

CenterPoint Belief Statements

Doctrinal Positions:

(These are non-negotiable)

God

God is the creator and ruler of the universe.

He has eternally existed in three persons:

the Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

These three are co-equals and one God.

The Father

God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe.

He is:

all powerful,
all knowing,
all loving,
and all wise.

The Son

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God.

He is:

fully God
and fully man.

He:

was born of a virgin.
lived a sinless human life.
offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all by dying on a cross.
arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death.
ascended into heaven where he sits at the right hand of God.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ.

He lives in all Christians from the moment of salvation, providing them with power for living and guidance in doing what is right.

Scripture

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God.

The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life.

The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man.

Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image.

In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice.

By his choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race.
Man's decision to sin caused a division between Creator and creation leaving man in need of a Savior.

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.

In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God.

Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Evangelism and Church Planting

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ, and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ, to endeavor to make disciples of all nations.

We believe that disciples are most effectively made in the context of the local church.

Therefore, church planting and missions are of utmost importance.

The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

It is the duty of every Christian to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ.

The Church

We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons.

Ordinances

There are two ordinances for the New Testament church.

The first, baptism, is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The second, the Lord's Supper, is a symbolic act of obedience whereby followers memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Communion

Communion at CenterPoint is defined as Scripture defines it.

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

When we take it, we do so in a worthy manner.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. We do this by self-examination. - 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (ESV)

Do I have any sins to confess? (1 John 1:9)

Do I have relationships to repair? (Matthew 5:23-24)

Do I need to recommit my life? (Romans 12:1)

When

We take communion the last Sunday of every month.

We do not believe you have to take communion every week.

However, when you take it, you are to do so in a worthy manner. 1 Corinthians 11:25-28

Who should take it?

Only those who believe.

With regard to children, we believe a child should not take communion until they can understand the concepts of sin and salvation, and have accepted Christ. However, we do believe communion is a teaching opportunity to explain the concepts of sin and salvation, and our need for Jesus.

The Priesthood of Every Believer

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full-time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through Bible reading/study, prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian is to be a disciple developing relational environments in which they share their faith with those around them by word and by action.

and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - Revelation 1:6 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the Excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. - 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

People

People are made in the image of God to be like Him in character. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called “sin”. This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Biblical References: Genesis 1:27; Psalms 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23

Eternity

People will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal death in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

Biblical References: John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelation 20:15

Stewardship

At CenterPoint we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body – the church, as God’s Word commands.

We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving to the local church. A tithe of everything a person produces belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. We believe that the local church wherever you attend is the storehouse and you should give your tithe there.

Everything over 10% is an “offering of gratitude” for the great things God does for us every day. The offering is a privilege to give and is in addition to the tithe. The offering may be given at your discretion to any worthwhile ministry, church or organization.

Non-Doctrinal Positions:

*These are Negotiable (Selected Examples)

End Times

We have people with many views on this issue in our church. Some are premillennial, others are amillennial, and there are various other differing views. This is not a salvation issue. We believe there will be a literal return of Christ and a judgment day. We also believe there will be a literal rapture (a catching up of the saints). How and when this will happen has been a source of great debate. We believe the details are in God’s hands and this is not a salvation issue.

Biblical References: Matthew 12:36; John 5:22, 16:8; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:7; Jude 6

Education

Many Christian parents place their children in the public school system in support of public education. Others believe that private Christian education or home schooling is the best decision. The issue should never be a reason for division and disunity among the body of Christ.

Bible Translations

We as a Church have decided to use the ESV (English Standard Version). The English Standard Version (ESV) Bible is a new, essentially literal Bible translation that combines word-for-word precision and accuracy with literary excellence, beauty, and depth of meaning. The ESV is special because it is a “word-for-word” translation. The Bible says every word was “breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16). For this reason, the ESV seeks to translate the original Greek and Hebrew words with the greatest possible accuracy and precision. Check out esv.org.

Spiritual Gifts

Few areas of theology within the church have caused more division than the subject of spiritual gifts. Some in our church believe all of the spiritual gifts spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12-14 are for today. Others believe some of the gifts are for today. And, there are those who believe none of the gifts are for today. You can see the potential problems.

We do not believe that this subject constitutes a salvation issue.

You can believe some of the gifts are for today and be wrong and still be a Christian.

You can believe that all of the gifts are for today and be wrong and still be a Christian.

You can believe that none of the gifts are for today and be wrong and still be a Christian.

Behavior that Unifies

At CenterPoint, it is okay to believe differently on this issue, but we will act in this way:

Because this is a non-salvation area of contention between believers, we will not have a place in our church where the gift of tongues is encouraged.

We will not allow the discussion of a non-salvation issue to destroy the Lord's work.

We do believe God does miracles and answers our prayer and through the work of the Holy Spirit, empowers us to serve Him and do good works.

The following are Scripture references for churches where the gift of tongues and prophecy are used.

These are rules for their use:

If someone speaks in a tongue, it will be one at a time. 1 Corinthians 14:27,33,40

There must be an interpreter. 1 Corinthians 14:28

There must be one who discerns whether it comes from God. 1 John 4:1

If it is a prayer language, there is a place to pray. Matthew 6:6

All the gifts must be used to edify the church, not the individual. 1 Corinthians 14:4-5,26 23

No one has all the gifts, but the church is to be a body. 1 Corinthians 12:27-30

For those who believe prophecy is a gift active today, then the rules of a prophet apply. Deuteronomy 18:20-21