



The
Believers
Worship
Center, Inc.

Marriage According
to
Jesus Christ



A Scriptural Reference Guide written by
Bishop Larry H. Jordan, Sr., D.D.

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This outline, arranged by verse, has been provided so that your understanding is clear concerning the intent of the scriptures with regard to marriage. Ephesians 5:22-33 illustrates the married life of a Spirit-filled believer through the marriage of Jesus Christ our Lord to the church. Jesus has a marriage relationship with the church and the way He cares for us, as His body must be observed in like manner in our marriages.

Scripture references have been taken from the New King James translation

I. Submission

- a. Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
 - i. When a woman submits to her own husband as unto the Lord, she is submitting to a Spirit-filled man who is walking in the knowledge of Christ. A Spirit-filled husband makes sure he is mentally operating with the mind of Christ, leading a life whereby he is full of the Holy Spirit. To be led of the Lord is to be guided by the Holy Spirit even in the marital relationship; it is not by leading our wives through the opinions of men.
 - ii. Many marriages have dissolved because people followed counseling that was based upon someone's experience and opinion. To establish a marriage based on the lives of other people is in direct contrast to establishing a marriage based on the Word of God. A Spirit-filled woman who has the mind of Christ and walks in accordance with God's Word will not submit to anything that is contrary to the will of her Lord Jesus. Offering her experiences and opinions is asking her to submit to the will of man which will ultimately bring on a negative behavior.
- b. Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
 - i. Philippians informs us that our conduct should be worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Are you conducting your life according to the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- c. John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
 - i. The Holy Spirit was sent to fulfill the gospel of Jesus Christ. The same Spirit, working in you, also works in your wife. Therefore, her spirit can only submit to words which are directly in line to the obedience of Christ.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit brings a balance to the wife through the scriptures that you as a Spirit-filled husband should be obeying.

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- d. 1 Peter 3:1-12 ¹ Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel- ⁴ rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. ⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. ⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For "He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. ¹¹ Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."
- i. The wife is to be submissive to a clean, Godly-living husband in her home and church. Her character should always be without question as Sarah's was to Abraham. God describes Sarah as the example of a wife. A submissive wife keeps her house clean, takes care of the needs of her husband and children, her character is beautiful as a woman developed from within and that very beauty exudes to her outward countenance. This is how God describes a woman with a gentle and quiet spirit, winning her husband who does not yield to obey the Word of God, even though he is a Christian, not walking in the full knowledge of God.
- ii. The husband observes the conduct of his wife taking care of her family with reverence and the fear of the Lord, and by this the husband will start yielding himself to know the will of God as Abraham did to lead Sarah. A husband can not lead his wife by force, but by the knowledge of God.

II. The Husband as the Head

- a. Ephesians 5:23 for the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body.
- i. It is understood that the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. Jesus leads the church, by example, in the will of His Father.

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- b. John 7:16-17 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority,
 - i. Jesus informs us that His doctrine is not His own, but that of His Father.
 - ii. What is doctrine? Doctrines are teachings or that which is taught for instructions. Therefore, Jesus is teaching and instructing the church from the doctrine His Father gave and taught Him. So as the head of the church, Jesus puts in us the words His Father gave Him for us. This same principle applies to the husband over his wife. As the head of his wife, he should be leading her according to the teachings and instructions for marriage given by the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iii. Are you a responsible husband? Are you instructing your wife from the doctrines of Jesus Christ for a strong marriage? Do you know how to be a *head* and save your marriage just as Jesus is your head and saved your soul, as the Savior of the body of Christ? Do you give your wife the knowledge and wisdom of God from the scriptures as Jesus gave the church the will of His Father? The husband as the head of the wife should manifest the understanding Jesus has for the church. He is to love her and care for her.

III. Subjection of the Wife

- a. Ephesians 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
 - i. The church is subject to Christ because Jesus paid a price for us. Jesus suffered in His body and was obedient unto death to please His Father, that the love of God would save us from our sins. Therefore, the church is subject to Christ because of the love and concern the Lord continually shows for our soul and spirit. In like manner, the husband should have this same attitude in order for the wife to be submissive to him just as the church is to Christ.
 - ii. The wife should see in her husband the same obedience to Christ, with regard to her, as Jesus showed to God His Father for the church. The wife knows when her husband is paying the price in his salvation and his walk with the Lord because he will display Godly knowledge, wisdom and understanding in his love for her. When a wife sees her husband led of the Spirit, her submission to him in everything will not be difficult because Christ is seen as the decision maker, and this can only occur as the price is being paid in the life of her husband. The wife does not see "*do as I say*" or "*do because I am the man*" instead she sees her husband leading based upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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IV. The Husband's Love for His Wife

- a. Ephesians 5:25 Husband, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
 - i. Jesus loved the church (the body of Christ) so much that He became a ransom for us. Matthew 20:28 *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*" Not only did Jesus die for the church, but He served the church with His life. When a husband loves his wife, he fulfills her by serving her spiritually.
 - ii. The natural things are already in place such as sex, food, clothing, work, etc. The husband gives himself to his wife spiritually in the marriage by keeping a consistent flow of prayer, fasting and good Bible study habits. The Word of God has to become the focal point of knowledge in showing you how to love your wife because your soul can become influenced in many negative ways to alter your marriage.

- b. John 17:1-26 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

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¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

- i. Prayer: observe how Jesus prayed for His disciples and the church. He loved them and gave Himself for them in prayer.
 - ii. A husband must show this same type of love and leadership for his wife.
- c. 1 Corinthians 7 ⁵Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
- i. Fasting- the husband and wife should give themselves to fasting and prayer with consent for a period of time to keep the marriage consecrated in the unity of the Lord.
 - ii. Jesus fasted forty days and nights in relationship to His service of ministry for the church. The Lord says fasting together will cause His mind to be in the husband and wife causing His knowledge to work towards the good of both partners.
Matthew 4 ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

V. Loving Your Wife as Yourself

- a. Ephesians 5:28-33 ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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- i. I love to take care of my body by washing, grooming, feeding and clothing it. I love advancing myself in the knowledge, wisdom and understanding of God for my spiritual growth. I take care of my body! I make sure I shelter myself with the best of things, according to my ability. The same attention must be given to my wife. Bringing my wife into balance with me spiritually and naturally shows that I love her, as I love myself. As I am strong in the Lord, my wife will be also. My wife will always be a reflection of me because I love her as I love myself. It is the will of God for a husband to practice these actions in times of adversity, trials and sufferings. It is at these times when a husband shows he loves his wife as himself. Remember, the marriage vows are for better or for worse; for richer or for poorer; in sickness and in health so whatever circumstance you are faced with in life know that you are supposed to be one.
- ii. As a man, do you hate yourself when adversity comes? No, you give attention to the situation to get yourself out of difficulty. This is called cherishing yourself; attaching importance to yourself in an effort to be better and that is the same attitude the Lord Jesus wants the husband to display towards the wife. Don't embarrass her openly and mistreat her in public. Would you do that to yourself? When you do things in secret does the Lord reveal those things to everyone? No! He deals with you individually and personally because He loves you and does not want to embarrass you or bring you to an open shame. The Lord always shows mercy and gives us a chance to first repent and then be restored back to Him because we belong to Him (as members of His body). Can you see yourself as one with Christ? Then why would He want to hurt you if you are a part of Him? It is the same for husbands and wives. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24). The Bible declares that you are one. When you hurt your wife, you hurt yourself.
- iii. Husbands love your wives and you will always be one. Take thought to remember that love, repentance, mercy and forgiveness help build a relationship in a marriage to last forever.

VI. Building and Keeping Honesty in a Relationship

When I think about keeping a marital relationship strong, my focus is building honesty because mistakes are going to be made. Every spouse will face experiences to rock their relationship and be put in positions to lie, to hide, or not expose failures in life that will affect each other. Hurt and pain is not what a marriage wants to face, but the reality is things happen that cause strife, contention, division, outburst of anger, and dissension in a marital relationship. Therefore, Jesus Christ must be the foundation to build honesty and keep it strong in a relationship. You will never stop building honesty because as a Christian you have the Holy Spirit leading and guiding you in all truth, John 16¹³ *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into*

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all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. The Spirit of God was given to guide our lives to repentance but also to develop in us the very nature of His makeup, the Fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

- a. Honesty brings forth life in the marriage when the spouses decide to live according to the doctrines of Christ. I did not say that you would not go through anything. Trials and tribulations will always be encountered in marriage, but Jesus Christ brings peace when your mind is focused on the word "Savior".
- b. What is honesty? It means uprightness, integrity, trustworthiness, sincerity and/or frankness. It also means freedom from deceit and fraud. It has been my sincere belief that conduct and behavior must have a renewing process of honesty in a marriage in order for the Lord to bless it.
- c. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine. for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. According to this scripture, God gives us inspiration to read doctrine (*teachings or that which is taught for instructions*). The Bible gives us the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, when we read the Bible, the scriptures will give us clarity concerning things we need to walk in our lives. Examine the words that come out of 2 Timothy 3:16; reproof, correction, and instructions in righteousness. These words deal with conduct and behavior and when you apply them to your life it produces completeness and equips you for your marriage and work for God. If you reprove yourself, you're being honest; if you correct yourself, you're being honest; if instructions bring you into righteousness, you're being honest. This is why I teach on marriage according to Ephesians 5:22-33. It is doctrine that teaches honesty in a marital relationship.

VII. Maturity in a Marriage Should Produce Time for Enjoying Each Other

Maturity in a marriage should bring development and stable growth. It means that during a period of time certain things have to be done away with in order to produce joy and time with each other. The problem in most marriages is that spouses are unwilling to do away with certain things that cause immaturity and the inability to produce time and enjoyment for each other.

- a. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
 - i. Problems can cause you to focus your time on arguing, debating, in some cases fighting and separation because the focus is not on spiritual growth. How can you enjoy one another in a marriage when the mind of Christ is not brought forth for

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development and growth? Jesus promised us in Him we can have peace. That means He is able to produce it in our lives. Think for a moment as to what Jesus is saying. Develop the growth of your marriage in peace and then you will love to spend time with each other. However, if you are unwilling to eradicate worldly behaviors and environment in your marriage, you are going to have tribulations and no time to enjoy one another.

- b. Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - i. When a spouse is worldly they are fleshly. These attributes bring no enjoyment to a marriage. It takes time for one to operate in any of these manifestations. So if time is spent producing character to manifest these evil habits, where is the time to mature our faith to believe that Jesus said be of good cheer, I have overcome the world?
- c. Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Remember, maturity means to bring forth the mind of Christ.
 - i. Let this mind be in you simply means you must let your mind think according to Jesus Christ. I believe that the mind of Christ will produce faith and hope that you can overcome things. If Jesus said be of good cheer I have overcome the world, then so can your marriage. Your mind has to be conditioned to believe that Jesus can give you and your spouse rest and peace in this world.
- d. Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?
 - i. The Holy Spirit has been given to empower us to be victorious over our flesh. Why can't a Christian marriage be governed and led of the Holy Spirit? The mature Christian marriage is suppose to enjoy the Kingdom of God and that is where the evaluation should start for balance and growth. Agreement brings balance and balance causes things to flow properly. When things flow properly, time is being spent in right areas of a marriage. This is why God said in Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh:" A true sign of maturity in a marriage occurs when two people become one and their focus is on each other. Time is spent perfecting oneness.

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CONCLUSION:

Marriage involves time spent on perfecting one another's bad habits, lifestyles, and communication. When agreement is in a marriage, it is a sign of oneness. That means your character produces forgiveness to walk and live together. Agreement is oneness. Agreement is the power of unity which brings security and safety to a family. Marriages that are strong are based on two people agreeing to become one, growing together in the will of God and basing life standards on God's word. Before you were married, there were two different lifestyles and ways of living. God's word has been given for marriage and we must make adjustments through sanctification and righteousness to produce His image in us. Marriage is two walking together to agree to become one flesh.

Trust that the life of a marriage will be strong and powerful if a marriage grows in the knowledge of the Holy Spirit. Anything that God gives us from Heaven is strength for endurance in a world that is against the *"Will of God"*. The Holy Spirit will remind us not to love the world or things in the world. 1 John 2:5-16 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. You can enjoy your marriage and time with each other by simply allowing the Holy Spirit to remind you that Jesus has overcome the world even at those times when the lust of the world tries your marriage. Mature your marriage spiritually as a Christian and see how happy your lives will become.

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MARRIAGE CEREMONY

In the book of Hebrews 13:4, the Holy Scriptures tells us that marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. You have made the right decision to honor God's Will by coming together to commit yourselves as husband and wife.

Matthew 19:4-6 says, have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one. So then, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together let no man separate. Becoming one in marriage is a symbol of unity. This means the two of you will always be caring, sharing and bearing each others burdens whenever adversity comes your way. Always remember the vows of matrimony, God joining you together, and that no one should come between the oneness that God has established for a marriage.

This is what a wife should expect from her husband: In the book of **Ephesians 5:25-29**,

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

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In the book of Proverbs 31:10-12, this is what the husband should expect from the wife.

Proverbs 31:10-31 (The Virtuous Wife)?

Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. I Peter 3:1-4, Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives. When they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward - arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel, rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

Always remember the ways of the Lord for your children according to Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it". Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

Isaiah 54:13, All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.

The fulfillment of a marriage is to handle life according to the gospel of Jesus Christ, while living in this present world. Therefore, always remember the word of the Lord endures forever and you will not fail.

Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success.

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The oracles of God have now been spoken to the both of you from the Holy Scriptures. Learn to grow together, always pray for each other, never let your love and respect for each other diminish, but rather abound in the Lord's ways and His path of rewards will never be hidden from you. The joy of the Lord is your strength and stay committed to Him and your marriage will never fail. **Let us pray - (for their health) - (for financial growth) - (for their marriage) - (for their family) - (for their spirit and soul) .**

Ask for the rings and bless them, and begin speaking the vows. Have the husband and wife exchange rings, by holding each others right hand.

1. The Groom: _____ do you take this woman whose right hand you now hold, to be your wedded wife, and do you promise before God and these witnesses that you will be to her a true and devoted husband; true to her in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in prosperity and in adversity; and that forsaking all others you will keep yourself to her, and to her only, until God shall separate you by death? If so, answer "I do".

2. The Bride: _____; do you take this man whose right hand you now hold, to be your wedded husband, and do you promise before God and these witnesses that you will be to him a true and devoted wife; true to him in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in prosperity and in adversity; and that forsaking all others you will keep yourself to him, and to him only, until God shall separate you by death? If so, answer "I do".

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PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in accordance with the will of God and the sovereign State of Maryland, I now pronounce you husband and wife, one in name, one in the faith of the Kingdom of God, and one in the will of God. “What God has joined together, let man not separate. You may now kiss your bride!

I now present to you Mr. & Mrs. _____.

Ceremony Performed By: _____

Bishop Larry H. Jordan, Sr., D.D.

Senior Pastor

Date:

Corporate Seal: