

What We Believe

Scripture

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbal, plenary, and inspired Word of God. They are the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, and infallible in all matters of faith (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13).

The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and bearing the same attributes and perfections. These persons are co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, and co-equal in power and glory (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

God the Son

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. Without ceasing to be God, he became a man - conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary - in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1-2,14; Luke 1:35).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in him is assured by his literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24; 1:3-5; and 2 Peter 2:1).

God the Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; who is the supernatural agent in regeneration; and who baptizes all believers into the body of Christ, dwells within them, and seals them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14).

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18).

The Human Condition

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell. Consequently, man has inherited a sinful nature, has been alienated from God, is totally depraved, and is utterly unable to remedy his lost condition on his own (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3,12).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

Assurance of Salvation

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38-39; Phil 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as provision for the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

Sanctification

We believe that every saved person stands positionally sanctified (set apart unto God) at the moment of salvation, yet still possesses a sinful nature that will not be completely eradicated in this life. Provision has been made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the believer will grow more complete in Christ through the process of personal sanctification, resulting in a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, a living sacrifice lifestyle of worship, and a deeper passion to serve Christ and His Church (John 17:17; Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

We believe every saved person should desire to live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon Christ - through separating oneself from all religious apostasy and increasingly denying sinful pleasures, practices, and associations that appeal to the old nature - until the day the believer stands complete in the presence of Christ and shall be "like Him" (Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 2:11-12; Romans 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17, 3:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-7:1).

The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment. They shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

The Church

We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free of any external authority or control, although submitted to Christ as the ultimate authority and His Word as the final rule of faith. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1,4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16; 5:4-7,13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

We believe in the ordinances of believer's water baptism by immersion and the Lord's supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

We believe that the purpose of the church is to display and proclaim Christ among all peoples to the glory and worship of God (1 Peter 2:9, Romans 15:6, Revelation 1:6, Acts 1:8).