

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

1. Update Language

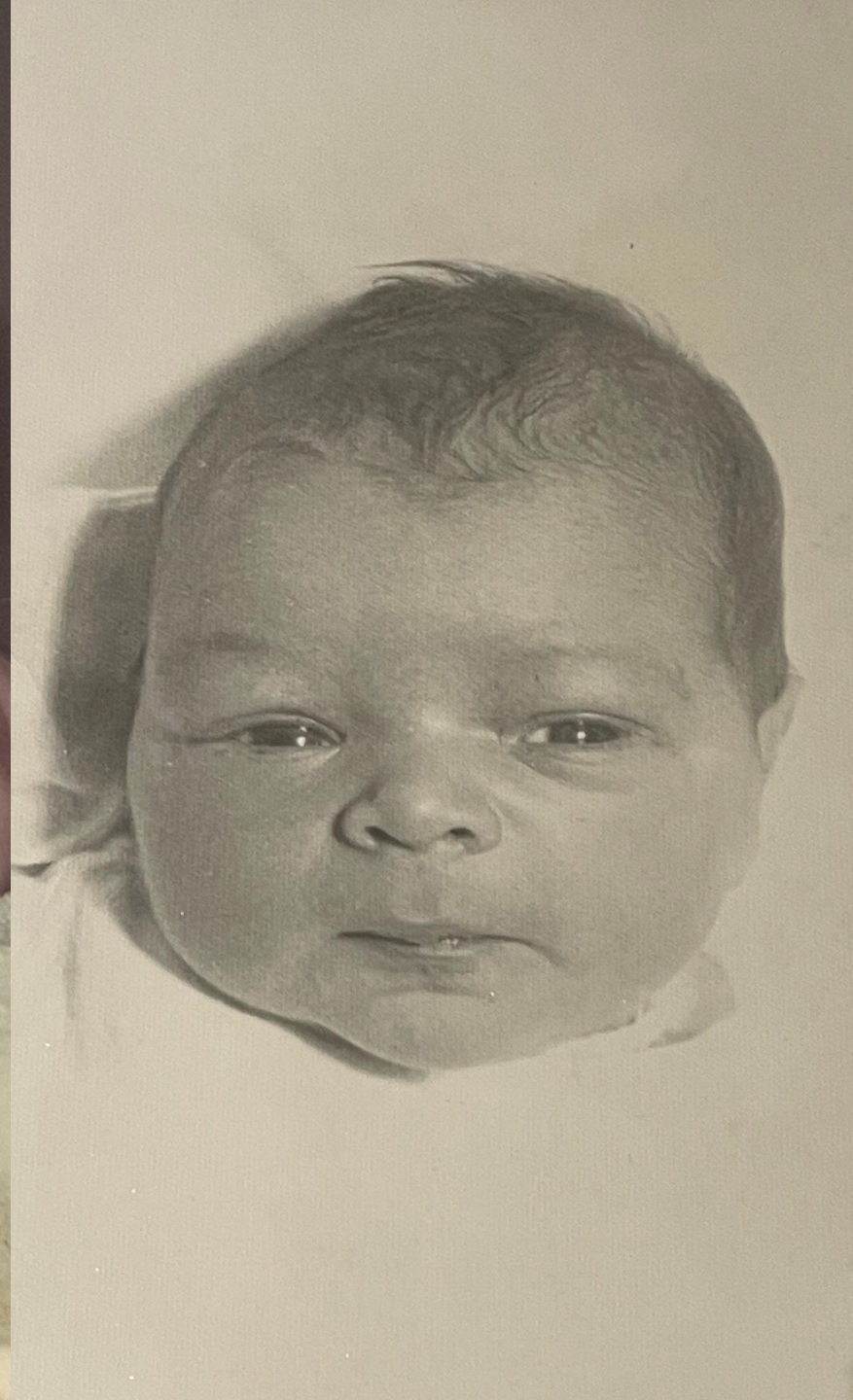
- Our Vision and Mission
- Titles
- Correct Typos
- Converge

2. Revised Procedures

- Non-Resident Membership
- Membership Lists
- Nominating Committees
- Hiring Responsibilities

3. Believer's Baptism as a Membership Requirement

Infant
Baptism
(sacrament)
1964





A FIRST COMMUNION
KEEPSAKE
For a Fine Boy

A PRAYER
BEFORE RECEIVING
COMMUNION

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that Thou art truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. I believe that in Holy Communion I shall receive Thy sacred body and Thy precious blood. My faith in Thy real presence in the Holy Eucharist is firmly founded on Thy word, O eternal Truth. My Saviour and my God, with the angels who surround Thy altar-throne, I bow down in humble adoration before Thy majesty.

For the First Communion of
Andre Riendeau
Date *June 9th 1973*
Church *St. James Rocky Hill*
Mass celebrated by *Fathers Shea & Carlos*

First Communion 1973



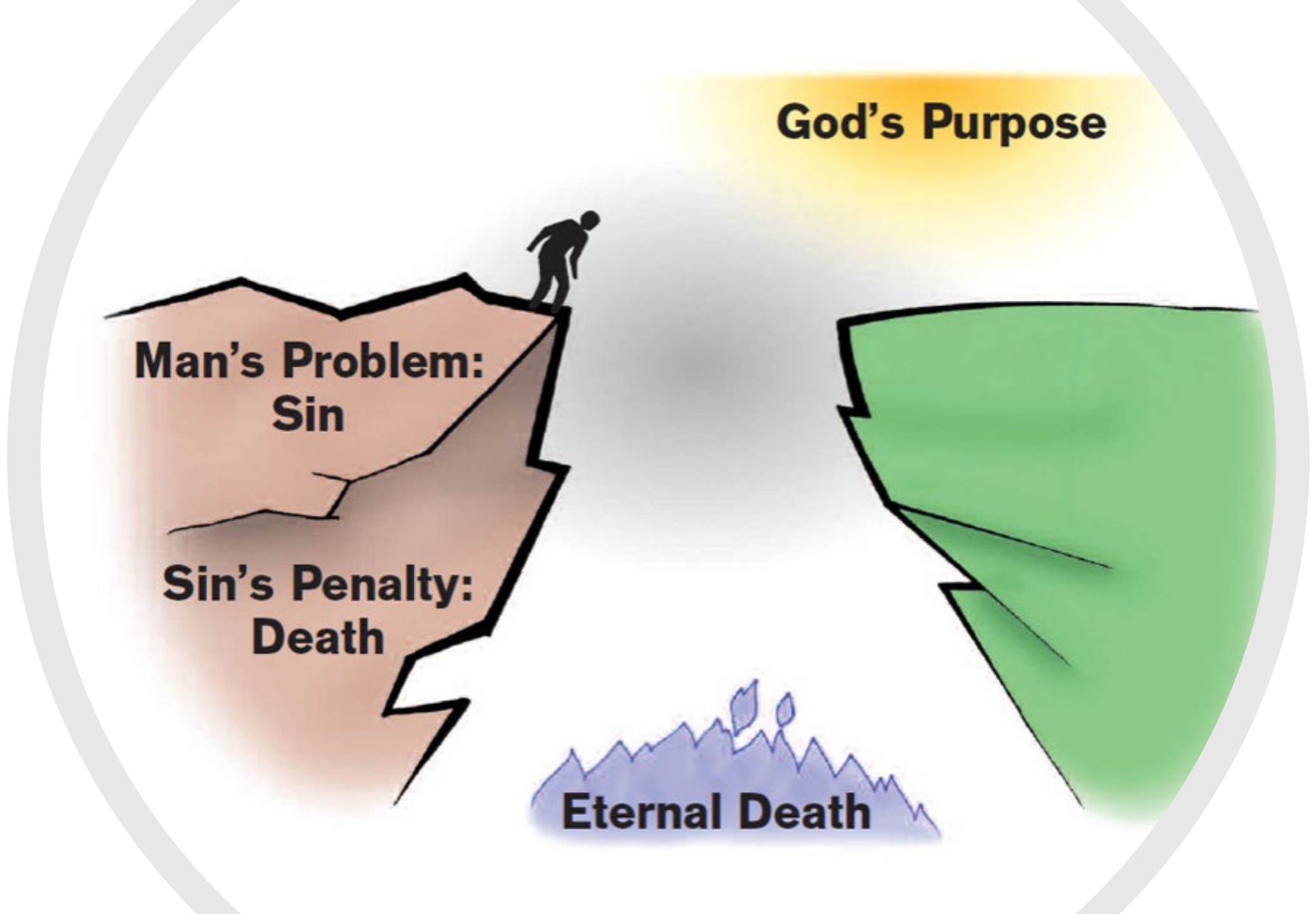
Confirmation - 1978

God's Purpose

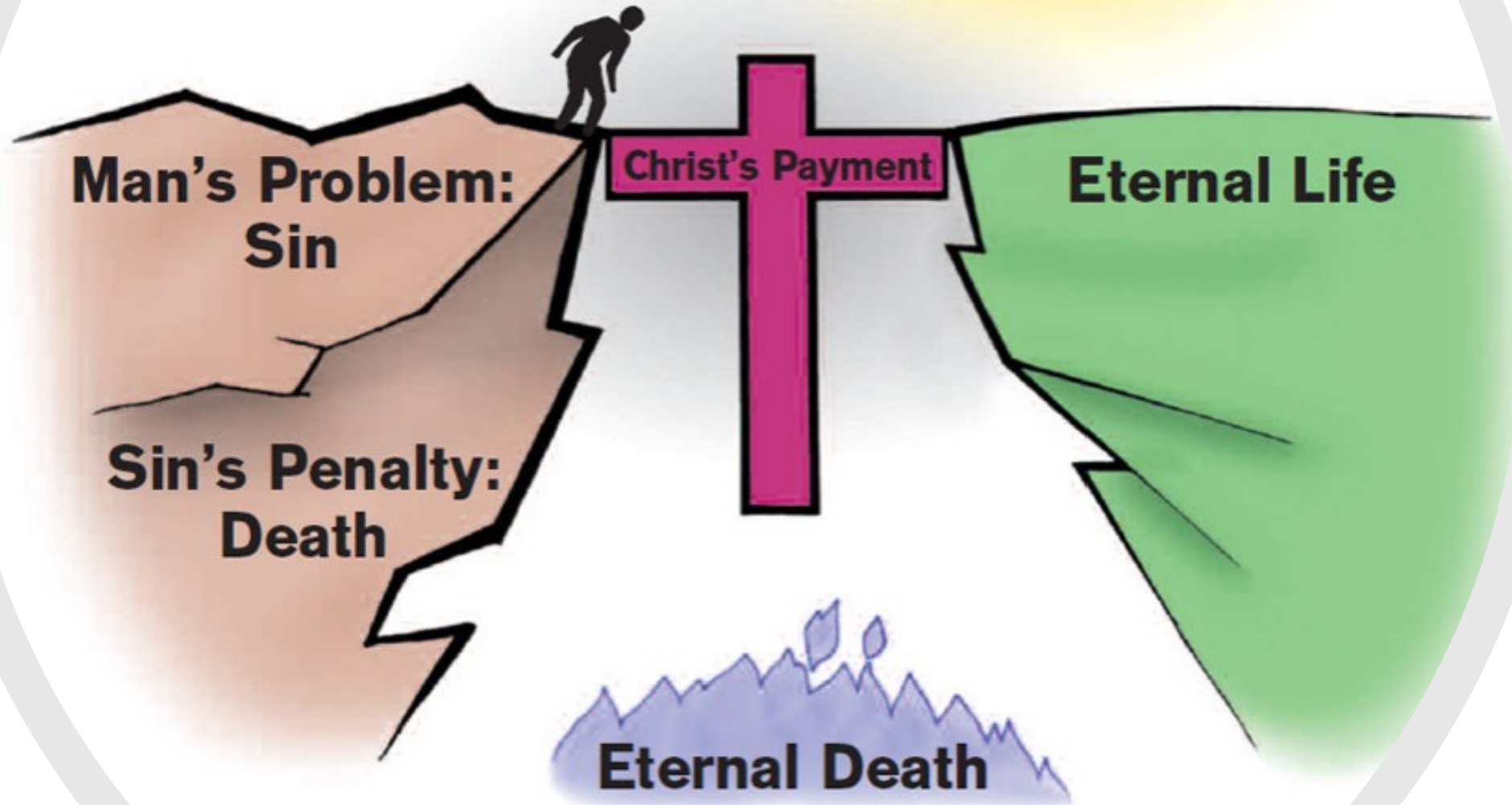
**Man's Problem:
Sin**

**Sin's Penalty:
Death**

Eternal Death



God's Purpose



Faith Conversion
1982



Baptism Commanded

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

1. Baptism Identifies Us With Jesus

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-27

1. Baptism Identifies Us With Jesus

2. Baptism Follows Faith in Christ

“But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

Acts 8:12

- 1. Baptism Identifies Us With Jesus**
- 2. Baptism Follows Faith in Christ**
- 3. Baptism Involves Full Immersion, is Public and Corporate**

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.”

Matthew 3:16



Believer's Baptism
(ordinance)
1983



Membership
1989

Constitution Membership Definition

“The Board of Elders is responsible for the interviewing of each candidate for membership in this church to ascertain that he or she meets the following qualifications: (1) profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, (2) spiritual lifestyle, (3) acceptance of the statement of faith, the practices, and the objectives of this church, and (4) baptism as a believer.”

The Proposed Solution

“The local church, it seems to us, should have a front door about as wide as the door Christ has built for his own invisible church. As Paul says in Romans 15:7, “Receive one another as Christ has received you, for the glory of God.”

John Piper, “Should We Require Agreement of All Members on the Doctrine and Practice of Baptism?”

Suggested Membership Exception

“However, our aim is not to elevate beliefs and practices that are non-essential to the level of prerequisites for church membership. This implies that Christians who have not been baptized by immersion as believers, but, as they believe, by some other method or as infants, may under some circumstances be members of this church. We will welcome into membership candidates who, after a time of study, discussion, and prayer, prescribed by the Elders, retain a conviction that it would be a violation of their conscience to be baptized by immersion as believers...

Suggested Membership Exception

“...This conviction of conscience must be based on a plausible, intelligible, Scripturally-based argument rather than on mere adherence to a tradition or family expectations. The elders will make all such judgments in presenting candidates for membership to the congregation. We will not admit into membership persons who refuse to practice any form of baptismal ritual, or who believe that their water baptism caused their regeneration.”

ELDERS



Ben Lavine



André Riendeau



David Blough



Matt Allen



Bob Blomberg



Bill Franks



Steve Okon



Chris O'Neil



Kyle Van Etten

The Ainsworth's Arrive - July 1972



APPRECIATION

“Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness.”

Hebrews 13:7 (The Message)