
Our core beliefs and values are biblically-centered and rooted in the historic Christian faith. We have included scripture references to support the biblical basis for our beliefs, but this is not meant to be an exhaustive or exclusive list.

God

- Creator of all that exists both known and unknown. **Genesis 1:1-2,4, Psalm 19:1; 104; John 1:3-4; Acts 14:15b**
- Is one God in three persons - the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) **John 14:9-11, 15-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:13; 1 John 4:9-16**
- Is holy, sovereign, eternal, mysterious, good, loving, all-knowing, and all-powerful. **Isaiah 5:16; 6:3; Leviticus 11:44a; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Isaiah 55:8-9; Acts 14:17; Psalm 106:1; 118:29; 119:68; 135:3; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Hebrews 1:3**
- Worthy of worship and glory. **Genesis 28:16-17; Exodus 34:14; Isaiah 6:1-8; 66:23; Psalm 67; 66:1; 138:2; Matthew 2:11; 4:10; Revelation 4:10-11; 22:8-9**
- He passionately desires an intimate relationship with all people through His Son, Jesus Christ. This relationship is based on faith, friendship, personal growth, and service. **Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22; John 3:16-17, 35-36; 10:28-30; 1 John 4:9-16; Acts 4:11-12; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-23**

Jesus

- God incarnate (He came in the flesh.)
- Born of a virgin
- Lived a sinless life
- Ministered and served as a model for us
- Suffered, was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead
- Ascended to heaven and will return again
- The way, the truth, and the life

Holy Spirit

- Sent from God to live within all who believe in Jesus Christ.
- Teaches, empowers, encourages, gifts, comforts, convicts, fosters unity and love within the community of faith. **Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 11:2; Luke 3:22; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Romans 5:5; 8; 1 Corinthians 12:14; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14; 3:16; 4:3-4; 5:18**

Bible

- The inspired and unchanging written Word of God. God inspired all, not just portions of the Bible. He used the unique personalities, gifts, and faith of many writers to share His plans and promises for all of creation.
- The messages of God have not only been inspired, but also preserved throughout the ages for all humankind.
- While there are many writers, there is only Author - God Himself.
- The story of God's passionate pursuit of people ultimately fulfilled in the revelation of God Incarnate (Jesus Christ) "The Word became flesh," and "We beheld His glory."
- A book of faith and salvation.
- Provides the sole foundational truth and guide for God's people and followers of Jesus Christ.
- The Bible becomes real, meaningful, and powerful to people when their hearts are open and illumined by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-2; Acts 10:43; Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 119:15-18; 104-105, 114; Hebrews 4:12, Romans 3:2; Acts 17:11**

Salvation

- Salvation is how God saves a life from the penalty and power of sin. Sin is eternal separation from God.
- Every person is created in the images of God, but through sin (falling short of God's moral standards) all people break the intended love relationship with God. As a result, we suffer the consequences of a broken relationship that can affect us now and forever.
- God sent His son, Jesus Christ, who suffered death on a cross and rose from the grave three days later, so we don't have to suffer those consequences and can be restored to a right love relationship with Him and other humans.
- Salvation is a result of God's grace through professing faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- Forgiveness comes as a result of repenting (turning away) of our sin and believing (faith) in Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ is essential for salvation. This results in a new relationship and is known as a new birth, being born from above or again.
- Does not make Christians "perfect". Because we are human and imperfect we continually need forgiveness of sin but are no longer separated from God forever.
- Produces good works, or "fruit of the Spirit" and a changed life. You become a committed follower of Jesus Christ.
- Salvation is an ongoing and a maturing process (growth, also called discipleship). We have "been saved", are "being saved" and will "be saved" in the end times through faithfulness to God.

John 3:16-17; 5:24, 39-40; 1 Timothy 2:4-6; 1 John 5:1-12;

Romans 3:9-28; 6:23; 10:9; Acts 16:31; 1 John 1:8-2:1; Romans 7:

2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:22-25; Philippians 1:6

Baptism

- Is not necessary for salvation, but is a natural and biblical step that follows professing faith in Jesus. No one (not a parent, relative, or friend) can profess this faith for us whether we are a child or an adult.
- A symbolic act of obedience following the earthly example and commands of Jesus. It is not the change in a person's life, but it symbolizes the change through life in Christ.
- Believer's Baptism is necessary for church membership. We accept and recognize the baptism of believers by other Christian churches.
- While we dedicate and commit infants to the Lord with their parents, we do not practice or accept infant baptism as Believer's Baptism. Believer's Baptism is only for those who publicly profess faith in Jesus Christ by themselves and understand the commitment they are making.
- We do not advocate or practice rebaptism for those who have already received Believer's Baptism. Scriptural baptism occurs once. There is no evidence to support rebaptism as necessary when a person makes a recommitment to Christ or has a change in beliefs if they have previously professed Christ and received scriptural/ Believer's Baptism.

Matthew 3:13-16; 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:12-13, 36-38; 10:47-48;

Ephesians 4:5

The Church Universal

- The body and bride of Christ.
- He alone is the head, and we are subject to Him.
- Every part of the body is important, equal and necessary.
- Members should have an intimate, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Members should encourage, love, serve, and exhort one another to build up the body and not cause division.
- Is not a specific denomination, building, or address, but is made up of all Believers, many of whom choose to unite with a specific denomination or co-operate together with other Christian organizations and ministries.

1 Corinthians 12:12; Colossians 3:15; Ephesians 4:3-4; 5:23-24, 31-32; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7; 22:17; Matthew 16:13-20; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 12:25; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Priesthood of the Believer

- Every Christian/Believer has direct access to God without the need for any mediator other than Jesus Christ.
- No one can determine God's will or direction for your life or petition forgiveness for your sins. Each individual Believer is responsible to God alone.
- Because Jesus Christ broke the barrier between God and people, every believer has direct, personal access to God. His once for all sacrifice fulfills the promise and purpose of the Old Testament priesthood.
- As Believers, we are to share in Christ's priestly ministry.

Ephesians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-15; 5:6; Romans 12:1; 14-12

The Local Church

- An autonomous, local body of Believers with Christ as the Head.
- Led by fallible, imperfect people God called, gifted, and equipped to shepherd, lead, exhort, admonish, correct, encourage, sacrifice, love, and prepare the saints for ministry.
- A like-minded faith community where followers of Christ:
 - Experience meaningful, celebratory, and joyful worship of God together.
 - Grow as individual followers of Christ (discipleship/maturity).
 - Identify, develop, and use their spiritual gifts.
 - Give their time, spiritual gifts, and finances to the cause of Christ.
 - Minister to and with other believers.
 - Pray together and intercede for others.
 - Encourage and build each other up.
 - Share Christ together with their local community through relationships, meeting needs, and ministry.
 - Live out the Great Commandment and Great Commission.
 - Live out the unconditional love of Christ and the ministry of reconciliation with each other and their local community.

Matthew 18:20; 28:16-20; John 15:12-17; 17; 20-23; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 4:1-6; 5:19-21; Romans 12:4-21; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Matthew 6:19-21; Malachi 3:10-11; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14; 2 Corinthians 9:5-12; Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15-17; James 2-4:12; 5:13-16; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 5:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-8: 4.