

Ten Markers on the Journey to Becoming a True Church

1. **That PHBC be a Biblically centered, Gospel saturated, Christ exalting, God glorifying congregation.** We exist to pursue, and lead others to pursue *the scaling of the heights to the glory God*. He is our greatest treasure—individually and corporately as His bride. We will unapologetically be a *true church* by being people of the Book.
2. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to love and live the precious truths of the Bible.** “*receive my words, treasure up my commandments, making your ear attentive, inclining your heart*” *Proverbs. 2:1* May God increase our desire for His holy Word, leading to the pursuit of private and family devotions and more faithful attendance to corporate worship services and Bible studies—the people of God desperately need the Word of God.
3. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to live the truths we profess...with real and meaningful worship.** The ultimate goal of the Church is to worship the One true God. Biblical worship is *not* man-centered, but God centered and Christ-exalting! Our corporate worship involves the right proclamation of God’s Word (2 Timothy 2:15) and the faithful administration of the two ordinances of the church; baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
4. **That as the people of God and the people of the book all our religious affections might produce practical piety.** This simply means that what we say we believe, we will in turn live. As 19th century Scottish theologian John Brown said, “Holiness does not consist in mystic speculations, enthusiastic fervours, or uncommanded austerities; it consists in thinking as God thinks, and willing as God wills.” (Colossians 2:18-23)
5. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to live the truths we profess...like striving for the unity and purity of Christ’s bride.** Our *unity* is based on a common understanding of the truth of the Gospel—we have fellowship because of what we share in Christ and Christ alone. Our *purity* is based on the command that we are to walk in holiness—without it no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). This is not our church—this is the Lord’s bride—may it be presented to Him “*in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*” *Eph. 5:27*
6. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to live the truths we profess...like being a praying people.** “*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*” *Colossians 4:2*
7. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to live the truths we profess...like being evangelistic.** Gospel saturation means that we are so drenched in the Good News that we live it and seek to share it. We will strive as a church to cultivate a culture of evangelism.
8. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to live the truths we profess...like being a mission involved Church.** Prayerfully consider where God may be leading us to be involved in missions in the future. We will strive to personally and through partnerships engage people with the gospel locally, domestically and internationally (Acts 1:8).
9. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to live the truths we profess...like in the area of stewardship.** God owns everything, including your very life—In His sovereignty He grants you to be steward over what is His—live that way! Give generously through your time, talents and money that God may be glorified!
10. **That as the people of God and the people of the Book—we will strive to be “humble, contrite in spirit, and tremble at His Word”—recognizing that establishing a true church is the work of God and not the work of man.** (Isaiah 66:1-2; Matthew 16:18).

