

# Introduction to New Light Church for New Families

## 1. Values of New Light Church

- 1) **We are a church** that participates in God's mission (*missio dei*) and a church that restores the image of God (*imago dei*).

Colossians 1:20-22

<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

- 2) **The value of New Light Church** begins with the re-establishment of the gospel. Christendom, the non-gospel value of converting the world to Christianity through the principle of power, has consistently distorted the true value of the gospel since the 4th century. As a result, modern consumerist Christianity began to produce numerous churches and Christians who live lives that do not deviate significantly from worldly values. Now the world no longer recognizes the church as a community with the values of sacrifice and love, and the number of Canaanite believers leaving the church continues to increase.
- 3) **How can the value of the true gospel**, God's salvation through Christ as spoken of in the Bible, **be restored?** It begins with a deep understanding of the purpose for which God created all things with love. Then, it is only possible to explain God's total restoration, which seeks to completely restore all creation, including nature, that was broken by Adam's sin.

- 4) **It is not just salvation** in the narrow sense of believing and accepting the work of Jesus Christ on the cross in order to go to heaven when we die, but also restoration of the image of God who designed us into a beautiful community of love, that is, Tzadeka (justice), Shalom (peace), and Tov (goodness and beauty) are restored on this earth and living in God's kingdom. Furthermore, the role of a representative ruler who beautifully cultivates and manages all creations given to humans by God has been restored. It can be said to be a complete recovery that includes restoring the ecosystem that has already been destroyed due to greed.
  
- 5) **Therefore**, New Light Church is a church that participates in God's mission (Missio Dei) and restores the image of God (Imago Dei). In order to live a life as a saint worthy of the calling to restore the kingdom of God, the value of New Light Church is a community that walks hand in hand, rejoices, and plays together even though each other's appearances and thoughts are different. This is a departure from the Egyptian pharaonic system, Solomon's monarchy, Roman imperialism, and modern consumerism, all of which have pursued a broad path to wealth and prosperity. And it is about choosing to live a life that follows Christ, who walked the narrow path of sacrifice and cross with radical love and hospitality. Anyone who wants to walk that narrow path with the Lord and experience a community of hospitality and love is always welcome.

## **2. Concrete practice of core values**

- 1) Hospitality and love
- 2) Life of discipleship
- 3) Restoration of justice, peace, and beauty (Tzadeka, Shalom, Tov)

## **3. Key ministries of New Light Church for 2024**

- 1) Establishment and activity of cell meetings

- 2) Team ministry centered on ministers and ministry teams
- 3) Worship that achieves complete recovery
- 4) Expansion of God's kingdom through cultural ministries (musicals, worship conferences, orchestras, joint praise gatherings)
- 5) Ministry for the recovery of neighbors (Holywin Festival, homeless, relief ministry)

#### **4. About the Baptist Church**

##### **1) Confession of Faith of the Baptist Church**

Historically, there are several important doctrinal emphases that have shaped the character of the Baptist church. These are teachings emphasized in the Bible, some of which are emphasized by the Reformed (Presbyterian) Church, some by the Methodist Church, and some by other Free Church groups. However, the following contents, which can be named "The Seven Beliefs of Baptists" using the first letter of the word "BAPTIST," show what the Baptist Church believes and have characteristics that distinguish it from other denominations.

B: Believer's Priesthood

A: Autonomy of the Local Church

P: Primacy of Scripture

T: True believers only in the Church

I: Individual Competency of the Soul

S : Separation of Church and State

T: Two Ordinances

1) Believer's Baptism

2) Memorial Lord's Supper

To briefly explain the above,

**First**, the priesthood of believers means that not only pastors or some people within the church play the role of priests, but all believers must fulfill the mission and role of priests.

**Second**, autonomous local churches do not have a vertical command relationship because they recognize that the head of the church is only Jesus Christ and that the Holy Spirit guides each church. For this reason, in Baptist churches, local churches independently exercise financial and administrative authority.

**Third**, the absolute authority of the Bible is what the Baptist Church emphasizes the most, and the Baptist Church, more than any other denomination, has the characteristic of absolutely recognizing and following the authority of the Bible in its beliefs and practices.

**Fourth**, membership in the church is only granted to true believers, and membership in the church is only granted to those who confess evidence of salvation, not on the condition of simply attending the church, making donations, or serving. This is because we believe that the church is a community of believers.

**Fifth**, personal autonomy of the soul means that each Christian can make his own confession of faith and decide his own method of service according to the autonomy given by God. This is also something that the Baptist Church emphasizes very importantly.

**Sixth**, the separation of church and state is an extension of the principle of individual autonomy; even the state cannot dominate or oppress the church, and the church cannot use state power to force faith.

**Seventh**, the two holy ordinances mean that the only two ordinances that Baptists clearly insist on in the Bible are believer's baptism and the memorial Lord's Supper. We believe that baptism is a ritual performed only for those who have accepted

Jesus as their savior and master through a personal experience, and that the Lord's Supper is a ritual that commemorates and testifies to Jesus' death on the cross.

## 2) Immersion baptism at a Baptist church

It is about believing in Jesus as the savior and publicly confessing your faith in front of the church. Other denominations usually perform a ritual of sprinkling water on the head, but Baptist denominations usually perform a ritual of immersing the entire body in water. This is because the original Biblical word for baptism is '*baptisma*', and the verb is '*baptizo*', which literally means "to immerse in water."

## 3) Three meanings of baptism

**The first meaning of baptism** is a confession of faith that I firmly believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and was resurrected three days later.

Going into the water during baptism signifies Jesus' death and burial, and coming back up from the water signifies Christ's resurrection. So, to be baptized is to confess faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**The second meaning of baptism** is as stated in Romans 6:3-11:

Your old self was buried with Christ and you were born with Christ as a new child of God. In other words, it is a confession of faith that we believe that we are new creatures who no longer live according to our own lusts but have now been changed to live like children of God.

**The third meaning of baptism** is a confession of faith that we Christians will one day die and be buried in the ground, but just as the Lord was resurrected, when the Lord comes to the world again, we will also be resurrected with an incorruptible body. (Romans 6:3-5)