

North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene

Messenger

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Nazarenes, Who Are We – Part IV

Continuing our look at the principles and creeds that define us as a denomination, this month we will take a look at the Covenant of Christian Character as set forth in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene. Each of the points also contains references to each scripture passage upon which the principle is based fully spelled out in the Manual. You can examine each one in full at: <http://2017.manual.nazarene.org/>

V. The Covenant of Christian Character

21. To be identified with the visible Church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. It is required of all who desire to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, and thus to walk in fellowship with us, that they shall show evidence of salvation from their sins by a godly walk and vital piety; and that they shall be, or earnestly desire to be, cleansed from all indwelling sin. They shall evidence their commitment to God—

21.1. FIRST. By doing that which is enjoined in the Word of God, which is our rule of both faith and practice, including:

- (1) Loving God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one's neighbor as oneself.
- (2) Pressing upon the attention of the unsaved the claims of the gospel, inviting them to the house of the Lord, and trying to compass their salvation.
- (3) Being courteous to all people.
- (4) Being helpful to those who are also of the faith, in love forbearing one another.
- (5) Seeking to do good to the bodies and souls of people; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and ministering to the needy, as opportunity and ability are given.
- (6) Contributing to the support of the ministry and the church and its work in tithes and offerings.
- (7) Attending faithfully all the ordinances of God, and the means of grace, including the public worship of God, the ministry of the Word; searching the Scriptures and meditating thereon; family and private devotions

21.2. SECOND. By avoiding evil of every kind, including:

- (1) Taking the name of God in vain.
- (2) Profaning of the Lord's Day by participation in unnecessary secular activities, thereby indulging in practices that deny its sanctity.
- (3) Sexual immorality, such as premarital, extramarital, or same-sex relations; perversion in any form or looseness and impropriety of conduct.
- (4) Habits or practices known to be destructive of physical and mental well-being. Christians are to regard themselves as temples of the Holy Spirit.
- (5) Quarreling, returning evil for evil, gossiping, slandering, spreading surmises injurious to the good names of others.
- (6) Dishonesty, taking advantage in buying and selling, bearing false witness, and like works of darkness.
- (7) The indulging of pride in dress or behavior. Our people are to dress with the Christian simplicity and modesty that become holiness.
- (8) Music, literature, and entertainments that dishonor God.

21.3. THIRD. By abiding in hearty fellowship with the church, not inveighing against but wholly committed to its doctrines and usages and actively involved in its continuing witness and outreach.

The focus and attention we have given to ensuring our congregation is informed and aware of the doctrines, principles and practices of the Nazarene denomination as set forth in our Manual has been for the purpose of helping give all of us a clearer understanding of what we believe and the principles by which we live and govern our lives and affairs. Each of the scripture references upon which each principle is based is fully spelled out in the Manual, but we did not include them here to save space. Because one of the tenets that most clearly defines Nazarenes is the doctrine of entire sanctification, living lives dedicated to holiness – loving GOD and loving people – means living holy – purposefully and intentionally. May our knowledge be more than just information.

August Events

- 3 – Teacher's First Day Back to School
Lee County
- 7 – Harry Chapin Food Distribution
- 9 – Church Board Meeting
- 10 – Students First Day Back to School
- 11 – Shelling Trip
- 26 – All Church Afterglow after PM Service

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 – Bettie Coolie
- 17 – Doug & Karen Haiflich
- 20 – Susie Lorenson
- 21 – Ronnie Kiser
- 24 – Janet Heath
- 27 – Pat Abrams
- 29 – Carol Goodrich
- 30 – Jerry & Martha Pickett

AUGUST

Prayer Needs:

Patrick Lindsey	Jerry Lee	Orion Predko	Janet VanSkiver
Laurel & Dorothy Chapman	Janice O'Lynn	Michael Romano	Ryan Woodby
Paul & Grace Boling	Matthew Morgan	Ida Chaplow	Ardyth Eldridge
George Smith	Phoebe Barr	Beth Kurland	Mark & Kim Barr
Sheryl Colie & Family	Joseph Groves	Eileen Massett	Louis Perez
Ernie Rybold	Regina Williams	Alice Daugherty	Phyllis Obney
Kenny & Gail Goodman	Bonnie Rose	Eileen Jennings	Vanessa Hinckley
Raymond Jungles	Annie Krapu	Ken Vandelinde	Cody Church
Steven Leo	Janice O'Lynn	Jeff Werling	Betty Retter
Sandy Reedy	Pearl Buchkoski	Jerry & Deane Werling	The Nation of Israel
Marlene Ryan	Kitty Baxter	Unsaved Loved Ones	Our Church Leaders
House of James Ministries	A Youth Pastor		
Our military, our leaders & our nation			



ALL-CHURCH AFTERGLOW

At the Parsonage
Sunday, August 26
After the PM Service
Sign up in the foyer

We are excited to be partnering with the Harry Chapin Food Bank to help feed the hungry and provide for the needy in North Fort Myers. We need volunteers to help with the distribution on Tuesday, August 7, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

VBS UPDATE: Our "Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus" themed vacation Bible school was a wonderful success this year, with 20 young people, including a class of 6 teenagers. Thank you to the 21 volunteers who decorated, taught, created and led in making crafts, registered children, prepared and served snacks, played, sang, loved, hugged, smiled and cheerfully provided a week filled with lots of Jesus and tons of fun. Please pray for the investments that were made and for each child and their families who were touched – until next year.

It's time for the school year to begin for the 2018-2019 term, and we want to encourage all our people to take an active role in praying for the schools, students, teachers, administrators and staff members of each and every one of our schools in Lee County. We encourage each of you to make an effort to pray daily for all of these and include the following prayers

Love:

"Father, may the students and staff members of our entire school district experience Your love through the Christians they know in profound and authentic ways. And may each of our schools be saturated with the love of Christ in and through every believer in Jesus." (John 13:35).

Truth:

"Lord, release truth in our school district. Help students to rightly discern truth and not believe or fall victim to false teachings." (Proverbs 23:23).

School board: "I pray the blessings of wisdom and holy discernment upon each Lee County school board member. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done in this district by the decisions they will make. I pray this for:

- Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan, District 7 (Chairman)
- Pamela H. LaRiviere , District 5 (Vice Chairman)
- Mary Fischer, District 1.
- Melisa W. Giovannelli, District 2.
- Chris N. Patricca, District 3.
- Steven K. Teuber, District 4.
- Jane E. Kuckel, PhD, District 6.

Father, may Your will be done at each and every school board meeting" (Romans 13:1).

Principals:

"May the principals of every Lee County school recognize the God-given responsibility he/she has for the best interests of the children who attend the school. May they walk in wisdom, integrity, grace, truth, and the will of GOD" (Proverbs 2:1-11).

Struggling students:

"Lord, I ask you to encourage those children who struggle with their studies this year. Strengthen their minds. Help their teachers and parents know how to help them learn. Protect them from feelings of worthlessness and shame, and encourage them through the truth of who they are in Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Violence:

"Lord, stay the hand of violence against the children and staff of this school district. Dismantle any plan to bring harm to them. Expose any weapon brought into the school premises and render it harmless" (Psalm 34:7; 54:1).

Christian programs:

"Father, I pray for abundant blessings on programs that bring Christ into this school district. Help the groups who sponsor such programs function according to your Word and in harmony with each other. Bless the leaders and bring forth new and growing believers among the students, administrators, teachers and staff of each and every school in Lee County" (1 Corinthians 12:12,13).

Christian students:

"Grant the Christian students who attend every school in Lee County wisdom and boldness for living out their faith. Help them share the Gospel of Jesus Christ effectively with their classmates" (1 Timothy 4:12).

A chosen generation:

"Father, may your kingdom come in the lives of each of the students in Lee County, and may You raise up a generation of people who worship you in spirit and in truth right here" (John 4:23,24; 1 Peter 2:9).

An open door:

"Lord, create open doors in each and every school in Lee County for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be shared with students and staff. Allow full advantage to be taken of every opportunity to name the name of Jesus in each and every school. And may You be honored, lifted up and glorified throughout the 2018-2019 school year" (Matthew 7:7; 1 Corinthians 16:9).

Life's Anchors

Hebrews 6:17-20 (NASB)

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

I have lived in SW Florida for over 9 years, and from the time I moved into the area I wanted a boat. God allowed me to own two boats and three motors. Because my boats were both used, I thought it wise to get "Sea Tow." (Basically, AAA for boats.) I was glad I did. There was more than one time my motor would not start and I had to be towed back to the dock.

One of the requirements of having Sea Tow was that any boat they assisted had to have an anchor. If they were going to come and get you, and your boat was disabled (dead in the water) they did not want you drifting around the Gulf of Mexico, making it difficult for you or your boat to be found.

Just like a boat needs an anchor to be able to stay put, we need an anchor in our lives to keep us where God wants us to be as we go through life's storms.

One thing common to everyone is the experience of going through storms in life. Whether these are literal weather events, personal trauma, or the turmoil caused by war and social unrest, we all face circumstances over which we have little control. Some storms are over quickly, whereas others seem unending. Some tempests cause little damage, but others leave great devastation in their wake.

• *Where do these storms come from?* At times, we bring them into our own life through choices we make, but other times they're caused by someone else's actions. It may even be that the devil has stirred up some adversity to distract or hinder us. And there are occasions when God's work in our life requires a storm to fulfill a special purpose.

• *Why does the Lord allow storms in our life?* Difficulties tend to turn our focus toward God. We either start questioning Him or go to Him for help and strength. He may want our attention because there's a sin we need to deal with. Or perhaps He wants us to let go of something we need to surrender to Him. It could be that He wants to conform us to His image (Rom. 8:29) or equip us to serve Him.

• *How do we respond to storms?* When we struggle against God because we don't like the hardship we're going through, that's an indication we don't trust Him. Instead of trusting that He is working good in our life, we may wrongly believe He's trying to hurt us. At such times knowing Scripture is crucial for the believer. His Word is the immovable anchor in our storm. We can trust the Bible because, like God, it never changes!

The Bible Comforts us. It tells us that our Father will give us peace and rest when we go through trouble and carry heavy burdens. Many of the psalms were written out of David's own experiences of receiving comfort and strength from God during storms in his life, and they are a great place to start.

The Bible Reminds us that God is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. Not only does the Lord know exactly where we are in our storm and what we're going through, but He's also with us in the middle of it. In fact, He has the ability to calm the storm, though He most often uses His power to bring us safely through it.

The Bible guides us. Psalm 119:105 says, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" The psalmist assures us that the Bible shines a light as we walk, enabling us to safely move forward, step-by-step, in the right direction.

We must remember it's not enough for a boat to simply *have* an anchor; in order to do any good, the anchor must be *utilized*. Similarly, it's not enough to own a Bible and know, in theory, that it is full of promises. God's Word can be effective in our life only if we read, meditate, believe, apply, and obey it. Then the anchor works every single time. We may be shaken—even a little beaten up at times—but we will ride out the storm and sail on! Blessings, Pastor Van

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