

While we recognize that not every Christian believes exactly as we do, and while we respect the beliefs of other Christians, there are certain core beliefs which are the source of our common bond. This account of our core beliefs is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us. No claim is made that it covers all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

The Bible

The Holy Bible is the authoritative inspired Word of God, and the revelation of God to man. The Bible is the authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit..

Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,2,14, 10:30; Genesis 1:1,26, 27,3:22; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; Hebrews 3:7-11; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 5:7

Jesus Christ

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He came to earth, was conceived in the virgin Mary and lived a sinless life. He died and rose again to reconcile all people to God and to free them from the power of sin and the devil. He will return someday and consummate the building of His Kingdom. All who are His bride shall reign with Him. All who reject Him shall suffer eternal destruction.

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1,14, 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He is the giver of gifts to the believer. Believers are to always seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 16:5-15; Romans 8:16, 23, 26, 27; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6

Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of **spiritual gifts** to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible's lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters.

John 15:8; Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10

Redemption

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only **hope of redemption** is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21; Titus 2:14; Galatians 3:13

Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. 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.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2

Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; John 14:6; Titus 3:5; Romans 3:23-24, 5:1, 6:23, 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Galatians 3:26; Hebrews 9:22; I Tim 2:4; 1 John 2

Jesus' Blood

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death.

1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29

Repentance

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation.

Acts 2:21, 3:19; John 6:37; 1 John 1:9

New Birth

In order to become a child of God, a person must be **born again**.

John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sanctification

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; Hebrews 2:11

The Church

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the Church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23

Healing Of The Sick

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also listed in scripture as one of the gifts of the Spirit.

Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29

Sacraments

Water Baptism: The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:16

Acts 10:47,48

Romans 6:4

Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4

Communion: A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross.

Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-28

Resurrection

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; those that are saved to the resurrection of life and those that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation.

Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21

The Blessed Hope

The division of thought that exists within the Christian community are understandable, considering the subject matter of eschatology and future prophecy can be difficult. However, we believe the the resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and **blessed hope** of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52

Eternity

People were created to **exist forever**. We will either exist externally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:3-4, 41; Mark 9:43-48; John 3:16, 14:2, 17, 17:24; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 2:7-9, 5:1; Hebrews 9:27, 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8