



What We Believe (Doctrine)

Here you will find a survey of the core beliefs that we believe are essential to our faith and non-negotiable for our doctrine.

About the Bible

We believe the Holy Bible, consisting of both the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, perfect, and final authoritative word of God. God used human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error in their original writings, His message to mankind under the supernatural guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

About God

We believe in one God, the Creator, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all having exactly the same nature and attributes.

(Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17)

About Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He was and remains fully God and fully man. He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross and our justification is made sure by His

literal, physical resurrection from the dead. He ascended to the Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people.

(Hebrews 7:25; Luke 1:26-35; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:13-20)

About the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, though omnipresent from eternity, took up His residence in the world in a special sense on the day of Pentecost. By His baptism, He seals, indwells, and unites all believers in Christ to one body. Furthermore, He gives them spiritual gifts, enables them to understand biblical truth and empowers them for godly living.

(John 16:13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16)

About Man

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His divine image; that they sinned, resulting in not only physical death but also spiritual death. As a result of Adam's sin, all human beings are now born with a sinful nature and stand guilty before God. Man is totally depraved and unable to remedy his lost condition.

(Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:10-12, 5:12)

The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

All the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever. However, scripture clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty to indulge one's sinful nature.

(John 10:27-30; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:13)

About Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as our representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified. Salvation is by grace through faith and a person is saved when they place trust in Jesus Christ (and in Him alone) who is the only way to the Father.

(John 14:6; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

About the Resurrection

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.

(1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:15-16)

About Satan

Satan is a created being, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall; he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

(Genesis 3:1-19; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10)

About Christ's Return/Eternity

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, everlasting life with God for the saved (a literal heaven), and the everlasting separation from God for the lost (a literal hell). We believe in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air to receive to Himself all those, dead or alive, who belong to Him. At the end of the present age, the earth will undergo a time of judgment or "Tribulation" for seven years. The culmination of the Tribulation will be the personal return of Christ to the earth to establish the "Millennial Age," the time during which Christ will reign, Satan will be bound, Israel will be restored, and the

earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. The final judgment will occur at the end of the Millennial Age. The unsaved will be cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord. The saved will enjoy conscious blessedness forever in the presence of God.

(Revelation 4:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24-25; Joel 2:28-32; Daniel 12:1-3; Zechariah 14:1-9)

About Death

The souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. The souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when the soul and body reunited shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

(2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-15; Luke 16:19-26)

About the Church

We believe that the church is ordained by God with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide.

Universal Church - includes all born-again Christians of this present age and is the body and bride of Jesus Christ.

Local Church - The establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

(Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23)

About the Ordinances

We believe that the church observes two ordinances – baptism and communion. All who are saved should be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; baptism is by immersion as a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Communion should be observed in remembrance of Christ as a testimony to His death for our sins until He comes again. It is restricted from unbelievers and those under the discipline of the church to guard against judgment being brought on one who participates in an unworthy manner.

(Acts 8:38-39; Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

What We Believe (Practical)

Spiritual Life

All believers should present their bodies, a living and holy sacrifice, in such a manner so that Christ is exalted as Lord and Savior of their life, all for His glory.

(Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 John 2:15-17)

Prayer

We encourage not only private prayer but corporate prayer as a church body to ask the Holy Spirit to intercede in our lives resulting in encouragement, unity, repentance and intimate communion with our Savior.

(Hebrews 4:16, James 5:16; Acts 2:42; Philippians 4:6)

Spiritual Gifts

We acknowledge God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts and that every believer possesses at least one spiritual gift that he is to utilize in serving others as good stewards of God's grace.

(Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Discipleship

To help members develop from infancy toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry so that they may repeat the process with someone else.

(Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 28:19-20)

Evangelism

We value sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world by training believers to witness and pray for souls in hope of making fully devoted followers of Christ.

(Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)

Outreach

We intend to serve others unselfishly, in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in the Church, the community and in the world.

(Matthew 25:35-40; Luke 10:27; James 1:27)

Missions

We are dedicated to supporting missionaries to help promote the gospel of Jesus Christ, not only abroad but here locally in our community. Through mission trips and other outreach opportunities we are raising up others to heed to the call of living missionally for Jesus Christ.

(Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 13:2-3)

Bible teaching

We commit to teaching the full word of God through exegesis in the pulpit, classrooms and small groups.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:5)

Fellowship

We enjoy regular communion in smaller life groups to encourage, support and pray for each other as we share our lives together.

(Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; John 13:34-35).

Worship

To engage in public and private worship that honors God and exalts the name of Jesus Christ.

(John 4:24)

Stewardship

We understand God is the source of all blessings and that believers are to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

(2 Corinthians 9:7; James 2:15-16; Deuteronomy 16:17; Matthew 6:19-21)

Church Discipline

We enforce church discipline as a means of restoring one back to an exclusive relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

(Galatians 6:1; Romans 16:17-18; Matthew 18:15-17)

The Family

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Men and women are both created in the image of God and therefore are of equal worth but are given complimentary roles. The husband is responsible to lead as head of the family, and is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. The wife is to come alongside in submission to the servant leadership of her husband. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord and are to honor and obey their parents. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values through a consistent lifestyle example with loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth.

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 5:22-6:4)

Women in Ministry

We affirm that scripture teaches men and women as equally created in the image of God and both have equal value to Him and the church. However, due to the order of creation which God established between men and women, women are not to function in the role of pastor or elder within a church but may in other ministry roles that do not include the role of government over the entire church.

(1 Timothy 2:11-14; Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-24)

Qualifications of staff, deacons & elders/Church Government: Plural local elders-the elders govern the church and have authority to rule over it, which has been given by Christ himself, the head of the church, and by the Holy Spirit. There is always more than one elder and the pastor would be one among the elders. He does not have authority on his own

over the congregation, but that authority belongs collectively to the entire group of elders (elder board). Yet he will have considerable authority to make decisions and provide leadership in many areas of responsibility that have been delegated to him by the elder board as a whole. Such a system would allow a pastor to exercise strong leadership in the church while still having equal governing authority with the other elders. Every elder is subject to the authority of the elder board as a whole. The elders do not have unlimited authority. Elders, deacons and church staff will be elected by the church body and must meet the biblical standard of what scripture teaches. Selection of elders, deacons and staff are to be accompanied by fasting and praying with large decisions being required to be brought to the whole church for approval.

(Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 3:2-13; Titus 1:6-9; Acts 14:23; Luke 6:12-13; Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:4)