

Fellowship Resolution of the Monroe, LA Unamended Christadelphian Ecclesia

The Monroe, LA Christadelphian Ecclesia was founded, and continues on the basis of the principles expressed in the Birmingham Unamended Statement of Faith (BUSF). Therefore, all members of the ecclesia are expected to uphold the principles outlined therein, together with the Doctrines to be Rejected and the Commandments of Christ appended thereto.

We firmly reject any interpretations of prophecy that differ from the continuous historical method of interpretation on which our hope is founded.

The wording of the Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith (BASF) used by the Amended Christadelphians, is worded different from the BUSF only in one aspect, Proposition #24, which **requires** their members to believe:

“At the return of Christ, certain individuals who know God’s revealed will and have been called upon to obey it, yet refuse to accept baptism into Christ, will be brought before the Lord’s judgment seat (bema), even being raised from the dead, only to be condemned.”

This one difference in the BUSF and BASF has caused serious differences in unamended and amended understanding of essential and fundamental doctrinal beliefs in development of and adherence to historical unamended thinking in these areas.

The following eight (8) statements are not in the BASF, but they have been cited in many amended publications to support beliefs required in amended understanding and application of the BASF Proposition #24. The Monroe, LA Ecclesia rejects these eight (8) statements:

1. *That Adamic Condemnation is limited to mortality and proneness to sin. Therefore, it is lifted only after one receives immortality.*
2. *That an individual does not come “out of Adam” when he is baptized “into Christ”. He remains “in Adam” until he is immortalized.*
3. *That resurrection to judgement is not related to covenant making, but is automatic for one who arrives at a certain (but undefinable) level of knowledge of God’s plan of salvation and has been called on to accept it.*
4. *That we are baptized to obtain forgiveness of personal sins only, not for justification from Adamic Condemnation.*
5. *That we are alienated from God only by our personal sins, not by the nature we bear.*
6. *That the “enlightened rejector”, whether living or having been raised from the dead, **is certain** to appear at the judgement seat of Christ only to receive condemnation.*
7. *That the Lord Jesus was never in the same “alienated” state into which we are born; therefore, he did not have to atone for his nature. Since he had no personal sins, if it were not for his role as our savior, he would not have had to die.*

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8. *That “sinful flesh” or “sin in the flesh” is not literal but is a metonym standing only for the sins we commit as a result of our nature. That there is only one aspect of sin and that is sin actually committed.*

We understand that there may be individuals within the amended community that do not believe or express their beliefs in the precise wording as outlined above, but we believe this to be a fair representation of the doctrines of the majority of the amended community, based on what has been set forth in their official publications (i.e. *THE CHRISTADELPHIAN* magazine, and *THE CHRISTADELPHIAN TIDINGS* magazine, *LOGOS* magazine, etc.)

Except for clause #24 of the BASF, which deals with who will appear at the judgement seat of Christ, the BASF and BUSF contain the same statements and the same scriptural references as proofs. The amended interpret these scriptures differently from unamended in order to support their beliefs that are inconsistent and incompatible with our understanding. For this reason, we reject the BASF as an acceptable basis of true fellowship.

We believe that true fellowship (oneness of belief on the first principles of doctrine as revealed in scripture and detailed in the BUSF) does not exist between the two communities. Therefore, it is unthinkable that we should join with them around the memorial table in an outward declaration of agreement. The Monroe, LA Ecclesia (and the unamended community as a whole) has generally had no problem accepting around the memorial table a former amended who desires to join our community if examination of their beliefs shows them to be sound on the points that have historically divided us. A belief that God can and will, through exercise of His sovereign right as creator, bring to judgement (on some other basis than that which brings forth the covenanted) any individual that His sense of justice deems appropriate, will not stand in the way of fellowship providing the individual does not insist on pushing his belief on others and attempt to make it a first principle.

The Monroe, LA Ecclesia will deny the memorial emblems to active members of any BASF ecclesia (those who expect to remain as members of that community) and to those individuals who have left our fellowship to become members of the BASF community. The Monroe, LA Ecclesia will also deny the emblems to any person who attempts to move back and forth between the two communities, or whose ecclesia meets on the basis of BOTH the BASF and BUSF and/or a “bridging document”, such as the North American Statement of Understanding (NASU) that does not endorse the Birmingham Unamended Statement of Faith as the exclusive basis of fellowship.

Because of developments that have impacted our ecclesia, we feel that we have not fully addressed the issue of “open” or “mixed” fellowship. We know that true fellowship with God and our brothers and sisters and with the Lord Jesus Christ does not involve technical issues nor vain deceit, but oneness of mind in all things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:1-3) The meaning of the word *fellowship* in both the old and new Testaments is strictly and directly related to common beliefs, community, association, oneness of mind.

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Some within the unamended community have not tied this “oneness of mind” to the memorial table as a test of fellowship.

If two believers are striving to worship Deity with a mindful recognition and understanding of the same principles of faith, they may be said to be in fellowship with each other. They assent to the same things regarding Deity's mind as revealed in his Word. The understanding of the Word binds them together in a common belief. They are not separated by diverse opinions on the nature of the Savior, the need for man's redemption, the specifics of the kingdom of God, or other important elements of the gospel.

If one does not distinguish himself between his traditional unamended beliefs and the beliefs of the amended, he cannot have this “oneness of mind” at the memorial table in a setting that allows open fellowship.

The Monroe, LA Ecclesia will deny the memorial emblems to those individuals that endorse this idea of “open” fellowship.

We, as members of the Monroe, LA Ecclesia, promise each other that we will not attend any BASF ecclesia or bible school and **join with them in partaking of the memorial emblems**. We promise each other to not knowingly invite or allow any active member of a BASF ecclesia to join with us around the memorial table in our ecclesia.

The Monroe, LA Ecclesia stands on the principle that legitimate marriage is between one man and one woman for life. Therefore, we deny the memorial emblems to individuals who have been divorced and remarried **after baptism** and continue to maintain the adulterous relationship.

A summary of this document appears on the next page and will serve as the Statement of Fellowship Basis for the Monroe, LA Ecclesia. On a Sunday in which we have a visitor(s), the brother presiding over the memorial service will read this Statement of Fellowship Basis.

This document and the following Statement of Fellowship Basis will replace previous fellowship statements. We feel that this document clarifies fellowship issues more fully.

Unanimously approved on this date February 3, 2008,

Monroe, LA Unamended Christadelphian Ecclesia

February 3, 2008

Statement of Fellowship Basis
of the
Monroe, LA Unamended Christadelphian Ecclesia

The Monroe, LA Christadelphian Ecclesia was founded, and continues on the basis of the principles expressed in the Birmingham Unamended Statement of Faith (BUSF), together with the Doctrines to be Rejected and the Commandments of Christ appended thereto.

We, of the Monroe, LA Ecclesia, welcome those who fellowship exclusively under the Birmingham Unamended Statement of Faith.

We respectfully ask that any who would fellowship under the Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith or any "bridging document" that does not endorse the Birmingham Unamended Statement of Faith as the exclusive basis of fellowship to refrain from partaking of the emblems of the memorial service.

We respectfully ask that any who would fellowship with someone else that endorses the Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith, or as could be further defined as an "open" fellowship, to refrain from partaking of the emblems of the memorial service.

We most respectfully ask that anyone who has been divorced and remarried after baptism to refrain from the emblems of the memorial service.