

THE CHURCH

I. The General Church

17. The Church of God is composed of all spiritually regenerate persons, whose names are written in heaven.

II. The Churches Severally

18. The churches severally are to be composed of such regenerate persons as by providential permission, and by the leadings of the Holy Spirit, become associated together for holy fellowship and ministries.

III. The Church of the Nazarene

19. The Church of the Nazarene is composed of those persons who have voluntarily associated themselves together according to the doctrines and polity of said church, and who seek holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

IV. Agreed Statement of Belief

20. Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to Christian experience. We, therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient. We believe:

20.1. In one God—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

20.2. That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

20.3. That human beings are born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil and that continually.

20.4. That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

20.5. That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

20.6. That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

20.7. That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

20.8. That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

God's Saving Plan

Praise be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the indescribable gift of salvation.

What we typically refer to as "salvation"

Human component:

Godly sorrow/repentance, acceptance, faith.

What God does for the seeker?

Justification :: what was wrong is "made right – justified."

Regeneration :: old becomes new, a new creation in Christ.

Adoption :: we are officially accepted into the family of God.

Initial sanctification :: God begins the process of purifying us.

What happens to the sin problem in our lives? : Our sins are forgiven; God begins his work of cleaning up our lives. Our hearts are quickened to the sin that still surrounds us.

What we typically refer to as "sanctification"

(It is most helpful to refer to this as *entire* sanctification so as not to confuse it with the initial sanctifying work of God.)

Human component:

Entire consecration: offering ourselves completely to God, surrender of our will and ambitions to the plans of God. Like Paul wrote to the Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

What God does for the seeker?

Cleanses the Heart from Sin: Purification.

His spirit indwells in our hearts fully.

He empowers the believer for service.

What happens to the sin problem in our life?

God cleanses the heart from sin, and purifies the heart working on the root of the problem of sin in our lives, conditions such as pride and selfishness and personal ambition are key targets for the deeper work of God.



For all *district licensed ministers seeking ordination*

becoming an ordained minister is recognition by the church of your gifts, graces, character, call, and service to the church. Ordination is a privilege, not a right. Ordination is granted to you, not demanded by you.

Call :: every person ordained to ministry through the administration of the Church of the Nazarene must publicly acknowledge that God himself has called them to this ministry. We affirm and believe in this idea that God calls some of his people to specific equipping roles within His church. While this call is personal it cannot remain private. In the fellowship of the church it can be cultivated, and celebrated.

Character :: every person ordained to ministry through the administration of the Church of the Nazarene must demonstrate the character of Christ in their lives, including, but not limited to, being a woman/man of integrity, punctual, honest, and increasingly formed in the image of Christ.

Continuity :: every person ordained to ministry through the administration of the Church of the Nazarene will have completed a minimum number of years of pastoral or staff ministry in a mentoring, apprentice, learning and growing role. The specific minimum number of years is listed in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene. The district boards are free to extend this time as needed.

Competencies :: every person ordained to ministry through the administration of the Church of the Nazarene will show evidence of competencies as outlined through the Course of Studies for ministers. The objective of the studies is to increase competencies for ministry. The course work and design has been arrived at through careful prayer and study by veteran educators and leaders in the church.

Clarity :: every person ordained to ministry through the administration of the Church of the Nazarene will show evidence of clarity in their theological understanding of the doctrines of the church, especially the Apostles Creed, the Sixteen Articles of Faith and the Agreed Statement of Belief (see Manual 2013-2017 from the Preamble through paragraph 20.8).