

# Sherman Bible Chapel Vision Statement

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## GOALS AND PURPOSE OF OUR INDEPENDENT, FUNDAMENTAL, BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCH

1. To guide each individual to put his full faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and to love Him with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength (Romans 10:9)
2. To build Christ's character in individuals, in marriages, and in families, so that they will be above reproach and an advertisement for the Christian faith (Colossians 1:28, 29).
3. To teach every man how to delight in and meet the needs of his wife, with the same sort of love that Christ gave to the church when He sacrificed Himself for her (Ephesians 5:25).
4. To teach every wife how to love her husband and children, how to be discreet and pure in mind, how to manage her own home, and how to adapt to her husband; so that those who know her cannot speak against the Christian faith (Titus 2:4, 5).
5. To turn the heart of every father toward his sons and daughters, in order to teach them Scriptural principles on how to be successful persons, partners, and parents (Malachi 4:6).
6. To demonstrate our love for the Lord and our loyalty to each other by giving only a good report of each other, unless we follow Matthew 18 in the spirit of restoring rather than exposing (Galatians 6:1).
7. To explain and apply God's principles of finances in the church and in each family, so that God can provide specific direction and illustrate His supernatural power (Malachi 3:10; Luke 16:11, 12).
8. To motivate woman to a life of godliness and faithfulness, by providing meaningful ministries and financial assistance for them when they are older and without a husband or relatives who can support them (1 Timothy 5).
9. To help each Christian discover his or her spiritual gift and assist him or her to exercise this gift in expressing God's love to the members of the body of Christ ( 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4).
10. To train Christians to edify one another and strengthen the church by sharing with each other what God is doing in their lives. (Ephesians 5:19).

*Note: This document was drafted at the kitchen table of Joe and Christel Axtell in March 1981 with open Bibles and prayerful hearts as we sought to follow the Lord's direction for our church planting ministry. At that time, we proposed to name the church 'Calvary Bible Church'. Once we began the church in our home on April 12, 1981 with 11 members, we adapted the proposed name. When we moved to Sherman, Pennsylvania in October 1983 to lead and join the small group of believers at Sherman Mission Chapel, we had the name changed to Sherman Bible Chapel to reflect our purpose to be firmly planted on God's Word. After outgrowing the building even with two services, we moved our congregation to Deposit and leased the First Presbyterian Church on April 10, 2011. Pastor Joe Axtell entered Heaven's Gate to meet the One whom he served his entire life on October 29, 2012.*