



AFRICAN BAPTIST MINISTRIES

Membership Guide

African Baptist Ministries in Canada

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Updated February 18, 2014

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Guide

Throughout the study we will answer three questions.

1. What conviction can we form around this statement?
2. What is the principle by which we make our decisions?
3. How does this principle and conviction change our lifestyle, or does it?

Definitions

CONVICTION

Afirmly held belief.

PRINCIPLE

Moral rule or belief that informs youractions. Your principle puts into action your convictions.

LIFESTYLE APPLICATION

Convictions and principles reflected in attitudes and style of living.

Example—God’s Holiness,(Page 4).

Revelation 4 describes God as holy.

Conviction: Do we strongly believe that God is holy?

Principle: How does God’s holiness form a principle which we can apply?

Lifestyle Application: How does our belief that God is holy change our lifestyle, or does it?

Let’s begin!

Church

The local church is a community of believers in fellowship based on the Gospel.

Do you believe the Gospel?

God created man to enjoy a relationship with Him, but man's sinfulness separates him from God who is holy.

God's Holiness

Revelation 4 describes God high and lifted up, seated on his throne in Heaven. Four living creatures worship him night and day crying: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty!"

In addition, the twenty-four elders cast their crowns before Him in worship and thanks:

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Conviction: _____

Principle: _____

Lifestyle Application: _____

Man's Sinfulness

Romans 3:23 says: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Furthermore, we can know we are sinners when we look into God's perfect law in Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments. Who of us has not broken one or many of these?

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

The Gospel

The Gospel, or Good News, is that God has made a way for us to be reconciled to God. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”

God did not send Jesus to condemn us, but to pay the penalty of our sin:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16-18

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Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____



Once you believe, you are to be baptized.

Baptism

Acts 2:38: and Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus set the example by submitting to baptism by immersion. Mark 1:9-11: In those days Jesus

came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

Once you are a baptized believer, the next step is to become a member of the local church.

African Baptist Ministry Statement of Faith

1. Bible

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments, were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the supreme authority¹ in all

¹ Authority – right to give orders; Judge (n)

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matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

2. God

We believe in the only living and true God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign² and eternal, existing in three equal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

3. Christ

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, the Son, in his eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory, in His virgin birth, sinless

² Sovereign – supreme and ultimate power

life, substitutionary³ death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial⁴ ministry and personal return.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; who regenerates⁵, sanctifies⁶, illuminates⁷ and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

³ Substitutionary - replacement

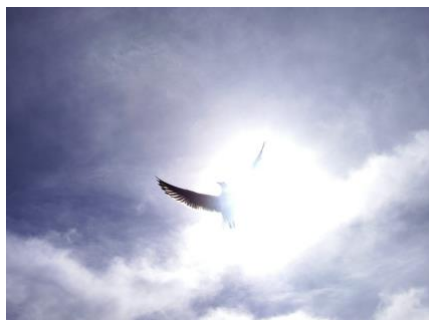
⁴ Mediatorial – going-between

⁵ Regenerates – brings new and more vigorous life

⁶ Sanctifies – set apart, declare as holy

⁷ Illuminates – makes easier to understand

Lifestyle Application: _____



5. Satan

We believe that Satan exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin and archenemy of God and mankind.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

6. Man

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, and that he is affected by sin in all

aspects of his being, so that all people by nature and choice are sinners, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

7. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious⁸, expiatory⁹ and propitiatory¹⁰ death; that justification is by faith alone in the all sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has effectually¹¹ called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

Conviction: _____

⁸ Vicarious – acting on behalf of another

⁹ Expiatory – having power to atone for

¹⁰ Propitiatory – make substitution (v); mercy seat (n)

¹¹ Effectually – producing a desired result

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____



8. Future Things

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

9. The Church

- a) We believe that the Church, the Body of Christ of which He is the Head, is composed of all regenerated¹² believers.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

- b) We believe that the local church is a company of immersed believers, called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the purpose of worship, the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation¹³ of the faith and the observance of the ordinances¹⁴. We believe it is a sovereign, independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts,

¹² Regenerated – reformed, renewed spiritually

¹³ Propagation – spreading into new regions

¹⁴ Ordinances – authoritative order

precepts¹⁵ and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the great Head of the Church. We believe the primary officers are the pastors and the elders.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

10. Ordinances

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

- a) Baptism, which is the immersion of the believer in water, whereby he/she obeys Christ's command and sets forth his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and with the church.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

¹⁵ Precept – a general rule to regulate behaviour

Lifestyle Application: _____



- b) The Lord's Supper, which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, the bread and the cup, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

11. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that all in authority over us are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

Church members enter into a covenant with God and each other.

A covenant is an agreement, a promise, a pledge.

ABM Membership Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we

do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations. We also engage to maintain family and private devotion; to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk exemplary and circumspectly in the world; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember to pray for each other; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover, engage that, when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can

carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

When we become a church member, we covenant with God and one another to be a part of that particular family—the local church.

**Church membership is unique.
It is a spiritual relationship designed by
God.**

The membership covenant means agreement that...

1. We work as a team in **unity** to advance, promote, and sustain the church.
Ephesians 4:16
...from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

2. We **give** cheerfully and regularly to support our church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

3. We engage in private and family **devotion**, and train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.
Deuteronomy 11:18-19
You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
Psalm 1:1-2
Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

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4. We are on **mission** with the church to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, and zealous to advance the kingdom of our Savior.
Great Commission **Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

5. We watch over, **pray** for, and aid each other in brotherly love.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

6. We cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, slow to take offense and always ready for **reconciliation**.

Ephesians 4:29-32

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Conviction: _____

Principle:

Lifestyle Application: _____

I would like to apply for Membership

Please complete applicable information.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Birth date _____

Date Baptized _____

Place Baptized _____

Current Church Membership

Marital Status _____

Name of Spouse _____

Names & Ages of Children

It is my desire and intention to walk with Jesus as Lord in my life.

Yes _____ No _____

I recognize the spiritual authority vested in the local church. If it is ever considered warranted by the

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church leadership, I will submit to the loving, biblical discipline of my church.

Yes _____ No _____

I have read the membership covenant, church constitution, and the Statement of Faith.

Yes _____ No _____

I agree with the Statement of Faith, without reservation.

Yes _____ No _____

(Please explain reservations, using a separate page.)

I will never knowingly teach or promote a doctrinal position different from that contained in the Statement of Faith.

Yes _____ No _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please share your story of when and how you put your faith in Jesus Christ.

Please share why you wish to become a member of African Baptist Ministries

My Gifts and Talents

I am passionate about serving God in this area

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Interviewing Pastor _____

Date Interviewed _____

Interviewing Elder _____

Date Interviewed _____

We Covenant With You

Date Received into Membership _____

Date Letter of Transfer received _____

Ready for the mission?



Mission X
X=Christ