

Our Beliefs

- 1. <u>Bible</u>: All Scripture (each/all of the 66 books), in the original manuscripts, is inspired, and is inerrant and infallible. It is complete and is not to be supplemented or supplanted by another revelation. The Bible is understandable and sufficient in regard to all questions of faith and practice. It, along with the illumination and conviction of the Holy Spirit, constitutes the Christian's authority. (Psa. 12:6; 19:7-14; 119:60; Prov. 30:5-6; John 16:12-15; 17:17; 20:30-31; Gal. 1:8-12; 1 Thes. 1:5; 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 John 2:20, 27; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19)
- 2. <u>God</u>: We believe that from everlasting to everlasting, there is only one God, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, who is Spirit, immutable, perfect in holiness and in love, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power, Who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all equally God and equally worthy of worship, confidence and obedience. (Exod. 3:14; 15:11; Deut. 6:4; 1 Chron. 29:11-12; Neh. 9:6; Psa. 90:2; Isa. 43:10; Mal. 3:6; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; Jas. 1:17; 1 John 4:8b)
- 3. **Jesus Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is fully God and fully man and is the only mediator between God and man. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where He now is our High Priest and Advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on High. We believe that Christ alone is Head of the church, and that all members of the church owe Him unflinching obedience. (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 12, 14; 12:45; 14:9; Eph. 4:15; 1 Tim. 2:5) (Job 16:9; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Heb. 8:1)
- 4. **Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person and is distinguished from His power. The broad scope of this special divine activity includes convicting the world, glorifying the Lord Jesus and transforming believers into the likeness of Christ. This work in believers involves that of regeneration, baptism into the body of Christ, indwelling, sealing, sanctifying, instructing, empowering for service, and preserving to the day of Christ. We believe that He alone administers spiritual gifts to the church, not to glorify Himself for the gifts of ostentatious displays, but to glorify Christ and implement His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith. (John 3:3; 3:5-7; 14:16-17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-9; 16:14-15; Rom. 8:2; 1 Cor. 6:19; 12:4-13; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:13-14; 2:22; 2 Thes. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2)
- 5. Man: We believe that man was created in the image of God (possessing intellect, emotion, will and spirit) by direct creation and that he was originally in fellowship and communication with God. By man's choice he sinned, breaking this fellowship and incurred both physical and spiritual death. Thus all mankind by nature and by choice are sinners and unable of their own selves to re-establish fellowship with God. Apart from Christ, all individuals shall be forever separated from God. (Gen. 1:26; Ezek. 18:20a; Rom 3:10-11; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5)

- 6. <u>Justification</u>: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that His sacrifice was effective and acceptable, that all who believe in Him are justified (declared righteous) on the ground of His shed blood. (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rev. 1:5)
- 7. <u>Salvation</u>: We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not of works, and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God. Because they are children of God, they will perform good works which God prepared beforehand, that they might manifest the love and gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. We believe in the eternal security of the believer. (Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; 3:3, 7; 10:27-29; Rom 8:14-17)
- 8. **Resurrection Jesus Christ:** We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven and in His present ministry for us there as High Priest and Advocate. (Acts 1:8-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-24; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1-2)
- 9. **Resurrection Man:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost. (1 Cor. 15:20-24; 2 Cor. 5:8; Rev. 20:12-15)
- 10. <u>Church</u>: We believe that the true church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head, and that the local church is a voluntary association of baptized believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any ecclesiastical control whatsoever (autonomous). (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18)
- 11. **Baptism:** We believe that God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Though baptism has no saving merit, it does show forth in solemn and beautiful symbol the believer's faith in and union with the crucified, buried and risen Savior. (Matt. 28:19; Mark 1:10; John 3:23; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:38; 18:8; Rom. 6:3-6)
- 12. <u>Lord's Supper</u>: We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and the cup, which are symbolic of Christ's broken body and shed blood; that the Lord's Supper is partaken of by saved individuals in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord and in anticipation of His coming again, and as a witness to their faith; that its observance is to be preceded by faithful self-examination. (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-30)
- 13. **The Future:** We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church and in His coming in Glory with the believers to set up His millennial Kingdom upon the earth followed by an eternal kingdom in a new heaven and earth. The saved will forever be in His presence and fellowship while the unsaved will forever be separated from God and His fellowship. (Acts 1:8-11; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1-2; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-15; 21:1-8)