

Beliefs

What we consider to be core truths

1. The Bible: **We believe** in the divinely inspired Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts. The Scriptures are the final authority in all matters of faith and instruction for a God-honoring life.⁵⁹
2. The Triune God: **We believe** that there is one living and true God, creator of all things, eternally existing in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁶⁰
3. The Fall of Man: **We believe** that man was created by God in his own image; that man sinned and by sin incurred physical and spiritual death; that all humans are born with a sinful nature, and are sinners by choice, and are therefore under just condemnation; that man is unable through his own effort to restore himself to right relationship with God.⁶¹
4. Jesus Christ: **We believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, fully God and fully man yet without sin.⁶² **We believe** in his sinless life, his miracles, and his teaching. **We believe** Jesus Christ died in our place and for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day, personally appearing to his disciples.⁶³ **We believe** in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, his exaltation and enthronement at the Father's right hand.⁶⁴
5. Salvation: **We believe** that all who repent and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are made alive (born again) by the Holy Spirit, cleansed of their sins, delivered from condemnation, granted the righteousness of Christ and life abundant and unending; that these are gifts of grace provided for entirely by the merits of Christ's death and resurrection, not by our individual effort.
6. Baptism: **We believe** in baptism by immersion in water for the believer in order to fulfill the command of Christ, a mark of our union with him and his body.
7. The Holy Spirit: **We believe** in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a tangible experience of God's empowering presence. **We believe** that the Holy Spirit abides within all believers, setting them apart unto God, guiding, strengthening, and teaching them. **We believe** in the present availability of all the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in the Scriptures and manifested in the early church. **We believe** that the proper

employment of these gifts is essential to the growth and maturity of the body of Christ, the Church.

8. The Church: **We believe** in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all who are born of the Spirit are members. **We believe** in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and joined together for worship, fellowship, and work. **We believe** that God has entrusted to the church the task of making the good news of Jesus known to the world and continuing the work Jesus began.
9. The Lord's Supper: **We believe** in the breaking of bread, commonly called communion or the Lord's Supper, instituted by Jesus for the commemoration of his death, an expression of our participation in his death and eternal life, and of our union with his body, the Church.⁶⁵
10. Christian Discipleship/Maturity: **We believe** in the Spirit-filled life and the ongoing work of the Spirit to transform the believer's character; that a Christian should enjoy God; that he should live for the glory of God and the good of his fellow man; that he should strive to be blameless before the world, that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.⁶⁶
11. The Last Things: **We believe** in the personal and visible return of Jesus to the earth to judge the living and the dead. **We believe** in the reality and personality of Satan and the eternal judgment of Satan and his angels. **We believe** in the resurrection of the dead, in eternal life for the believer, and eternal punishment of the unbeliever.⁶⁷

59 2 Tim 3:16-17; 1 Cor 2:12-13

60 Mt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14

61 Romans 5:6-19

62 Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; Col 1:19, 29

63 Romans 4:25; 1 Cor 15:1-8

64 Acts 2:33, 5:31; 1 Peter 3:21-22

65 1 Cor 11:23-25

66 Eph 4:13

67 Acts 1:11, 1 Thes 4:16-17