



We believe that the Scriptures, our Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as God's revelation of Himself and His will for the salvation of mankind and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

We believe that the Bible teaches us these very important truths:

GOD

There is one true, sovereign and holy God, Creator and sustainer of all things, who has revealed himself to us as a unity of three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons are equally divine and eternal, of infinite power, knowledge, wisdom and goodness, and the creator and sustainer of all things.

(2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; Colossians 1:15-16)

GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is spirit, holy, eternal, supreme and unchangeable. He has ultimate authority over all creation and is the source of everything. He is worthy of all worship and praise.

GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and fully possesses the same nature and attributes as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is not only true God, but true Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His high priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal return from heaven. On His return He will judge the living and the dead and establish a new Heaven and a new Earth as the home of righteousness where He will reign for eternity.

(John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:34-35; Jeremiah 31:31-34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Luke 24:51;
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 3:23-25; 1 Peter 2:21-24; Acts 10:42)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

God, the Holy Spirit, is the divine person who convicts of sin, gives new life, and comes to live within believers, assuring them of salvation, purifying, strengthening, helping them, and interceding with God, the Father on their behalf. He is given as a pledge of entitlement as a child of God to all who believe in God, the Son for salvation. He empowers the children of God to live lives in accordance with His will and equips them for service in the Church and in the Kingdom of God.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 12:4-11; Ephesians 1:13-14, 3:16; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26-27; Galatians 5:16-25;
2 Corinthians 1:21-22; John 16:7-11, 3:4-8, 14:15-18; Galatians 6:10)

SATAN

Satan, also known as the Devil, is a spiritual being who constantly opposes God, His work, and the spiritual progress of His people who must resist Satan's influence over them. His (Satan's) eternal doom is assured because of the person and work of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

(1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 20:1-3,10; James 4:7; Hebrews 2:14; Genesis 3:1-24)

CREATION

The triune God, through the agency of Jesus Christ, created the heavens, the earth and everything that exists ex nihilo, that is, out of nothing.

(Genesis chapters 1 and 2)

HUMANITY

God created humanity, men and women of equal value in His sight, in His image and free from sin. Adam, the first man, sinned (disobeyed God's instruction). Because of his sin (disobedience), all humanity has inherited a sinful nature, evidenced by their behaviour, and are under God's judgment and destined to eternal separation from Him in Hell. Through the saving work of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has provided a way for humanity to be reconciled to Him through His free offer of Salvation.

(Romans 5:12, 3:23, 1:18; Revelation 20:11-15)

SALVATION

God has made full provision for the salvation of all who, through faith, trust in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross to restore their fellowship with God. Salvation is given by grace and received through faith. It is based upon the sovereign grace of God who, by His Holy Spirit, convicts of sin and regenerates all who repent and believe the gospel. Salvation is received through faith apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. God is absolutely sovereign in salvation, and at the same time, humanity is completely responsible to accept or reject that salvation. Just as this salvation is not earned by works or deeds, so it cannot be lost by misdeeds.

(Romans 3:21-26, 4:1-8; Ephesians 1:7, 13-14, 22-23; 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27)

THE CHURCH

The church is a spiritual body composed of all persons who possess saving faith in Jesus Christ and have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. This body expresses itself in local churches. Our local church is independent (or autonomous), though interdependent on the wider body of Christ.

The church plays a vital role in God's eternal purposes. Each person who places their faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ should become a member of a local congregation, where they can be built up and encouraged in their lives and exercise their own spiritual gifts for the benefit of their fellow members.

(Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Rev 21:3; Matthew 16:18; Acts 15:14; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:7-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 13:1-4, 14:19-23; 20:28-32; Colossians 4:2-4; Philippians 4:15-19)

LEADERSHIP/GOVERNANCE

The Bible identifies two groups:

- Elders (or overseers / shepherds) - a plurality of spiritually qualified men, that are appointed by the Holy Spirit and the Church, who are involved in its spiritual leadership.
- Deacons – a plurality of spiritually qualified people, that are appointed by the Holy Spirit and the Church, who serve the church in various roles.

All matters concerning the life and beliefs of the church are to be settled by the Bible, and though the church is to be guarded and protected by "Elders, Overseers or Shepherds", all members are subject to the authority of the biblical text.

(Matthew 20:25-28; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3; 5:19,20; Titus 1; Acts 20:28-30; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

We also believe all men and women are directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Where the Christ-honouring unity of the Church is threatened, members shall act to resolve the issue before the situation worsens. The desired outcome of any discipline that may be necessary is the repentance of the offender/s and the restoration of Christ-honouring unity within the church. Christ-like truth and love is to be behind any individual attempt to restore an offending member. Jesus provides our guide in Matthew 18:15-17.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

The supreme task of every believer is to glorify God in life and conduct as a testimony to God's saving grace, and to be blameless before the world. Each Christian should seek to be a growing disciple of Jesus Christ and a faithful steward of all possessions, and to realise the maturity in Christ in every area of their life.

(Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Colossians 3:18-4:1; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

MARRIAGE

The Church may not solemnise any marriage which is not between one woman and one man according to God's created order.