

A Sacred Community



The Holiness of the Bride

Kodesh Kallah

We would like to invite you to join our sacred community. In it we pledge to live according to the standards which God gave us in His Word and the common sense practices that pious people have always used to uphold them. We have started this community amongst ourselves and welcome others to join us formally. We started simply to live as God instructed us, and to live in contrast to the enormously collapsed standards of the modern Church. We are also reform-minded, and a part of our sacred community and work is to restore the Body of Messiah itself and **restore godly institutions** around us.

You do not have to leave your current congregation to be a part of this sacred community. Believers have founded **religious orders** for centuries, and often they were simply a sub-community within the larger community. Some of the oldest religious orders were founded for similar reasons as we found ours – because of the **worldliness and corruption** obvious in the Church. Faithful men became disgusted by this corruption and said – let's lead holier lives ourselves and let's do it in unison. No cleric is going to do it for us.



You MIGHT be interested in a sacred community IF:

If...You realize that the Body of Messiah is itself a sacred community

If...You see that the modern Kahol (Church) is failing at being a godly example, and often is not even trying

If...You recognize need for massive restoration in the Kahol

If...You are committed to holiness

If...You sincerely desire God to use you in every way to serve Him

If...You are sick of communities which ignore biblical gender roles

If...You know that “till death do us part” means just that

If...You believe in the community having standards and discipline, as opposed to the current philosophy of anarchy prevalent in the Kahol

If...You think ordinary brothers like you and me can by grace do a better job than some of these people calling themselves pastors

If...You understand that Believers have made their future generations disappear godlessly through contraception and abortion

If...You want to glorify Yeshua

If...You're pretty sure 1 John 5:2-3 was not a slip of the pen

If...You realize that Matthew 23:15 easily applies to the modern Kahol

If...You want to change the world

If...Once again, you realize we are ALL called to be a sacred community



As a Sacred Community We Vow

- 1) Commitment to covenant marriage until death
- 2) Commitment to biblical gender roles and gender distinctions
- 3) Complete rejection of anti-fertility drugs and devices
- 4) Holy modesty according to a set standard
- 5) To constantly encourage these reforms in the church
- 6) To constantly encourage godly standards in local businesses, especially Christian ones
- 7) To live by set standards of a faithful life in prayer, Torah (Bible) study and service to God
- 8) To keep as a group an unending vigil for life against legalized child killing through abortion
- 9) To work to found institutions, businesses, media based on set biblical standards
- 10) To live with a heavy filter on the secular media and all the outlets it uses to spread its worldview
- 11) Dedication to a Bible-based education
- 12) A restoration of the Real Presence in the Protestant/Evangelical world

If you desire to live with these **principles and practices** in your lifestyle, please contact us. We would love to have your **solidarity in this work**. If you are unsure, you can try them for a limited period of time and then decide if you wish to continue. If you are more certain and committed to these principles, you can vow for life. Obviously, if the community grows beyond a handful of people, it will also require some amount of regulation, which we will simply work out in time, either regulating centrally or locally as the case may be.

If there are several principles and practices above you have questions about or are skeptical of, feel free to **write me** here, and I will do my best to answer them. We also offer the possibility to become a **Friend** (9-11 commitments) or **Ally** (6-8 commitments) instead of a Full Member if you truly cannot commit yourself to all the guidelines. I encourage you to do some reading, meditation and prayer on the above, although quite

possibly you already have. You will find some of the above points further qualified below in the Appendix.

If you are NOT interested in seeking holiness through this sacred community, I imagine it is for one of two reasons. Either 1) You say to yourself, I am committed to holiness in my life and the Church anyway, and I don't think I need this group to do it or 2) You say to yourself, I'm fine with the Church continuing in a worldly lifestyle, and besides setting standards for us is demonic, just like the Bible says it is. Well, I certainly hope if you don't want to join us, that you have chosen option number one: that you are already committed and just don't need this organization to help you. If you have rejected our offer because of reason number two, I am truly very sorry, but that is a part of the problem in the Kahol. I can only ask you to **pick up scripture again**, and read the many passages that encourage us to godly and holy living, as well as the many passages that instruct **standards and discipline** in the church. To reject standards as un-Christian is as anti-scriptural as one can get. Please consider that you are in disobedience to God.

I imagine a certain number of readers will be somewhere in the middle, which is exactly why I have encouraged you above to study, meditate and pray intently on what I am proposing. On each and every point. If you want any clarification feel free to write me. In the end, if there are really one or two things you're just not sure of, I would encourage you to try it out anyway, because of the awesome blessing of us acting together as a community, as opposed to mere individuals. The choice of course is yours.



Appendix

1) Many believers and pastors will still give lip service to the life-long nature of marriage. Many will also acknowledge that it is a covenant. However, they are typically speaking out of both sides of their mouth if they say marriage is for life, as they believe in a string of reasons that divorce and remarriage is acceptable. In contrast, we are committed to true life-long marriage just as the New Testament instructs, and just as God planned from the beginning. The New Testament repeatedly calls remarriage adultery. It furthermore instructs that if spouses really must be separated, that they either remain celibate or reunite. We respect these teachings. We regard remarriage as sin, and sin which is on par with adultery. So to clarify for you, when I say we are committed to marriage for life, it means just that. What God has joined together, man cannot separate.

2) Biblical gender roles means the gender roles given in scripture; that is the man's headship and the woman's obedience in marriage, the man's leading and teaching roles in the congregation, the woman's role as homemaker and primary caretaker for the children. We also include several traditional distinctions, such as setting aside heavier and more dangerous work for men, and encouraging boys and girls towards generally more masculine and feminine activities. Gender distinctions include clothing distinctions in scripture, and we also include traditional hair distinctions. Men should look like men and women like women.

3) Yes, this is a complete rejection of contraception. You will find an overview of this on the Contraception section of our website www.kodeshkallah.com. In brief, contraception has been considered intrinsically immoral from the earliest times of the Kahol (Church) and it is only very recently that modern believers have thrown off the prohibition against it. Contraception rejects biblical principle, is in conflict with natural law, is in conflict with the love of our Savior and has released terrible societal ills since its popularization and legalization. We reject it entirely. We do believe that Natural Family Planning is an ethical alternative, but the goal for us, unless we have a life of complete devotion to Mashiach, should be a large family.

4) Holy modesty will involve a set standard, brothers. While I won't go into great detail here, the basic standard we use is approximately the same as pious people who sought holiness throughout history. It includes covering the body, and particularly for women, not wearing anything tight or thin. We cover up from neck to ankle and find it no great task to do so.

In the end, it may be more convenient to simply come up with a uniform, than try to go to ordinary secular shops and pick out clothes which will uphold modesty. We find most of our clothes for women at shops for traditional Mennonites and Muslims. As a man it's much easier for me to find modest clothes at secular shops, but I may switch to something more traditional eventually if it's more convenient or appropriate.

7) A set amount of time for prayer, Torah (Bible) study and service will function as a certain minimum standard. It will not be extremely rigorous. Members who feel a greater sense of devotion can commit to a higher standard. Service includes everything from evangelization to activism to cleaning up after worship.

9) Many people would like to see more Christian values in business and media. However one of the practices we are asking Christian businesses to do is one which will likely get them sued. We are asking that they put in writing a rejection of selling immoral and lewd products, a rejection of supporting intrinsically immoral behavior through their business, and discipline for any employee who advertises immoral behavior. Since this likely crosses over into penalizing popular and state-supported vices, it will likely result in a lawsuit. So yes, we are inviting you into the jaws of the lion. Yes we are brothers. But you and I know who the Lion really is.

10) One could go into great detail on how to put a filter on the media and it's constant flow of materialism and lewdness, along with its nearly unmatched ability to compulsively waste our time. For now, I recommend getting rid of the TV (who needs it anyway) and using good filters on computers or other electronic devices. I use K-9 Web Protection, but I'm sure there are other good ones too. If you cannot control your

impulses with your electronics, either give the filter's password to someone else, or if possible, separate yourself from the device at least for a while. We should not allow an uncontrolled influx of media into our homes.

11) At this point in time, I do not see how it is ethical to provide the children of believers an education beyond a Bible-based homeschooling course or attendance at the usually small, Bible-believing Christian academies. True, attendance at other schools will not result in immediate death, but as a risk factor it is too dangerous, and in principle appears flawed. Why on earth pay atheists and pseudo-Christians who deny a transcendent good to train up your children? Why do such a thing? I mean, gee wiz! Therefore a part of our commitment to the Holiness of the Bride is providing a Bible-based education, taught by believers. My own wife homeschools our children and the religious aspect of education is the main reason we do that.

12) The Real Presence is the doctrine (and the reality) that the Savior's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of Communion. I go over this and provide articles on it in the See God section of our website www.kodeshkallah.com. In short, the Real Presence is true according to the words of Yeshua Himself, as they are read naturally in context. Yeshua Himself even defends the Real Presence several times in John 6 against those who find the idea revolting. He NEVER explains otherwise to His disciples.

The Real Presence was also the reality accepted by the early Christians from the earliest documented sources and was nearly universally accepted from then on until the Protestant Zwingli became the first to flatly deny it, and claim that Yeshua spoke merely symbolically. I will take Yeshua's words over Zwingli's any day of the week. We also ask others to help restore the divine body and blood in Communion in the bulk of the Protestant and Evangelical world where it has been rejected. Providing the divine Body is a central role of the Church (Body) itself. Let us tell the Bride of Messiah the truth.



Thomas Ackerman

kodeshkallah@yahoo.com

All pictures from ZhaoQing, China