

Our Doctrine

The Scriptures

We believe the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be the full record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. Different men, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words, inerrant in the original writings. Therefore, those applying themselves to study its literal, historical-grammatical context can accurately understand God's Word. Scripture is fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

The Triune God

We believe in the one living and true God (John 17:3), eternally existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). Each member of the Godhead, while executing distinct but complementary roles in redemptive history, has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honor and obedience (John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4).

God The Father

We believe God the Father created all things in six literal days for His glory according to His own will (Revelation 4:11), through His Son, Jesus Christ. He upholds all things by the Word of His power and grace, exercising sovereign headship over all creation, providence, and redemption (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3).

God The Son

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, moved by love in accordance with the will of the Father, took on human flesh (John 1:1, 14, 18). Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary. He, being fully God and fully man (John 14:8-9), lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed His blood and died on the cross in our place accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in Him. He arose visibly and bodily from the dead three days later and ascended into heaven, where, at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, and will return to earth in power and glory to consummate His redemptive mission (1 Timothy 3:16).

God The Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ during this age. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the unredeemed to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new spiritual life to the believer, bringing that person into union with Christ and the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells at salvation, and bestows spiritual gifts to the believer for Christ-like living and service (John 16:8; 13-15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-5, 11-13; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12).

Mankind

We believe that God created mankind—male and female—in His own image and likeness, free of sin, to glorify Himself and enjoy His fellowship. Tempted by Satan, but in the sovereign plan of God, man freely chose to disobey God, bringing sin, death and

condemnation to all mankind. All human beings, therefore, are totally depraved by nature and by choice. Alienated from God without defense or excuse, and subject to God's righteous wrath, all of mankind is in desperate need of the Savior ([Genesis 3:1-6](#); [Romans 3:10-19](#); [Romans 1:18, 32](#)).

Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as the substitutionary atonement in our place, and that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. Before Creation, God chose those who would be saved and granted this unearned grace solely based on His sovereign good pleasure. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was the sole and complete payment for sins, fully satisfying God's righteous wrath, for each person that turns from sin in repentance and places their faith in Christ alone by grace alone. At salvation each person is made a new creation by the Holy Spirit, declared righteous before God, and secured as an adopted child of God forever. Genuine faith continues in obedience and love for Jesus Christ with a life eager to glorify God and persevere to the end ([Romans 8:37-39](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17, 21](#)).

The Church

We believe that upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Scriptures command believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, the ordinances of baptism and communion, service to the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world to make disciples ([Ephesians 1:22-23](#); [Acts 2:42-46](#); [1 Corinthians 14:26](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#)). Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the Church under the watchful care of a plurality of elders. A church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ ([Ephesians 4:16](#)).

Baptism and Communion

We believe that Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water. The Lord's Supper is the united commemoration by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should be preceded by a careful self-examination ([Acts 2:41](#); [Romans 6:3-6](#); [1 Corinthians 11:20-29](#)).

Missions

We believe it is the aim, duty, and privilege of every believer and local church fellowship to glorify God by responding as active participants in the Great Commission call of Jesus Christ to go and make disciples of all nations. We believe the primary focus and priority of this call is centered on efforts that establish, strengthen, and reproduce biblically-based churches, which will then plant churches that plant churches for future generations and God's glory.

Things To Come

We believe in and expectantly await the glorious, visible, personal, premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has vital bearing on the personal life, service, and mission of the believer ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in hell. The saved will be raised to eternal joy in the new heaven and new earth in the manifested presence of God ([Acts 1:3, 9-11](#); [Hebrews 7:25-26](#)).

Christian Living

Concerning Conduct

The Bible teaches that all believers are saints, set apart unto God and are thus responsible to live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon the Savior and Lord ([Romans 2:1-2](#); [1 Peter 1:14-19](#); [2 Timothy 2:19](#); [Titus 2](#)) lest the Word of God be blasphemed ([1 Timothy 6:1](#); [Titus 2:5](#)). As Christians we should obey the Word of our Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, and accept as our responsibility the duty and privilege of bearing the Gospel to a lost world ([1 John 2:3](#); [Colossians 3:1](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#)). A victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who have presented themselves wholly to Christ and walk by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-filled life is the normal Christian life to be expected of all believers. ([Romans 12:1-2](#); [Galatians 5:16](#); [Ephesians 5:18](#); [Romans 6, 7](#)).

Concerning Separation

Because of God's holy nature and a believer's high calling, Scripture teaches and commands personal and ecclesiastical separation from religious apostasy ([2 John 7-11](#); [Romans 16:17](#); [Titus 3:10](#)), from all sinful actions that reflect willful or continued disobedience to the Word of God ([2 Thessalonians 2:15](#); [3:6,14-15](#); [1 Corinthians 5](#)). This does not include separation from unbelievers who need the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor does it include brothers and sisters in Christ who are walking in doctrinal or behavioral error but not under church discipline.

Concerning Marriage and Sexuality

Scripture clearly teaches that God is the sole authority in matters of marriage and sexuality for all people, and that marriage involves the sacred joining together of one biological man and one biological woman in faithful, permanent union ([Genesis 2:18-24](#); [Matthew 19:1-9](#); [Mark 10:1-12](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-20](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)). God states in the Bible that he hates divorce ([Malachi 2:16](#)) and Scripture states that He intends the marriage union to last until one of the spouses dies ([Genesis 2:24](#); [1 Corinthians 7:10-13](#)). Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed solely within this God-ordained marriage relationship, and God has clearly and expressly commanded abstinence from any form of sexual or intimate activity outside of this context, prohibiting as "sexual immorality" activities related to, for example: lustful thought, adultery, fornication, pornography, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, or polygamy ([Leviticus 18](#); [Matthew 5:27](#); [Matthew 15:9](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [Romans 13:13](#); [1 Corinthians 5](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-20](#); [Galatians 5](#); [Colossians 3:5](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3-7](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#); [Jude 1:7](#)). Disobedience in these matters is sin ([Romans 6:23a](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [Ephesians 5:3-5](#); [Colossians 3:5-19](#)), and Scripture is clear that God provides redemption, healing, freedom from the power of sin, and restoration to all who would turn from sin and embrace Jesus Christ by faith ([Acts 16:31](#); [Romans 1:16](#); [Romans 6:23b](#); [1 Corinthians 6:11](#), [Ephesians 2:1-10](#), [Titus 3:3-7](#)). The Church will love, disciple, exhort and patiently assist men and women repenting of sin and fighting sexual temptations of all kinds ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#), [Hebrews 2:17-18](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)), and its firm conviction on Scripture's clear teaching on marriage and sexuality will not serve as grounds for bigotry, harassment, or fearful or hateful speech or action, which are forbidden by God and ineffective at producing change ([Leviticus 19:17-18](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#); [1 Corinthians 2:1-5](#); [Galatians 3:1-3](#); [Ephesians 4:31-32](#); [Colossians 4:5-6](#); [2 Timothy 2:24-26](#); [James 1:19-21, 26](#); [1 Peter 2:1](#)).