

Church Policies and Practices

Explanation

Scattered throughout the epistles of the New Testament are indications of how the earliest Christians worshiped and lived. Prayer and singing were important parts of their worship. They administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper. They made donations to the poor and to the church headquarters. They insisted on morality and chastity. They strengthened marriages and families. Chart 12-12 identifies these key elements present among the policies and practices of the early Christian church. These elements will always be found among the fundamental covenants and teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ.

References

- Howard W. Hunter, "Organization of the Church of Christ," *Improvement Era*, December 1965, 1145–47.
- Charles W. Penrose, "What is 'the Church?'" *Millennial Star* 70 (16 January 1908): 40–43.

Church Policies and Practices

ON PRAYER

Pray for everyone

1Tm 2:1–8

Pray and sing

Jms 5:13

ON WORSHIP

Women in the assembly

1Tm 2:9–15

Head coverings of men and women

1Cor 11:2–16

ON THE SACRAMENT

The last supper

1Cor 11:23–26

Do not partake of the sacrament unworthily

1Cor 11:27–34

ON MAKING DONATIONS

Be generous

2Cor 8:1–9

Blessings come from giving

2Cor 9:6–15

Combine godliness and material contentment

1Tm 6:3–10

ON MORALITY

Incest and other immorality in Corinth

1Cor 5:1–13

Avoid fornication; glorify God in your body

1Cor 6:12–20

ON MARRIAGE

Marriage is good

1Cor 7:1–11

Marriage of a believer to an unbeliever

1Cor 7:12–16

Wives and husbands

Eph 5:22–33

Advice to wives: adorn your relationship with righteousness

1Pt 3:1–6

Advice to husbands: inherit life with your wife

1Pt 3:7

ON DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Morals and duties in household relationships

Col 3:18–4:1

Children and parents

Eph 6:1–4

Caring for widows

1Tm 5:3–16

Instructions to various age groups

Titus 2:1–10