

sometimes stated through moral and social standards, to behave in certain ways which identify us as Christians and protect the integrity of Christ's church. These choices will vary from culture to culture, and may involve participating or not participating in certain activities. While we resist legalistic rules, we value a lifestyle which clearly honors Christ in the eyes of others, both Christians and nonChristians.

We Protect the Family

God instituted the family as our main social unit, and it is within the family that children are to be created, nurtured, and trained. Families come in many forms, but all need to be regulated by God's Word. A husband and wife must remain faithful and loving to each other, and faithful and loving to the children God has entrusted to them.



We realize we must constantly resist the forces attempting to undermine the strength and integrity of marriages and families, and the design outlined for them in God's Word: a married husband and wife, and any children they might have.

We Esteem Each Other

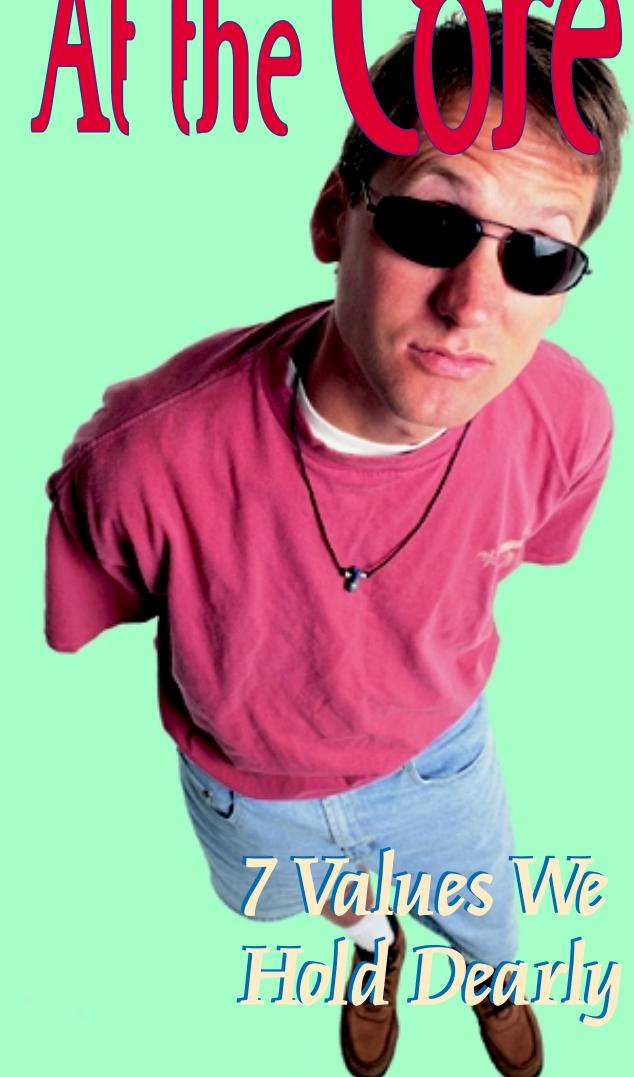
We are a connectional church. As United Brethren people across the world, we recognize that what happens in any of our churches matters to each of us. We are concerned about the welfare of sister churches not only in the next town, but in other countries. We help each other, we learn from each other, we respect each other, and we cooperate with each other to accomplish more for Christ than we could by ourselves.

In the same vein, we value "the counsel of the brethren," meaning the collective wisdom and advice of our fellow believers. While individuals may not agree with the decision of a committee, commission or conference, or with a stand taken by the conference or denomination, unity demands that we respect that corporate view as the counsel of the brethren and follow it. We believe in holding each other accountable to the standards set corporately.

We Link with the Larger Church

We value connections with Christians outside of the United Brethren family. We are not separatist in mentality or practice. Rather, we intentionally develop connections with other Christian denominations and groups which are similar in purpose and spirit, so that we can more broadly advance the work of the Great Commission and impact our world.

What are We Like At the Core



7 Values We Hold Dearly

What is the United Brethren church really like? Deep down?

We have seven core values which describe the church's general attitude toward lots of things over the years. Here they are.

We Adhere to the Confession of Faith

The United Brethren Confession of Faith, adopted in 1815, states the core doctrinal beliefs which all of our churches and members must follow. On many issues, people of equal Christian commitment and insight may interpret the Bible differently. We allow room for that. But when it comes to the simple statements contained in the Confession of Faith—on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Bible, salvation, and the ordinances—we do not allow diversity. As such, it is our denomination's key unifying document, our line in the sand which must not be crossed.

We Respect Unity Amidst Diversity

The United Brethren church began with two very



different men, Martin Boehm and William Otterbein, who realized that on the essentials of the faith, they were alike—that they were brothers in Christ. They differed in church background, in temperament, in stature, and in the finer points of theology. But when it came to the core of what it means to be a Christian, they found unity.

This spirit has characterized the United Brethren church over the years. We allow diversity when it comes to worship style, Bible versions, military service, social and political action, church programs, methods of baptism, end times scenarios, and other issues, as long as the positions taken don't clearly conflict with the Bible or our Confession of Faith.

In the same way, we let churches organize in the way they think best fits their vision, needs, and culture. We don't want our mission to be hindered by man-made structures. We also realize that a persecuted, underground United Brethren church will look much different from a UB church in a free society, and that various cultural issues will cause further diversity. Our

Confession of Faith

GOD We believe in the only true God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. These three are one. This God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, visible and invisible. He sustains, governs, and protects it all.

JESUS We believe in Jesus Christ. He is both God and man. Jesus became human by the power of the Holy Ghost, and was born to the Virgin Mary. He is the Savior and Mediator of the whole human race, if they with full faith in Him accept the grace offered through Jesus. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, was buried, arose on the third day, ascended into heaven, and now sits on the right hand of God interceding for us. Someday he'll come again to judge everyone, living and dead.

HOLY SPIRIT We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is equal in being with the Father and the Son. He comforts the faithful and guides them into all truth.

We believe in a holy Christian church, the

mission is more important than methods.

Yet amidst this diversity, we expect unity. We stand firm on biblical absolutes, allow freedom where the Bible allows freedom, and try to maintain unity when disagreements arise.

We Seek the Lost

We began as a movement of people with a passion to reach lost people. They were willing to do whatever would bring people to Christ. As people accept Christ as Savior, we then lead them further down the road of discipleship, which includes baptism, training in righteousness, and holy living.

We believe in a conversion which results in a transformed life. This goes beyond head knowledge, beyond church attendance, beyond religious practices. Christ's presence in a Christian's life is revealed by a lifestyle of faithfulness and obedience to God.

We Preserve Our Christian Witness

We believe that our lifestyles need to reflect God to other people. For that reason, we will make choices,

CHURCH

fellowship of Christians, the resurrection of the body, and eternal life.

BIBLE

We believe that the Bible, Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God. It teaches the only true way to have eternal life. Every Christian must acknowledge and receive the Bible as the only rule and guide. Without faith in Jesus Christ, true repentance, forgiveness of sins, and following after Christ, no one can be a true Christian.

SALVATION

We believe that what is contained in the Bible—Adam's fall into sin and the redemption offered in Jesus Christ—must be preached throughout the world.

ORDINANCES

We believe that the ordinances—baptism and the Lord's Supper—are to be practiced by all Christians. However, the method should always be left to the judgment and understanding of the individual. Also, whether or not to practice foot-washing should be left to the individual's judgment. Our ministers and members are to honor the judgment and understanding of fellow members whose judgment and understanding differs from their own.