. What rank % does the student fall? (<i>Circle one</i>)	Bottom 10% Marginal Average Top 10%
3. To your knowledge, has the student been tested for special education?	Yes _____ No _____
4. To your knowledge, is the student a diverse learner? What kind?	Yes _____ No _____
5. How often has the student been tardy?	0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
6. How often has the student been absent?	0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
7. To your knowledge, is the student involved in extra-curricular activities at your school?	Yes _____ No _____
8. To what degree have the student's parents been actively involved in their child's education? (<i>circle one</i>)	Never seen them One or two calls Responsive to teacher concerns Active at all times
9. Is the student in the same place in the curriculum as the rest of the class?	Yes _____ No _____
10. Has this student demonstrated any academic, behavioral, or social pathology that might prevent him/her from being successful at LCS?	Yes _____ No _____
11. In your estimate, would you recommend this student for enrollment at LCS?	Yes _____ No _____

12. Based upon your knowledge of the student's past performance, is there anything that might concern you about the student's academic development, if they were to transfer to a private school?

_____ Date

_____ Signature of Teacher

Please mail, fax or email directly to:
Lifegate Christian School
395 Lifegate Lane
Seguin, TX 78155

_____ Grade/Subject

Fax: 830-372-0895
Email: lifegate@lifegateschool.org

LCS INTERNET POSITION STATEMENT

There is much which is helpful and much which is harmful on the internet. LCS maintains the internet can be used as a tool of evil, e.g. giving predators access to our children and homes, etc. or as a tool for the edification of God’s children in learning.

LCS will seek only to use internet technology for the glory of God in learning and encourages students and parents to do the same! Therefore, LCS computers will seek to block all sites deemed inappropriate/harmful by the School’s Administrator and Pastoral Leadership.

Ephesians 5:1-21 “...live a life of love ... there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality ... nor should there be obscenity ... coarse joking ... live as children of the light ... find out what pleases the Lord ... have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness, but expose them ... be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise, but as wise ... find out what pleases the Lord ... etc.” gives very helpful principles which inform our use of internet technology or any technology for that matter. Furthermore, LCS holds its reputation and name dear. “A good name is more desirable than riches ...” Proverbs 22:1. The school expects LCS parents to monitor their children’s home internet use and considers them responsible for ensuring their children are using the internet according to biblical principles. LCS students are expected and required not to visit or participate in websites/social chat rooms which do not fall in line with Ephesians 5:1-21.

The School’s Administrator reserves sole discretion in all ethical judgments concerning student internet use. Students who do not adhere to these scriptural principles in their internet use, as determined by LCS, may be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion from LCS.

I do hereby submit to LCS’s Internet Policy. “Submit one to another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21

Parent/Guardian

Date

Student Signature(s)



REQUEST FOR RECORDS

Date: _____ School: _____

Fax: _____ Attention: _____

_____ has applied for enrollment at Lifegate Christian School.

Please fax the following records to 830-372-0895.

Records requested:

- _____ Transcript and/or report cards
- _____ Standardized Test Scores
- _____ Any Individual Learning Needs (IEP, 504)
- _____ Medical History
- _____ Disciplinary Records

Thank you for your prompt response!

Mark Peters
Principal
mpeters@lifegateschool.org

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(830) 372-0850 † Fax (830) 372-0895
www.lcsfalcons.org



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ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The goal of admissions process is to help children and their families find a school that can meet their needs. When the match is a good one, the result is a strong trusting relationship between family and school, in which there is open and honest communication between the family and the school.

Lifegate Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin in hiring practices or the administration of educational policies, admissions procedures, athletic and other school administered programs. We, however, reserve the right to deny admission or employment to any individual whom we feel will not benefit from our educational program based on past academic achievement. We also reserve the right to deny admission or employment to a student or individual whose personal lifestyle is not in harmony with the stated philosophy and purpose of Lifegate Christian School.

- **Learn about the School:** The best way to get to know Lifegate Christian School is to visit the school by making an appointment. The parent will have an opportunity to hear a presentation about the program, tour the building, and speak to parents, faculty and students.
- **Teacher recommendation forms** should be given to the student's present English, science, social studies or math teachers or general classroom teacher (if a self-contained classroom), with a self-addressed stamped envelope. The completed forms are to be sent directly to Lifegate Christian School. If the parents would like additional forms for other teachers, they will be provided.
- **Transcripts, progress reports or report cards** for the current and previous year are required for admission. Parents should complete and sign the transcript request form and send it to their child's current school.
- **Admissions criteria and timing:** after all material is gathered to make a determination, the Education Committee will interview the parents. Upon acceptance of this committee, families will be notified.
- **Financial aid:** Families wishing to apply for financial aid may do so at any point in the admissions process. Forms are available on request from the Business Office. Financial aid decisions are made after the admissions decision is made.

Statement of Faith – Lifegate Ministries, Inc.

The Scriptures

We accept the Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament, as the written Word of God. The Bible is the only essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Being given by God, the Scriptures are both fully and verbally inspired by God. Therefore, as originally given, the Bible is free of error in all it teaches. Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord who speaks through it in living power. All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives. The Scriptures are the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice, and doctrine. They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation, or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession, or theology must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture.

God Is Triune

There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty, and perfect in holiness, truth, and love. In the unity of the godhead there are three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity. One God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is the foundation of Christian faith and life.

God the Father

God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth. By his word and for his glory, he freely and supernaturally created the world from nothing. Through the same Word he daily sustains all his creatures. He rules over all and is the only Sovereign. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love him, and in his unfathomable grace gave his Son, Jesus Christ, for mankind's redemption. He made man for fellowship with himself, and intended that all creation should live to the praise of his glory.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He was perfect in nature, teaching, and obedience. He is fully God and fully man. He was always with God and is God. Through him all things came into being and were created. He was before all things and in him all things hold together by the word of his power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation, and in him dwells the fullness of the godhead bodily. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world, having shed his blood and died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. By his death in our place, he revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, the third day he rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness, and for a period of 40 days appeared to more than 500 witnesses, performing many convincing proofs of his resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, he intercedes for his people and rules as Lord over all. He is the Head of his body, the Church, and should be adored, loved, served, and obeyed by all.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel he persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth, and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son, who in turn came to glorify the Father. He will lead the Church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored, and worshiped as God the Third Person of the Trinity.

Man

God made man—male and female—in his own image, as the crown of creation, that man might have fellowship with him. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. Being estranged from his Maker, yet responsible to him, he became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and, apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will, and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ.

The Gospel

Jesus Christ is the gospel. The good news is revealed in his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel, his resurrection is the power of the gospel, and his ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases his holy wrath. It also demonstrates his mysterious love and reveals his amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men must be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have of glorifying God because of what he has accomplished. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches, and ministries to proceed from and be related to the cross.

Man's Response to the Gospel

Man's response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for his own pleasure and glory. It is also true that the message of the gospel is only effectual to those who genuinely repent of their sins and, by God's grace, put saving faith in Christ. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Christ, he cannot become his disciple.

Man's Inheritance Through the Gospel

Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and looking to Christ and his substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as a free gift. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin an individual is reconciled to God as Father and becomes his child. The believer is forgiven the debt of his sin and, via the miracle of regeneration, liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Spirit.

Sanctification

The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce his fruit in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though indwelling sin remains a reality, as we are led by the Spirit we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping his commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith, knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word, and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve his people until the end, which is most certain.

Empowered by the Spirit

In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first-century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.

The Church

God by his Word and Spirit creates the Church, calling sinful men out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ's Body. By the same Word and Spirit, he guides and preserves that new redeemed humanity. The Church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, the Church universal is made up of those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ and have personally appropriated the gospel. The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also exists to serve him by faithfully doing his will in the earth. This involves a commitment to see the gospel preached and churches planted in all the world for a testimony. The ultimate mission of the Church is the making of disciples through the preaching of the gospel. When God transforms human nature, this then becomes the chief means of society's transformation. Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church, in which they devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and prayer. All members of the Church universal are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. In this context they are called to walk out the New Covenant as the people of God, and demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God. The ascended Christ has given gift ministries to the church (including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) for the equipping of Christ's body that it might mature and grow. Through the gift ministries, all members of the Church are to be nurtured and equipped for the work of ministry. Women play a vital role in the life of the church, but in keeping with God's created design they are not permitted "to teach or to exercise authority over a man" (1 Timothy 2:12 ESV). Leadership in the church is male. In the context of the local church, God's people receive pastoral care and leadership and the opportunity to employ their God-given gifts in his service in relation to one another and to the world.

Sacraments of the Church

Water baptism is intended only for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become his disciple. Therefore, in obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to God, the Church, oneself, and the world, a believer should be immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of his death and resurrection. It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death, and vividly depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin. As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of his blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body.

The Consummation

The Consummation of all things includes the visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the Consummation, Satan with his hosts and all those outside Christ are finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment, but the righteous, in glorious bodies, shall live and reign with him forever. Married to Christ as his Bride, the Church will be in the presence of God forever, serving him and giving him unending praise and glory. Then shall the eager expectation of creation be fulfilled and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God who makes all things new.