



CALVARY CHAPEL CHELMSFORD

Church Membership

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Calvary Chapel Chelmsford. Scripture, which is our guide for all faith and practice, teaches that all those who repent of their sins and express faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by God's grace are saved, justified by faith, and adopted into the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is both universal and local. Salvation brings the believer into the universal Body of Christ and the Holy Spirit guides that believer into a relationship with a visible expression of the Body of Christ— a local church. Our membership is open to all those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our expectation is that every member engages in a lifestyle which gives witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the priority of Scripture in all faith and practice.

Biblical Principles

1. The headship of Christ over the church. God the Father made Christ "the head of the body, the church" (Col 1:18). Through the Holy Spirit, he carries out God's purpose and mission for his people. The Christian community is ultimately governed by Christ rather than a pastor and/or board.
2. The church is made up of everyone who professes faith in Christ. The New Testament refers to Christians as "brothers" and "sisters" because they are a spiritual family, with God as their Father. They are individually different, yet they work together in harmony (Rom 12:4–5). As family members they share each other's burdens, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (1 Cor 12:26). Rather than a creed or discipline, God's love binds them together. As the "cornerstone" (Eph 2:20), Christ maintains the unity of believers (Eph 4:2–3). Christian unity leaves no room for preferential treatment, age discrimination, or racial prejudice, for we are equal members of the household of faith (Gal 3:26–28).
3. Christians are led by the Holy Spirit (John 10:27) in determining which local expression of the body of Christ one is called to be a participant in. As individual members of the body (1 Cor 12:27), God arranged each one of us as he chose (1 Cor 12:18). We are placed where we can serve according to the gift that God has given us (Rom 12:6). The church has a variety of ministries where we can exercise the gifts entrusted to our care (Eph 4). Early church members demonstrated four common characteristics. Together, they practiced fellowship (Acts 2:46), leadership (Acts 6:1–6), discipleship (Acts 2:42), and stewardship (Acts 4:32).

Membership Requirements

1. A profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our membership is in both the universal and local church, because we are united in Christ with "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Eph 4:5–6).
2. Engage in New Testament practices of membership by participation in fellowship (worship and small groups), leadership (exercising gifts and talents), discipleship (growth and accountability), and stewardship (tithes and offerings).
3. Agreement with our Statement of Faith.
4. Fill out a visitors welcome card and indicate you have decided to make Calvary Chapel your home church. You will be placed on our church directory and e-mail (google) tool.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to speak with one of our church elders or leaders after a weekend worship service, or you can send us a note at info@chapelchelmsford.com



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Statement of Faith

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible to be inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; Hebrews 4:12

THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. These are equal in every divine perfection and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19; Isaiah 43:10-11.

GOD, THE FATHER

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Isaiah 48:12; Ps. 95:3,6; Is. 40:21-26; Ps. 139:1-12; Jn. 7:37,38

JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return for His church and with His church in power and glory. Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 1:8; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20; Romans 3:25; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 20:31.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, the third Person of the Trinity. In the present age He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness, He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony, He is the agent in the new birth, indwells all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, baptizes them into the body of Christ, seals them unto the day of redemption, and every believer is commanded by God to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and He bestows gifts as He wills. Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 5:18-20; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

SALVATION

We believe in the depravity of man, that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore separated from God and in need of salvation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior are saved. John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:1-9

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that all believers are indwelt with the person of the Holy Spirit at the time of regeneration, given every spiritual blessing, all things pertaining to life and godliness, and empowered with the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit, drawing upon the resources available through the resurrected Christ, to the end that our lives increasingly manifest the very life, character, and power of Christ. Acts 2:38, 2 Peter 1:3, Ephesians 1:3, Ephesians 2:1-6, 2 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 12:1-3, Galatians 2:20.



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THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ who have a credible profession of faith, and have associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that the calling of the church is to be the very presence of Christ in the midst of the world, standing as a testimony of His life and character. We believe that the testimony of Christ's life is seen most fully in the corporate expression of His life that is the church, and that when God calls people unto life with Himself He necessarily calls them into fellowship with other believers as well. Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: water baptism and the Lord's supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that baptism signifies and symbolizes Christian life begun. We believe that the Lord's supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death and signifies Christian life continued. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4.

THE LAST THINGS

We believe the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal blessedness of those made righteous in and through Christ, and the endless suffering of the wicked. Mark 9:43-48; John 5:28-29; John 11:25-26; Revelations 20:5-15.

ATTITUDE

Considering the many denominational backgrounds of our community church, we wish to stress the importance of the main fundamental doctrines as being absolutely necessary and to be understanding in minor differences. "In essentials, Unity; in nonessentials, Liberty; in all things, Charity!"