

About the Bible

1. The Bible is the only sufficient, inerrant (without error), and infallible (trustworthy) source of knowledge and truth. This means the Bible is the absolute and final authority for all things. Though God has revealed Himself in His natural creation in order to display His glory and power (**Romans 1:19-20**), general revelation is not sufficient for salvation (**Romans 10:14**), therefore it pleased God to reveal Himself and His will in written revelation through the Scriptures, giving us the means by which we can be made wise unto salvation found in Christ Jesus (**2 Timothy 3:15**).
2. The Scriptures are comprised of 39 books in the Old Testament (**Luke 24:44, Romans 15:4**) and 27 books in the New Testament as recognized by the third Council of Carthage in A.D. 397 as the final canon. When we say recognized, we mean affirmed. God himself determined all the books within the Bible. The scriptures are both verbally and plenary (completely) inspired (God's self-revelation) (**2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16**).
3. The Scriptures are completely authoritative and that authority depends not on the testimony of man or a church, but solely upon God, the author of those Scriptures (**1 John 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13**). Therefore, all issues of doctrine, practice, and life are to be examined and brought under the authority of Scripture (**James 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 Peter 1:3**).
4. The correct interpretation of the text as understood through sound teaching and church history has been the method of literal interpretation considering the grammatical and historical context. By God's grace, the Holy Spirit assists us in our interpretation and application of the Scriptures (**John 16:13-14**).

God

We believe as the scriptures affirm there is only one God, who is infinite, eternal and self-existent. (**Deut 6:4, Is 45:5-7, Acts 17:24-25**)

We also believe in the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Three distinct person's, however, equal and undivided in divine essence. (**Gen 1:26, Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 3:16-17, John 15:26, 2 Corinthians 13:14**.)

God the Father:

We believe He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and is therefore the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. (**Colossians 1:16-17; Psalm 83:18; Jeremiah 10:10, Isaiah 64:3**)

We believe He possesses all knowledge of things past, present and future and carries out His perfect plans. He is not limited in this knowledge or power by human decision or action. (**Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 4:27-28**)

We believe the Father also sent the Son Jesus Christ to the earth to redeem/reconcile all people through repentance and faith in His Son. (**John 17:24, Romans 8:32, 1 John 4:9,14.**)

God The Son (Jesus Christ):

We believe that Jesus Christ is and always has been the eternal son of God, second person of the trinity, co-creator, co-equal with God; meaning fully God himself. (**John 1:1-3, 14; John 10:30, John 14:9-10, John 17:5, Hebrews 1:1-3, Col 1:19, 2:9, Colossians 1:15-17**)

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and Fully man. We believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, lived a perfect, sinless life. He died on the cross, his blood shed for the forgiveness of sins, rose three days later, conquering sin, death, hell and the grave. (**Is 7:14, Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-27, 31, 34-35; Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, John 19-21, Acts 1:1-9.**)

We believe then that Jesus Christ is the only way to God, the only mediator between man and God, and the only one sufficient for salvation. (**John 3:16, John 14:6, 1 Tim 2:5-6, Acts 4:12.**)

God the Holy Spirit

We believe he is co-equal and of the same substance with God the Father and God the Son, which includes all the attributes of deity.

(**Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 10:15-17**)

We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit includes: convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ; and transforming believers into the image of Christ.

(**John 16:7-14; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18.**)

We believe in the life of the believer, the Holy Spirit indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers for service, and seals until the day of redemption. Therefore, if sealed with the Holy Spirit through repentance and faith in Jesus, one cannot lose their salvation.

(**Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13**)

We believe the gifts of the Spirit are given to believers for the redemption of the lost and for the building up of the body of Christ.

(**Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**)

Mankind

We believe mankind was created in the image and likeness of God, both male and female, free from sin, and in perfect fellowship with God. Therefore, God our Creator gives us our identity and purpose. (**Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 1:31, Colossians 1:16-17**).

We believe mankind was created to bring glory in all things to the Creator God. (**Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11**).

We believe Upon Adam's sin of disobedience to God, mankind lost his innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, born into sin, becoming subject to God's wrath for our sin, and became inherently corrupt and incapable of choosing or doing what is acceptable and pleasing to God apart from divine grace.

(**Genesis 3:17-24; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Romans 3:9-18, Jeremiah 17:9, 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3**)

Salvation:

We believe salvation is wholly of God's grace on the basis of His own electing power and on the redemptive work of Christ's shed blood on the cross, and not on the basis of human merit or work.

(**John 6:44, 63, Ephesians 1:3-7; 2:1-10; Colossians 2:13-14, Romans 8:28-30, 1 Peter 1:18-19**)

We believe salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. He died on the cross as a substitute for our sins, paying the penalty and receiving the punishment and wrath of God in our place. (**John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:11-15, 28; 10:1-13; 1 John 2:2**)

We believe this gift of salvation and the forgiveness of sins unto life eternal with God is receivable only through faith alone in Christ alone (**John 3:16-18; Acts 4:12**) and is not extended to those who have not called out to Christ in faith. (**John 1:12, Romans 10:9**)

We believe those who are saved by grace are also secure for eternity by grace as born-again children of God. Therefore, one cannot lose salvation, as being sealed with the Holy Spirit. (**John 10:28-29; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14**)

The Church:

We believe one becomes part of the Church when they repent of their sin and place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ, and we are all members of His body. As the Head of the Church, the body submits to his authority (Bible) in all matters of faith and practice. (**Colossians 1:18, Eph 1:22-23, 1 Cor 12:12-16, 27-28, Eph 4:23-32.**)

We believe as members of the Body of Christ, each member is uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit for the building up and encouragement of one another. No member of the body is greater than another, as we all submit the Head, and our service to one another should be done in love and service to Christ. (**1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 21-26, Romans 12:3-8, Colossians 3:12-17.**)

We believe regarding the local church; it is wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to the command to make disciples of all the nations (**Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2**). That is the local expression of the true church of Christ (**Acts 14:23; Hebrews 10:23-25, Acts 14:27, Act 2:42-47**).

We believe the elders/deacons of the local church are tasked with oversight of the church. They must meet the biblical qualifications for elders/deacons, which includes being a man. (**1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 2:11-14**) and they are to serve with the attitude of Christ Jesus (**Philippians 2:3-17, 1 Peter 5:1-4**.) Believers are to submit to the elders' leadership (**Hebrews 13:7, 17**).

Baptism & The Lord's Supper:

We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion) are to be a regular and integral part of the local church. We baptize with immersion because it symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (**Matt 28:19, Mark 1:4-11, Acts 2:41, Romans 6:3-5, Col 2:12-13.**) We celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember Christ's sacrifice for us. The bread and the cup are the symbols of the new covenant, representing Jesus' body and blood. (Matthew 26:26-29, Acts 2:42, 1 Cor 10:16-18, 1 Cor 11:17-33)

About Future Things:

Our promised hope is in the personal and physical return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Acts 1:9-11; Titus 2:11-14**)

We believe that each person is accountable to a Holy and Perfect God. If one repents of their sin and places their faith in Jesus Christ, they will be saved and enjoy an eternal home with Him in heaven with no pain, suffering and no presence of sin. (**Isaiah 65: 17-25, Matt 4:17, John 14:1-3, Acts 4:12, Rom 10:9-13, 1 Cor 2:9, Revelation 21:1-7, Rev 22:1-5.**) If one rejects Jesus (never repenting of their sin and placing their trust in Him alone), they will be separated for all eternity in a physical place of suffering and torment, called Hell. (**Matt, 10:28, Matt 13:40-42, Matt 25:41, 46, 2 Thess 1:7-9, Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 16:19-31, Rev 20:15, 21:8.**)

We believe Jesus will one day return for his followers. We believe that no one can predict this day or time, but we live our lives with eternity always in mind, seeking to please Him until He returns or calls us home. (**Daniel 12:1-4, Matt 24:29-31, 36-44, 1Cor 15:50-58, Col 3:1-4, 1 Thess 4:13-5:3, Reve 22:12-13, 20.**)

Church Ethics

We affirm the Bible's Teaching that God created male and female only, made in His image. (**Gen 1:26-27, 2:18, 21-25.**) Each male and female are then fearfully and wonderfully made at the point of conception. (**Psalm 139:13-17, Jeremiah 1:5**) God created male and female to be fruitful and multiply (in marriage) in procreation and or discipleship and represent Christ and His Church in their marriage. (**Gen 1:28, Matt 28:18-20, Eph 5:22-33**) Whether married (man with a woman) or single, (**1 Cor 7:8**) all have equal worth and value in the kingdom of God, being image bearers. These truths inform and affirm the following Biblical beliefs:

- Abortion is a sin and prohibited by Scriptures. Since we are all fearfully and wonderfully made at conception, are bodies and lives are treasures from God. These bodies then are not our own to do whatever we please, but rather take care of our own lives and those who are conceived. Although sin, we still love and care for those who have aborted and willingly seek to help them find forgiveness and restoration in Christ Jesus.
- There are only two genders, male and female. Therefore, we do not affirm or acknowledge someone that identifies with anything but male and female, which is determined at birth. We still lovingly care for those who identify as something else but would still call them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, with the goal of teaching them of their true gender/identity from Him and for Him.
- The Bible is clear on the teaching of homosexuality as a sin. (**Lev 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Cor 6: 9-11.**) Marriage is to be between one man and one woman, as affirmed in the Scriptures. (**Gen 1:24, Matt 19:4-6 Eph 5:22-33, Col 3:18-19.**) Anything outside of this biblical teaching, is outside of the Will of God. Although sin, we love and care for those who claim this lifestyle, speaking truth in love, and lovingly calling them to repentance and faith in Christ with humility, remembering the Grace of God that saved us, based on His work, not ours. (**2 Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 28:13, Eph 2:1-9, Eph 4:15.**)