

BELIEVING: What do we believe that unites us as Jesus' family?

Our teaching and specific beliefs are based in the fundamental truth of a restored relationship with our Creator through the life, sacrificial death, and bodily resurrection of God's son, Jesus of Nazareth; in other words, **all of the broken relationships (with God, others, and nature) are healed through Christ.**

As a result of this healed relationship with our God through His son, Jesus Christ, we teach the following to be true and life changing for everyone who will receive it in faith:

ABOUT THE BIBLE...

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Genesis through Revelation) are inspired by God and without error in the original writings, that they are infallible in all matters, and that they are our supreme and final authority in faith and life. (Psalm 119:97-104; Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:15-16; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

ABOUT THE GODHEAD...

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same honor, confidence and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4)

ABOUT GOD THE FATHER...

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He serves as the first person of the Godhead. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, hears and answers prayer, saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Psalm 90:2; Psalm 100:5; John 1:18; John 6:46; Romans 11:33-36)

ABOUT GOD THE SON...

We believe in the total deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. We believe in His incarnation, that He is "Immanuel"- God in the flesh. We believe Him to be fully God and fully man. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (John 1:1, 14, 18; John 14:8-9; 1 Timothy 3:16). We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, and premillennial return from heaven to rule and reign as King. (Hebrews 4:14 & 15; 1 John 4:10; Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 1:18; Revelation 19:11-16; Hebrews 7:25; Luke 24:6 & 7)

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ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT...

We believe in the total deity of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner upon belief in Christ, baptizing the believer into one body of which Christ is the head. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of God's righteousness and of coming judgment. (John 16:8-11) The Holy Spirit indwells, seals, guides, instructs, fills, comforts and empowers the believer for godly living and service through individually bestowed gifts. (Mark 13:11; John 14:26; John 16:13; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 5:18)

ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS...

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in the divine image, male and female; that they sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death - which is separation from God; and that, as a result of Adam's sin, all human beings are now born with a sinful nature and stand guilty before God yet each is loved by God unconditionally. (Genesis 3:1-6; John 3:16; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 1:18,32; Romans 5:1-2, 6-8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people, the just and unjust; those who have trusted Christ, will be resurrected to everlasting blessing in the presence of God and his people; those who have directly or indirectly rejected the truth of Christ's gift of salvation will be resurrected to the everlasting punishment of the lost. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 14:3; Revelation 20:12-15)

ABOUT SALVATION...

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His death and resurrection. (Romans 3:25; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

We believe that Jesus tasted death for every man, and that all must be born again or are forever lost. (John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 2:9)

We believe that all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God; and are therefore eternally secure as a child of God. (John 3:5, 6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:37-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

We believe the Holy Spirit baptizes each believing person into Christ at the moment of salvation; declaring them free from the bondage of sin (dead to sin) and able to live out the righteousness of Christ (alive in Christ) as a new creation. This is the new birth. This is eternal life. (Romans 6: 1-12; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

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ABOUT THE CHURCH...

Upon accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the new believer becomes part of the body of Christ, which is often called the church.

The Scriptures command believers to gather (assemble) in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances (immersion baptism and the Lord's Supper), fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world in fulfillment of the command of Christ to make disciples of all nations (Ephesians 5:23; Romans 12:1; Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18-20). Wherever and whenever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command there is the local expression of the church - under the oversight of elders and deacons. The church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. (Ephesians 4:16)

Therefore, we believe that the New Testament assembly is a body of immersed believers with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide. New Testament churches promote God's work by cooperating for missions and many other joint efforts.

We believe that the New Testament assembly observes two ordinances which are baptism by immersion after conversion and the Lord's Supper. We believe that all who have received Christ as Savior and Lord should be immersed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that this immersion is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and that the Lord's Supper should be observed in remembrance of Him as a testimony of His death for our sins until He comes again. (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27)

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ABOUT ANGELS AND SATAN...

We believe angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. They were created to serve God and to worship Him.

We believe that Satan is a created angel and the tempter toward all sin and head of all powers of darkness. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator. We believe he is the enemy of God and man, the prince of this world, and the god of this age who tempts men and accuses them before God. He has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12; Zechariah 3:1; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:10)

ABOUT HEAVEN, HELL, & THE RETURN OF CHRIST...

We believe in the "blessed hope": the personal, premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. His return has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The saved are raised to eternal, conscious enjoyment in the New Heaven and New Earth (Matthew 25:34; John 14:2; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Revelation 2:7). The lost are raised to eternal torment in the Lake of Fire in conscious separation from God. (Matthew 8:11-12; Matthew 10:28; Matthew 13:49-50; Mark 9:47-48; Luke 12:5; Revelation 21:8)