

# 34 Maxims for Faithful Christian Ministry

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## God

1. God alone is self-existent and sovereign over all of His creation; He is worthy of worship, praise and service.
2. God's glory is both the purpose and motivation for everything we do.
3. God's Word, the Bible, is the authority and sufficiency for our faith and practice, trumping all religions, man-made traditions, modern philosophies, bylaws, and personalities when these are in contradiction to it.
4. God's purposes (magnification, missions, membership, ministry, and maturity) should drive the church.

## Missions

5. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local, regional, national, and global mission center.
6. We will follow Acts 1:8 in our mission strategy; we will faithfully go and give.
7. Each group among the church will minister to the outside community in an intentional, ongoing, strategic way.
8. We will be kingdom-centered not church-centered.
9. Our evangelism efforts will be more incarnational rather than attractional.

## Worship & Music

10. We will focus on the essence of worship (in spirit and truth) more than the form.
11. We will increase the use of multiple instruments, people, and media in worshipping God.
12. There's nothing wrong with loosing gifted musicians to play for Jesus!
13. We will seek to avoid the idolatrous trap of desiring certain types of songs, old or new, more than worshipping our great God.
14. Genuine celebration, sincere expression (e.g., kneeling, raising hands, clapping, etc.) and heart-felt adoration of God are healthy marks of authentic worship among gathered believers. These traits will be encouraged.

## Membership

15. Membership is meaningful, regular attendance and participation is expected.
16. We will focus on *being* the church rather than *doing* church. (Essence precedes action, belief before behavior).
17. Every member should pursue maturity in their walk with Jesus.
18. All members are missionaries and ministers to their world and culture.
19. Love and unity among believers is priority in the heart of God and therefore, in ours.
20. We will follow the Lord's instructions regarding restoring relationship and issues of sin (Matt. 18).
21. Conduct permitted is actually conduct taught; we will not bury our collective head when there is an erring lamb, or when a ravaging wolf stalks the flock.
22. Baptism by immersion identifies a believer with the Lord Jesus Christ, and a local church should be made up of baptized believers.
23. The Lord's Supper commemorates the death of our Lord, and compels us to examine our obedience to Jesus as Lord; we will observe it at least once a month.
24. The two offices of a New Testament church are elders/pastors and deacons.
25. We will regularly inspect what we expect in all endeavors by using the 3 W's (What went well? What went wrong? What needs to change?). These help to establish alignment, effectiveness, and encouragement.
26. We will focus on developing people more than programs.
27. We will use our facilities to bless the community.
28. We will speak the truth in love.

## Leadership & Decision Making

29. A Christian leader leads by service, example, and by giving direction.
30. Leaders will prayerfully seek the mind of Christ on every issue they consider beginning with His Word.
31. Unanimity through consensus is the goal in the decision-making process among leaders before an issue is brought before the gathered church to consider.
32. The corporate decision of the gathered church under the Lord Jesus Christ is the final authority concerning any matter brought by the leadership.

## All Things Considered

33. The Lord Jesus Christ, His gospel and Word, are worthy of our deaths.
34. The Lord Jesus Christ, His gospel and Word, are worthy of our lives.