

**BYLAWS  
LIFEPOINT CHURCH, INC.  
GOSHEN, INDIANA**

**PREAMBLE**

These Bylaws are intended to govern the corporation known as LifePoint Church, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “church”, “congregation”, or “corporation”) chartered for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, and for the buying, selling, and holding of real estate in keeping with its primary purposes.

These Bylaws, as adopted on November 13, 2016 and subsequently amended, shall take precedence over all previously adopted Bylaws, except it is understood they must conform to the limits set forth in the Articles of Incorporation (“Articles”) on file in Indianapolis, Indiana, and that if conflicts should occur between these Bylaws and the Articles, the legal limitations of the Articles shall take precedence.

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

The church was duly incorporated December 21, 1954, under the laws of the State of Indiana. The legal name of the church is LifePoint Church, Inc.

**ARTICLE II**

**Government**

- Section 1. Principle: The legal and business operations of the church are vested in the voting members of the corporation.
- Section 2. Affiliation: The corporation is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but operates autonomously while maintaining its identity and affiliation with the General Assembly of the Church of God, which meets annually and has offices in Anderson, Indiana.
- Section 3. Doctrine: This church accepts God's Word as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth, as contained in the Bible, is in essential accord with the beliefs of the Church of God, mentioned above.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership of the Corporation**

- Section 1. The Church of God reformation movement does not maintain formal membership rolls. Therefore, voting membership applies only to the corporate business function of this church. All voting members shall have the right to vote in regular and special business meetings subject to the following conditions:
  - a. They shall profess to and give evidence of a personal experience of salvation.
  - b. They shall have worshiped regularly with the local congregation for a period of six (6) months immediately preceding any meeting at which they exercise the right to vote.
  - c. They shall be eighteen (18) years of age and over.
- Section 2. In every business meeting the chairperson of the corporation shall read the conditions above and call for public declaration of intention to vote.
  - a. If any person who so declares his intention to vote has this right questioned by any member, the chairperson of the corporation shall call for an expression of the assembly. A two-thirds vote cast by the voting members shall determine the questioned member's right to vote.
  - b. Any person who does not meet the conditions in Section 1 (b) and (c) may, upon their request, be given the right to vote by a two-thirds vote cast by the voting members in any regular or special business meeting.
- Section 3. Absentee ballots will be available in the church office two (2) weeks prior to the meeting for those members who, for valid reasons, cannot attend a meeting of the corporation in which voting will occur.

- a. The absentee ballot must be submitted in a signed ballot envelope to the chairperson of the corporation, or the secretary of the church office, by the last business day prior to the meeting for which it is intended and held, in confidence, until such time as all votes are taken.
  - b. The names of people recorded on all absentee ballot envelopes who meet profession of faith, period of worship, and age requirement shall be read in the business meeting to determine that all meet the conditions stated. The ballots meeting the conditions shall be included in the tally.
  - c. Absentee ballots will not be permitted for the ratification or dismissal of a senior pastor.
- Section 4. The rules governing membership herein stated shall apply to the business organization only and shall not affect, in any way, the standing of people in the fellowship of the church.

ARTICLE IV  
Principles of Governance

Section 1. Ratification by Voting Members:

Recognizing the role of the church in discerning the will of God in major decisions, the following items shall require ratification by voting members in a duly called business meeting of the church:

- a. Call of a senior pastor
- b. Church Council members
- c. Finance, Nominating and Missions Committees members
- d. Treasurer of the corporation
- e. Annual general operating budget
- f. Incurring of long-term debt in excess of three years and/or a per year amount in excess of ten percent (10%) of the annual general operating budget
- g. Purchase or sale of real estate or buildings
- h. Revision, amendment, or repeal of Bylaws
- i. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation when required by the Indiana Code, Title 23, Article 17, governing non-profit corporations.

Section 2. General Management and Accountability:

- a. Recognizing the role of spiritual authority in the life of the congregation, the church entrusts to the senior pastor and staff the responsibility and authority to direct and empower ministries of the church and to supervise its day-to-day business affairs. The Church Council will hold the senior pastor and staff of the church accountable for these activities.
- b. Recognizing the role of the congregation in the finances of this church, the financial policy of this church is predicated upon personal, voluntary giving as an act of worship.
- c. The LifePoint Church Corporation reserves the right to restrict the use of all properties owned from any event or program (including same-sex weddings) judged by the Church Council to be at odds with the mission or teachings of the congregation and/or with the Church of God movement (Anderson, IN), represented formally by the actions of the movement's General Assembly in United States and Canada.

Section 3. Officers of the Corporation shall be:

- a. President (chairperson of the Church Council), designated as the senior pastor.
- b. Vice-chairperson of the Church Council, as elected by the Church Council in its first meeting of the fiscal year.
- c. Secretary, designated as the secretary of the Church Council, as elected by the Church Council in its first meeting of the fiscal year.
- d. Treasurer, nominated by the Nominating Committee, approved by the Church Council, and ratified by voting members of the corporation annually.

Section 4. Duties of the Officers:

- a. President: By virtue of the position, the senior pastor shall be the president of the corporation and chairperson of the Church Council. The president or his designee will be an ex officio member of all corporation committees. As president he shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the church, and as chairperson he shall preside at all business meetings of the corporation.
- b. Vice-chairperson: By virtue of the office, the vice-chairperson of the Church Council will assume the responsibilities of the chairperson of the Church Council in his absence or in the event the corporation is without a senior pastor.
- c. Secretary: By virtue of the office, the secretary of the Church Council will be the secretary of the corporation. The Church Council may appoint a recording secretary to record the proceedings at meetings of the corporation and the Church Council, in which case the secretary of the corporation is responsible for the accuracy and preservation of such records.
- d. Treasurer: The treasurer is to be the treasurer of the corporation, ~~and~~ an ex officio member of the Church Council, and the chairperson of the Finance Committee. The treasurer may assign the financial secretary of the church to keep the books and write the checks, in which case the treasurer would sign the checks and would review records periodically. The treasurer shall present to the Church Council a monthly financial report and also post a summary for the congregation. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from January 1 to December 31 each year.

Section 5. The directors, officers, and members of this corporation shall not be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the directors, officers, or members be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation to any extent whatsoever.

ARTICLE V  
Ministry Staff

Section 1. Pastoral Staff

- a. Qualifications for Leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-12, Titus 1:5-9, and Galatians 5:16-26)

The senior pastor and other pastoral staff of the corporation shall be confessing Christians, living lives that reflect holiness and manifest the fruits of the Spirit. They shall be well respected within their own family, their church, their profession, and their community. They shall have a warm welcoming spirit, a positive attitude, and be able to see the good both in people and in situations. They shall tithe to and be regular attendees in worship at this church.

- b. Senior Pastor
  - (1) The senior pastor shall be an ordained or licensed minister of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana. He shall be in good standing, being in fellowship and doctrinal unity with the ministers of the Church of God and the General Ministerial Assembly that meets annually in Anderson, Indiana.
  - (2) The senior pastor shall provide Biblical vision and leadership for the corporation and shall preside over the daily spiritual and business affairs of the corporation and shall be held accountable by the Church Council.
  - (3) The senior pastor, or his designees, shall provide for oversight and direction to all staff and ministry leaders; set policies and procedures for the establishment, operation, and elimination of ministries; and approve or dismiss all lay ministers and volunteers operating on behalf of the corporation.
  - (4) The senior pastor hires and dismisses pastoral staff subject to the approval of the Church Council. The senior pastor, or his designees, hires and dismisses all other program or

support staff. Any staff person who has been dismissed may appeal the dismissal to the Church Council, which will make the final decision regarding such matters.

- (5) The senior pastor shall have authority to call business meetings of the corporation and shall preside at all business meetings of the corporation.

- (6) Dismissal:

The Church Council may initiate dismissal proceedings upon their recommendation of a need for change in the pastorate. They shall consider a dismissal recommendation in the form of a written petition signed by no less than ten percent (10%) of the church's worship service attendance as shown in the latest edition of the annual Yearbook of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana.

- (a) Upon a two-thirds majority vote from the full Church Council, the secretary of the Church Council shall forward a copy of the Church Council's recommendation to the pastor.
- (b) No sooner than two (2) weeks after the receipt of the petition, the Church Council shall call for a special meeting of the corporation to consider the Church Council's recommendation.
- (c) A two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting shall determine the service of the senior pastor, as designated in the written petition. If the vote is for removal, a minimum of sixty (60) days with full salary and benefits shall be allowed for termination of the pastor, unless there has been a defection of character resulting in the loss of recognized ministerial status. In such case, the removal shall be immediate and the corporation shall have no further financial obligation.
- (d) Should the senior pastor resign his leadership, he shall present his resignation in writing to the Church Council and then present it to the church, either by letter or by public announcement. The resignation should provide for a minimum of sixty (60) days before vacating the pastorate, unless other arrangements are agreed upon to the satisfaction of both the Church Council and the senior pastor.

c. Other Pastors

- (1) Other full-time pastors shall be ordained, licensed, or in training for ordination, and be in good standing with the local congregation.
- (2) Other pastors shall serve under the senior pastor. The senior pastor or his designees, to whom other pastors will be accountable in general, shall determine their responsibilities and activities.

Section 2. Support Staff

- a. Support staff must conform to the moral and ethical standards of the church.
- b. Support staff must be qualified for the responsibilities and duties assigned.
- c. Support staff are accountable to the senior pastor.

ARTICLE VI  
Church Council

Section 1. Composition/Makeup:

The Church Council shall be composed of no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) members ratified by the voting members of the corporation. Non-voting ex officio members of the Church Council are the senior pastor (the president of the corporation, who serves as chairperson of the Church Council) and the treasurer.

Section 2. Qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, and Galatians 5:16-26):

Church Council members shall be confessing Christians, living lives that reflect holiness and manifest the fruit of the Spirit. They shall be well respected within their own family, their church, their profession, and their community. They shall have a warm welcoming spirit, a positive attitude, and be able to see the good both in people and in situations. They shall be people who possess strong visionary faith and wisdom. They shall tithe to and be regular attendees in worship at this church.

Section 3. Length of term:

- a. Terms of Church Council members elected during the first election held under these Bylaws shall be staggered to provide for the expiration of the terms of members in each of the next three (3) succeeding years; thereafter, the term of each Church Council member shall be three (3) years. Term begins on January 1.
- b. After serving two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms as a Church Council member, a person shall not be eligible for nomination or appointment to the Church Council for a period of one (1) year.
- c. No more than one (1) member of any immediate family shall serve concurrently as a member of the Church Council. An immediate family member is defined as spouse, parent, child, or sibling.
- d. In the event of death, resignation, or removal of a member from the Church Council, the Church Council shall, at its next meeting or as soon thereafter as possible, begin the process of appointing a person from the corporation, qualified as provided for in these Bylaws, to fill the vacant position. To be appointed, the potential appointee must receive two-thirds approval by the Church Council.
- e. An appointed member shall serve on the Church Council until the next annual meeting of the corporation. The Nominating Committee shall present an eligible member for ratification at that time.

Section 4. Responsibilities

- a. To hold in trust all the property of the corporation, as its Board of Directors, in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana.
- b. To elect the corporation's secretary and vice-chairperson from among Church Council members at its first meeting of the fiscal year.
- c. To support and advise the senior pastor in his function of organizing and empowering/administering the ministries of the church.
- d. To hold accountable the senior pastor and staff, in the performance of their duties on behalf of the corporation.

- e. To approve compensation and leave policies for the pastoral staff and support staff.
- f. To approve the hiring and dismissal of pastoral staff other than the senior pastor.
- g. To designate, by resolution, two other persons that have the authority to sign checks for the corporation in the absence of the treasurer.
- h. To nominate members of the Nominating Committee for ratification by the voting members of the corporation.
- i. To appoint persons to serve on the following committees in the event of death, resignation, or removal of a member according to guidelines stated in these Bylaws: Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, and Missions Committee.
- j. To oversee the processes for reconciliation, restoration and, if needed, discipline in the event the senior pastor, pastoral staff, support staff, ministry leaders or any member of the corporation is unfaithful to the trust they have been given or when their personal involvement in an issue impedes resolution.
- k. To approve the annual operating budget for presentation to the members at the business annual meeting. To make the budget available to the congregation two (2) weeks prior to the annual business meeting and provide for opportunities to answer questions from voting members before ratification at the annual business meeting.
- l. To appoint a Bylaws Committee as required by these Bylaws.
- m. To appoint a Pulpit Committee as needed during times of transition in the senior pastorate as required by these Bylaws.
- n. To clearly communicate the long-range goals and the direction God is leading the church, and to promote the ministries of the church to the congregation.

Section 5. Meetings:

- a. Regular meetings shall be scheduled at a regular time and place at least four times per year. The time and place are to be mutually agreed upon by all members. A member of the Church Council participating in any meeting of the Council by means which allow all members to simultaneously hear each other during the meeting is considered to be present in person at the meeting.
- b. Special meetings can be called by the senior pastor or at the request of four (4) or more Church Council members at any time, provided that every member of the Church Council is given adequate notice.
- c. The written agenda is to be prepared by the chairperson and provided to the Church Council in advance of meetings. Members of the corporation desiring to present an issue to the Church Council may do so by contacting the chairperson of the Church Council one (1) week prior to a regular meeting, indicating the subject to be presented and requesting permission for it to be placed on the agenda.

Section 6. Quorum and Vote:

- a. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Church Council members, not counting the ex officio members who do not vote.
- b. All votes shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the Church Council members present, unless otherwise stated within these Bylaws. If and when a two-thirds majority of Church Council members shall individually or collectively consent in writing or by e-mail to any action to be taken by the corporation, such action shall be a valid corporate action as though it had been authorized at a meeting of the Church Council.

Section 7. Special Committees

a. Qualifications (Galatians 5:16-26):

Members of special committees shall be confessing Christians, and living lives that reflect holiness and manifest the fruit of the Spirit. They shall be well respected within their own family, their church, their profession, and their community. They shall be people who possess wisdom and discernment.

b. Bylaws Committee

(1) Membership:

The Bylaws Committee shall consist of five (5) members from the corporation appointed by the Church Council, plus the senior pastor as ex officio member.

(2) Duties:

(a) To review the current Bylaws and identify issues to be addressed as established in Article XI of these Bylaws.

(b) To propose to the corporation any changes that are required. These proposed changes may alter, amend, replace, or repeal the current Bylaws.

(c) To present proposed changes in writing first to the Church Council and then to the members of the corporation at informational meetings scheduled prior to any business meeting at which the Bylaws could be ratified.

(3) Length of Term:

The Bylaws Committee shall be dissolved after the approval of the proposed revisions by the members of the corporation. Should the proposed revisions fail to receive approval of the members of the corporation, the Church Council shall determine the status of the Bylaws Committee.

c. Pulpit Committee

(1) Occasion:

The Church Council shall appoint a Pulpit Committee in the event the church is without the services of a senior pastor.

(2) Membership:

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Church Council: three (3) from the Church Council and four (4) from the voting membership.

(3) Duties:

(a) The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible for filling the pulpit during the period when the church is without senior pastoral leadership. They shall communicate and work with staff in carrying out this responsibility.

(b) The Pulpit Committee shall investigate the availability of prospective pastors who are, or are in the process of being, ordained by the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana. The Pulpit Committee shall study their qualifications as to character, leadership abilities, experience, ministerial recognition, and status.

(c) The Pulpit Committee shall submit the name of only one prospective senior pastor at a time initially to the Church Council and then to the corporation for consideration and possible call. Approval of the corporation requires a three-fourths majority vote of voting members present and voting at a business meeting. Absentee ballots shall not be permitted for the call of a senior pastor.

- (d) The Pulpit Committee shall arrange with the ratified senior pastor and ministers of the area for a Service of Installation that will add dignity to the call and express the church's recognition of the pastor's leadership.

(4) Length of Term:

The Pulpit Committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the Service of Installation.

ARTICLE VII  
Corporation Committees

Section 1. Qualifications (Galatians 5:16-26):

Members of corporation committees shall be confessing Christians, living lives that reflect holiness and manifest the fruit of the Spirit. They shall be well respected within their own family, their church, their profession, and their community. They shall be people who possess wisdom and discernment.

Section 2. Membership:

- a. The president of the corporation or his designee shall be an ex officio member of each committee. In addition, the treasurer is the chairperson of the Finance Committee.
- b. The Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee shall include four (4) eligible voting members selected from the corporation who are not members of the Church Council. The Missions Committee shall include five (5) eligible voting members from the corporation who are not members of the Church Council. The Nominating Committee shall nominate Finance Committee and Missions Committee members to the Church Council for election. The Church Council shall nominate Nominating Committee members. All nominated committee members shall be presented to the corporation for ratification.

Section 3. Length of Term:

- a. Terms of committee members elected during the first election held under these Bylaws shall be staggered to provide for the expiration of the terms of members in each of the next three (3) succeeding years; thereafter, the term of each committee member shall be three (3) years. Term begins on January 1.
- b. After serving two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms as a committee member, a person shall not be eligible for nomination or appointment to a committee for a period of one (1) year.
- c. No more than one (1) member of any immediate family shall serve concurrently as a ratified member of a committee. An immediate family member is defined as spouse, parent, child or sibling.
- d. In the event of death, resignation, or removal of a ratified member of a committee, the Church Council shall, at its next meeting or as soon thereafter as possible, begin the process of appointing an eligible person from the corporation, qualified as provided for in these Bylaws, to fill the vacant position. To be appointed, the person must receive two-thirds approval by the Church Council.
- e. An appointed member, approved by the Church Council, shall serve on the committee until the next annual meeting of the corporation. The Nominating Committee shall present an eligible voting member for ratification at that time.

Section 4. Finance Committee Responsibilities

- a. Recommend and monitor established policies and procedures for the financial records and practices of the corporation.
- b. Review the treasurer's monthly financial reports at least quarterly, in committee or by use of electronic media, to monitor income and expenses in relation to the current budget.

- c. Review and analyze the staff-prepared annual operating budget before approval by the Church Council.
- d. Oversee an annual financial review of the financial records and practices of the corporation and report that finding to the Church Council, or recommend an external auditor to the Church Council for appointment.
- e. Submit minutes of all meetings to the Church Council.

Section 5. Nominating Committee Responsibilities

- a. To provide all eligible voting members of the corporation the opportunity, prior to September 15 each year, to submit names for consideration as candidates for open positions on the Church Council, Finance Committee, and Missions Committee.
- b. To nominate mature, gifted leaders for ratification by the corporation for positions on the Church Council, the Finance Committee, and the Missions Committee. This work shall begin August 1st each year in order to provide adequate time to complete the nomination process.
- c. Present nominations to the Church Council for election, and post a slate of approved candidates, for review by corporation members, two (2) weeks prior to ratification at the annual business meeting.
- d. Prepare ballots and absentee ballot materials, approved by the Church Council, as required for ratification needed for the annual business meeting.
- e. Submit minutes of all meetings to the Church Council.

Section 6. Missions Committee Responsibilities

- a. To inform and motivate children, youth, and adults in the church to be involved in praying for and participating in missions and ministries that are engaged in reaching people for Jesus in our community, country, and world.
- b. Promote and disburse faith-promise giving in cooperation with the pastoral staff and Church Council.
- c. Provide an annual committee report for review by the members at the annual business meeting.
- d. Submit minutes of all meetings to the Church Council.

ARTICLE VIII  
Meetings

Section 1. Annual Business Meeting

- a. The annual business meeting shall be held during the fourth quarter.
- b. Notice shall be given at least one (1) month prior to the annual business meeting and a full agenda posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting.
- c. Any ballots to be presented shall be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting.
- d. A quorum of at least forty-five (45) voting members of the corporation must be established to conduct business.
- e. All ratifications must be by ballot. All ratified terms begin on January 1.

Section 2. A written annual report will be distributed at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting of the corporation. This report will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Reports from the pastoral staff.
- b. Report from the treasurer, including financial statements.
- c. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year: January 1 – December 31.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

- a. A special business meeting may be called by the president of the corporation, the Church Council, or by written request of at least ten percent (10%) of the church's worship service attendance as shown in the latest edition of the annual Yearbook of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana.
- b. Public notice shall be given from the pulpit at least two (2) weeks in advance, as well as a letter by mail, stating in general terms the business to be transacted.

Section 4. Except as otherwise specifically stated in the Bylaws, a simple majority of voting members presenting valid ballots shall determine an issue.

ARTICLE IX  
Rules of Order

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the transaction of business in all special and regular meetings of the corporation and Church Council, so long as such rules are consistent with the Articles and Bylaws of the corporation. All meetings shall be conducted according to scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:1-7.

ARTICLE X  
Recall

Section 1. Any person ratified under the provisions of these Bylaws may be recalled by a two-thirds majority vote of the members and his term of office terminated at any regular, or special, business meeting of the congregation, provided that notice of such action is given at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. Such a recall shall not be construed to affect, in any way, the individual's religious and spiritual relationship to the church.

Section 2. If any person ratified by the members or appointed by the Church Council is unable to serve his term or, for any reason, leaves this congregation, his tenure of office will immediately cease, and the Church Council, as required by these Bylaws, shall appoint a successor for the position until such time as a candidate can be ratified by members of the corporation at a business meeting.

ARTICLE XI  
Review and Amendments

Section 1. The Church Council shall establish a Bylaws Committee every five (5) years, commencing in 2012, or more frequently as determined by the Church Council, to analyze and review the written Bylaws of the corporation. The established Bylaws Committee must ensure that the Bylaws remain consistent with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Indiana Code, Title 23, Article 17, governing non-profit corporations.

Section 2. Amendments to the Bylaws proposed by the Bylaws Committee require initial approval by the Church Council and further, require a two-thirds majority vote by the voting members at any business meeting of the corporation. Written notice, including the proposed amendments, must be posted and readily available to voting members of the church at least two (2) weeks prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE XII  
Dissolution of Corporation

Should the church elect to dissolve this corporation, they shall adhere to the provisions of the State of Indiana's dissolution requirements in force at that time.

Adopted: January 11, 2004  
Amended: January 13, 2008  
Amended: November 17, 2013  
Amended: March 15, 2015  
Amended: November 13, 2016

## ADDENDUM

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, ©1996.  
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, Illinois 60189

#### **Galatians 5**

*Living by the Spirit's Power* <sup>16</sup>So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. <sup>17</sup>The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. <sup>18</sup>But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law.

<sup>19</sup>When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup>If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another.

#### **Philippians 2**

*Unity through Humility* <sup>1</sup>Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? <sup>2</sup>Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. <sup>3</sup>Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. <sup>4</sup>Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

*Christ's Humility and Exaltation* <sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup>Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. <sup>7</sup>He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.

## 1 Timothy 3

*Leaders in the Church* <sup>1</sup>It is a true saying that if someone wants to be an elder, he desires an honorable responsibility. <sup>2</sup>For an elder must be a man whose life cannot be spoken against. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exhibit self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home and must be able to teach. <sup>3</sup>He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, peace loving, and not one who loves money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well, with children who respect and obey him. <sup>5</sup>For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

<sup>6</sup>An elder must not be a new Christian, because he might be proud of being chosen so soon, and the Devil will use that pride to make him fall. <sup>7</sup>Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not fall into the Devil's trap and be disgraced.

<sup>8</sup>In the same way, deacons must be people who are respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers and must not be greedy for money. <sup>9</sup>They must be committed to the revealed truths of the Christian faith and must live with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>Before they are appointed as deacons, they should be given other responsibilities in the church as a test of their character and ability. If they do well, then they may serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not speak evil of others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.

## Titus 1

*Titus's Work in Crete* <sup>5</sup>I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. <sup>6</sup>An elder must be well thought of for his good life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who are not wild or rebellious. <sup>7</sup>An elder must live a blameless life because he is God's minister. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or greedy for money. <sup>8</sup>He must enjoy having guests in his home and must love all that is good. He must live wisely and be fair. He must live a devout and disciplined life. <sup>9</sup>He must have a strong and steadfast belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with right teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.