

Beliefs of Our Community – Doctrinal Statement

God

- There is One true God (1 Cor. 8:5-6), who is the creator of Heaven and Earth (Gen. 1).
- God is Eternal (Ps. 41:13), Holy (Isa. 6:3, Rev 4:8), Sovereign (Isa. 43:13), All-knowing (Ps. 139:1-4), All-powerful (Matt. 19:26), personal (Jn. 1:14; Heb 1:2), and loving (Jn. 3:16, 1 Jn. 4:8), yet transcendent (Dt. 29:29, Isa. 55:8-9).
- This God of glory has eternally existed as three distinct persons (Matt. 28:19): Father (Matt. 6:9), Son (Jn. 1:34), and Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26).

Jesus

- Is both fully God (Jn. 1:1-5) and fully man (1 Tim. 2:5). (Matt. 28:19)
- He eternally existed as the Son of God (Jn. 1:1-5), but was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:24-25), lived a sinless life (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15), died upon a cross for the sins of the world, was buried, and rose physically from the dead (1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- He appeared to many after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:5-8) until His ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9) as the Lord above all (Acts 2:32-36).
- Jesus now intercedes for His church (Rom. 8:27; Heb. 4:14-16), and awaits the Father's command at which He will physically return (Acts 1:10-11; Rev. 19:11-19).
- At His return Christ will set up a literal Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-6) and reign until He judges Satan and all evil (Rev. 20:7-15). He will then hand the kingdom over to the Father for the rest of eternity (1 Cor. 15:28).

Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is a fully divine and unique person. (Matt. 28:19)
- He inspired God's prophets and led men to write the inspired Scriptures (2 Pet. 1:20-21).
- He draws people to the Savior (Jn. 16:7-11); and at the moment of salvation regenerates (Titus 2:5-6), indwells (Jn. 14:17), and baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
- His baptism gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-12), empowers (Acts 1:8), and seals all believers until the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13-14).

Scriptures

- Are God's revelation to men about His person, promises, and purposes. (2 Tim 3:16; Ps. 119)
- The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are inspired and inerrant as written in the original manuscripts (2 Tim. 3:16). They have been preserved by God for all generations as the standard by which we believe and live.

People

- People are created in the likeness of God's image (Gen. 1:26-27). We were created to know, love, and worship God as His representative on earth (Micah 6:8; Matt. 22:36-37; Heb. 2:6-7).
- As a result of Adam's sin (Gen. 3), all people are guilty of rebellion against their creator (Rom. 5:12-19).
- All people are justly condemned (Rom. 3:23) and apart from faith in Christ (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12) will suffer the eternal judgment of hell (Rom. 6:23).

Salvation

- Salvation is the deliverance from sin's present enslavement, total corruption, and future condemnation (Rom. 6; 8:1-4).
- Salvation is a gift from God (Eph. 2:8) given to all who believe (Rom. 1:16-17) in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).
- Those who believe have been chosen by God the Father (Eph. 1:3), called by the Holy Spirit (1 Pt. 1:2) and should respond by persevering in faith until they see Christ face to face (1 Cor. 15:1-2; Col. 1:21-23).

Sanctification

- Sanctification is promised to all believers who persevere in faith.
- Believers in Christ are expected to "walk in the Spirit" by yielding to the leading of the Holy Spirit and not after their sinful desires (Gal. 5:13-26). Those who believe should walk in obedience to God's commands (1 Pet. 1:14-16), commit themselves to His purposes (Matt. 28:18-20), confess and repent from sin (1 Jn. 1:9).
- Christians are called to grow in their personal walk with Christ (Phil. 3:13-14) and also in fellowship with the saints (Heb. 10:23-25) as a witness to the world (Matt. 5:13-16).
- The Christian will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for their life and deeds (1 Cor. 3:11-15, 2 Cor. 5:9-11).

Church

- The Church, which consists of people from all races, nations, tribes, and languages (Gal. 3:28-29), is the Body of Christ whose mission is to build up itself in holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:15-16), worship God in obedience (Rom. 12:1-2), and witness to a lost and hopeless world (Acts 1:8).

Additional Issues Regarding Church Practice...

- Ordinances – The church upholds the two ordinances left by Jesus: the Lord’s Supper and water baptism. Water baptism is an outward testimony of faith in Christ in which all believers should participate. We only perform baptism by immersion, but we will allow people to be members who have been baptized by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. The Lord’s Supper is an act of remembrance about the person and work of Christ.
- End Time Scenarios – There are many possible scenarios including the essentials of a rapture, tribulation, physical return, literal Kingdom, and final judgment. We will not require members to hold a certain view.
- Gifts – We believe every Christian has been gifted by the Holy Spirit to fulfill ministries in the church. (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:7-13) All *gifts of service* are embraced by our church and should be exercised by each member. *Sign gifts*, including tongues and prophecy, must be practiced in accordance with 1 Corinthians 12-14. We do not desire to limit God in what He can do, but we do believe the use of sign gifts today is the exception, not the norm.
- Women’s Roles in Church Service – Women have the same dignity, honor, and equality before God as men, yet are gifted with different roles. All women are encouraged to serve in the ministries of GBC except the roles of pastor, elder, or men’s Bible study leader. (1 Tim. 2:9-3:13; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:3)