

What We Believe

God

We believe in one God who created all things and is infinitely perfect in both His love and His holiness (Deuteronomy 6:4). This one and only God eternally exists in three equally divine persons: the Father (Romans 1:7), the Son (Hebrews 1:8), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4). Each is co-equal and co-eternal in being, in nature, in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections (2 Corinthians 13:14).

The Bible

We believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures: the Old and New Testaments, made up of 66 books. These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative and without error in the original writings (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; Revelation 22:18-19). The Bible is complete in its revelation of His will for salvation and is sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do. While we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we can know God's truth confidently (John 16:12-13), we confess that both our finite mind and our sinful nature preclude the possibility of understanding God's truth completely (1 Corinthians 13:12; James 1:5). The Bible is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.

Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became fully man without ceasing to be fully God (John 1:1,14, Colossians 2:9). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Luke 1:35) and lived a perfect, sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22) in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful human beings (John 14:9, Titus 2:14). Jesus accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as our substitutionary sacrifice, and our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5). He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry as our Representative (Hebrews 9:24), Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25), and Advocate (1 John 2:1-2) and will return as King (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:16).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that God, the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8–11). His primary role is in regenerating and placing all believers into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). He is also teaching (John 16:13-14), enlightening (1 Corinthians 2:11-13), indwelling (Romans 8:9) and securing them until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

People

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in His own image: (Genesis 1:27). But through Adam's sin all people inherit a sinful nature, and are alienated from God (Romans 5:12). The consequence of sin is spiritual, physical and ultimately eternal death (Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). In and of themselves people are totally depraved and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition (Romans 3: 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1–3, 12).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God offered by grace to every person and received by those who turn in personal faith to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Ephesians 2:8–10; John 1:12; Luke 13:3; Romans 10:9). Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus (Acts 4:12, John 14:6) whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (1 Peter 1:18–19).

Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37–40; 10:27–30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Peter 1:5). It is the privilege of believers to rejoice and be confident in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which also clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11–15).

The Church

We believe that the church, which is the body of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all genuine Christ-followers (Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12–14). We are to gather together as a local church regularly for teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25). And, as His body, it is our responsibility to go and represent Christ in the world (Mark 16:15). As a church, we are autonomous,

answering only and directly to Christ, the head (Acts 13:1-4; Colossians 1:18). We are governed and shepherded by a plurality of elders/overseers: (1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 20:17, 28). Believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as scriptural means of testimony for the church (Matthew 28:19; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that every Christian has at least one spiritual gift which is a God given capacity to serve in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:11). These gifts help make each believer a unique member of the body. There is no particular gift that is essential, or that proves the presence of the Holy Spirit, and one's spiritual gift is not an indication of their level of spirituality or maturity (1 Corinthians 12:18-19, 29-30). Some gifts were foundational and/or intended as sign gifts to unbelieving Israel at the establishment of the church and are no longer prominent today (Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 14:21-22). It is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gifts and grace that God has given them (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 4:10-11).