



# What We Believe

## **We believe in God the Father**

The Father is the first person of the Godhead, equal to the Son and the Holy Spirit who orders and directs all things according to His own purpose and pleasure. He sustains all things in the universe without any means other than Himself. By His grace, He involves Himself in the affairs of mankind, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ.

**References:** John 5:18-24, Romans 11:36

## **We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Son is the second person of the Godhead equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit who by His virgin birth came to earth as one person, fully God and fully man, and lived a sinless life. His death on the cross made atonement for man's sin, evidenced by His bodily resurrection from the dead. He physically ascended to the right hand of God the Father, and He will return in power and glory.

**References:** Romans 5:8, John 3:16, Colossians 1:15-20

## **We believe in the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead equal to the Father and the Son. He works to make men and women aware of their need for Jesus and provides them with the necessary power to live in accordance with the will of God. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer from the moment of their salvation, although His influence is experienced and enhanced as the believer yields control to Him. He equips every believer for the work of God through the giving of spiritual gifts. He is actively at work today bringing about spiritual, emotional, and physical healing. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, empowers us to

live in holiness and equips us to fight the powers of darkness. He works interdependently with the Word of God to give wisdom and guidance for everyday life situations.

**References:** John 14:12,16-17, John 16:7-13, Acts 1:8, Acts 3:1-10, I Corinthians 2:12, I Corinthians 12: 1-11, Galatians 5:25, Ephesians 1:17, Ephesians 5:18, Ephesians 6:10-12

## **What we believe about the Bible**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the complete, divinely inspired, and inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the supreme authority and guide in all matters of faith and life.

**References:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21

## **What we believe about the nature of man**

Man and woman were created in God's image and voluntarily fell into sin by personal disobedience to the will of God; consequently, all men and women are spiritually dead apart from Jesus Christ. The fall of humanity was a once-for-all historical fact and brought humanity under divine condemnation. Its effect spread to all people, each of whom is born with a sinful nature and is in need of salvation.

**References:** Romans 3:23-24, Ephesians 2:1-3

We believe that all people have been created in the image of God, with free will and inherent value and dignity. As image-bearers all people have been given, by God, the freedom and responsibility to make decisions reflecting their individual will. All people will give an account before God as stewards of all that God has entrusted to them – including the stewardship of one's mind, body, spirit and actions. We affirm that our stewardship and responsibility reflects our commitment to love God and to love and care for our neighbors.

**References:** Genesis 1:26-27, Matthew 22:36-40, I Peter 2:13-17, Romans 14:12

## **What we believe about salvation**

Salvation is by grace, through faith alone, and is a gift from God apart from works of any kind. All who receive Jesus Christ are justified by His blood. Good works are not the means of salvation, but rather the evidence of salvation.

**References:** John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10 & 13, Ephesians 2:4-9, Titus 3:4-6

## **What we believe about communion**

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper (Communion) serves as a reminder and a testimony of Christ's death on our behalf. We believe the communion elements represent His broken body and shed blood. Communion is reserved for believers in Jesus and should be participated in often.

**References:** Luke 22:14-20, I Corinthians 11:23-26

## **What we believe about baptism**

We believe through baptism a person publicly affirms their faith in Jesus' and identifies with His death, burial, and resurrection. We encourage parents to dedicate their children to the Lord with full anticipation that they will be baptized when they are able to personally articulate their faith in Jesus.

**References:** Luke 3:21-22, Romans 6:1-4, Matthew 28:19-20

## **What we believe about eternal life**

We believe Jesus is preparing a place for us and that He will literally come back again. We believe Heaven and Hell are real places, and at physical death, the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing. At physical death, the unbeliever enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from God and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgment and condemnation.

**References:** John 14:2-3, Revelation 20:15, I Corinthians 15:20-21, I Thessalonians 4:13-18

## **What we believe about the church**

The Church is God's instrument for accomplishing His purposes on the earth. We believe that the Church (the people of God) is God's instrument to distribute His glory on the earth. The Church is defined as a gathering of believers, meeting and experiencing God together in order to display His goodness wherever they go.

**References:** Acts 2:37, Ephesians 1:22-23, I Corinthians 12, 13, 14, I Peter 2:4-5