

## Introduction:

Last Sunday we completed surveying all the sections of our doctrinal statement, both those sections we already have and those we have under consideration for addition to our statement.

Today you will receive a complete copy of the updated statement as suggested during these weeks.

We also are going to go over some legal matters the government required of us which prompted pastor Don to start thinking about this and finally to take us through this discussion.

There are good Bible reasons for following government direction in these matters. We will talk about that first, then go over the requirements the government put on us with the new Societies Act.

## I. Our relationship to government according to the Scriptures (1 Pt 2.13-17)

A. Christians are obligated to submit to the ordinances of men

1. Context shows that these ordinances are the decrees of human government
2. We are to submit to multiple levels of human government
  - a. To kings [equivalent to federal government] (13)
  - b. To governors [equivalent to provincial government] (14)
  - c. To their appointees, managers, administrators
3. Our submission is the will of God (15-16)
  - a. To eliminate the sneers of ignorant men
  - b. To exercise our service to God
4. Summation of responsibilities (17)

B. Christians are free from ordinances of men that transgress into God's realms of authority (Ac 4.19, 5.20)

## II. Survey of government requirements (Societies Act)

A. New provincial Societies Act came into effect Nov 28, 2016

1. Changes in the act required changes in non-compliant governing documents (Constitution and Bylaws)
  - a. Constitutions
    - 1) may only include Society's name and purpose
    - 2) our Constitution included a Dissolution clause, our Statement of Faith, and a clause with respect to amending the Statement of Faith
  - b. Bylaws
    - 1) Any portions moved out of the previous constitution must be included word for word in the new Bylaws
    - 2) Any clauses from the previous constitution marked as unalterable must be marked as "previously unalterable"
2. These changes (if only word for word from original) DID NOT require a society to hold a general meeting and vote on the changes
3. Following these instructions, we made the changes required by law without having a meeting or holding a vote

#### B. Guidelines for making any alterations from the original other than the word for word changes outlined above

1. Such changes before Nov 28, 2016 would require a 3/4 vote (previous Act)
2. Any changes after Nov 28, 2016 would only require a 2/3 vote (new Act)
3. Any changes we make to the wording of our Statement of Faith as discussed would require a general meeting and a 2/3 vote for approval (our preference would be to come to unanimity before taking any vote)

### III. Plan for further action going forward

#### A. First, as we went through the doctrinal statement, we found general agreement on most clauses

1. Pastor Don provided suggested alterations
2. Several amendments/clarifications suggested from the floor

3. These amendments are now reflected in the proposed document distributed today
- B. Second, on the matter of Doctrine of Last Things, it seemed that more discussion rose here than anywhere else
1. Pastor Don plans to turn next to a new study of Last Things for some weeks going forward
  2. Next week, we would like to hear any other comments you have on the complete proposed Statement of Faith in addition to the first lesson on Last Things
  3. After the teaching on Last Things is complete, we will discuss the complete proposed Statement of Faith again
  4. If we have a general consensus to move ahead, we will call for a general meeting at that time
- C. Last point! One other issue in the bylaws
1. We will give full details in a future meeting
  2. Briefly, we have a process by which people move out of membership for non-attendance (after 3 months, Inactive [non-voting], after additional 3 months, Removed from membership)
  3. We would like to add to the bylaws wording that will require a letter from the Pastor and Deacons when each step is taken, including wording explaining how membership can be reinstated
  4. Purpose: to just have a clear paper trail that confirms the status of any membership changes