



Biblical Distinctives

Since its founding in 1970, our church has over a fifty-year legacy as a faithful Bible-based, Christ-centered, missions-oriented church committed to loving God and one another as we serve Christ together. The following is a summary of distinctives defining “who we are” as a church. Though every member may not hold to every distinctive, we uphold these distinctives in the life of our church. Please also see our doctrinal statement which is the foundation for “what we believe” as a church.

By our faith and practice, we affirm . . .

- 1. OUR CHURCH IS A FAITHFUL WITNESS TO CHRIST.** We are a non-denominational, unaffiliated local church committed to following Christ according to the Scriptures.
- 2. THE AUTHORITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF GOD’S WORD.** We view Scripture, the Bible, as God’s Word, our treasure of wisdom and guidance and all-sufficient authority in all matters of faith and life in Christ.
- 3. THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL DOCTRINE.** Biblical doctrines (the truths, precepts, principles, and teachings of Scripture) are the basis of our unity, beliefs, and practice of our faith in Christ.
- 4. THE EXISTENCE OF HEAVEN AND HELL.** Every single person, living or dead, will either spend eternity in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ or eternally separated from Christ in a place of everlasting torment.
- 5. THE GOSPEL [“GOOD NEWS”] OF JESUS CHRIST.** Every person who receives the Lord Jesus Christ and trusts in Him for forgiveness of their sins will immediately receive a new life in Christ and assurance of eternal life with Christ after death.
- 6. A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.** We understand the importance of our members developing a trustworthy, biblical worldview of this present life and the life to come after death.
- 7. THE POWER OF PRAYER.** We believe in the power of individual and corporate prayer for our understanding of God’s Word and His direction for our church and our individual lives in Christ.
- 8. BIBLICAL CHRIST-CENTERED WORSHIP SERVICES.** Our services focus on worshipping God and strengthening followers of Christ and include in-depth preaching and teaching of “the whole counsel of God’s Word,” prayer, and Scripture-based hymns and praise choruses.
- 9. THE PRIORITY OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING.** We believe expository preaching of Scripture, book by book, and verse by verse by our lead pastor-teacher and others is the best way to achieve a fuller understanding of Scripture and individual and corporate spiritual maturity in our relationship with Christ.
- 10. A PLURALITY OF BIBLICAL ELDERS.** Our elders are biblically qualified men who have primary roles with equal authority as under-shepherds of Christ, pastors, and servants to our church members according to God’s Word as they follow our church’s by-laws approved by our members.
- 11. THE VITAL ROLE OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS.** All church members, both men and women, young and old are valued parts of “the Body of Christ” and have important, distinct roles in the decision-making, effective functioning, direction, and life of our church.
- 12. THE DISCIPLING OF EVERY MEMBER.** Faithful discipling of our adults, youth, and children to love, obey, and serve Christ and others according to God’s Word is central to our church’s mission.

13. OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST AND ONE ANOTHER. We flourish as a church when our common, mutual love for Christ, one another, and the Scriptures are openly and genuinely practiced, as we unite in worship, fellowship, and minister together.

14. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM. Personal evangelism, local missions, and international missions are core church ministries directly commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ.

15. RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY AND HARMONY. Race is a modern social construct not found in Scripture. God's Word declares all have common ancestors in Adam and Eve. Though God ordained ethnic and cultural diversity among the world's people groups, He made no group superior to another. All who are in Christ are one with Him, equally loved by Christ and other believers.

16. OUR JOY IN CHRIST. Whatever our circumstances in this life as individual church members or as a church body, because of Christ's great love for us, we choose to rejoice and know the fullness of our joy in fellowship with Christ.

17. OUR HOPE IN SUFFERING. We are especially alert to ministering hope in Christ to our individual members and church body as we experience various trials, troubles, and setbacks in life.

18. WE STAND FIRM IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE. We believe Satan and demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God. Our principal responsibility is to remain faithful and obedient to Christ while depending on and contending for the truth of God's Word empowered by the Holy Spirit.

19. CHURCH DISCIPLINE AS A LAST RESORT. In the rare case of a church member's open, willful, and continual disregard of Scripture bringing harm to his or her testimony to Christ, such matters are biblically addressed to lovingly restore the person's relationship to Christ and His church.

20. THE SIX LITERAL DAYS OF CREATION AND A WORLDWIDE FLOOD. The Book of Genesis speaks of both God's work of creation being completed in six 24-hour days and a worldwide flood in the time of Noah. The accounts of these two events neither deny nor contradict scientific evidence when viewed in the light of Scripture.

21. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. We look forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory to establish His Kingdom on earth and bring about the consummation of the ages.

22. THE BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE. Marriage is a God-appointed covenant between a husband and wife. There are only two biblical reasons for permitting divorce: abandonment by a non-believing spouse or sexual immorality. Remarriage is not permitted by Scripture after divorce unless one of these two conditions apply. If a person, including our members, have been divorced or remarried contrary to Scripture, God is willing to grant forgiveness and bless their existing marriage.

23. THE SANCTITY OF AN UNBORN CHILD'S LIFE. An unborn child is created in the image of God and is to be protected from the moment of conception as an innocent life, a sacred trust, and gift of God. Those who have had an abortion for sinful reasons may ask for and receive God's forgiveness.

24. THE DUAL CITIZENSHIP OF BELIEVERS. As followers of Christ, our allegiance, and responsibilities as a citizen of any nation is important, but always secondary to our citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

25. OUR STAND ON CURRENT CULTURAL ISSUES. We provide Bible-based instruction on social, political, and religious movements which are contrary to Scripture and harmful to believers (e.g., current views of "social justice;" critical race theory, various sexual behaviors, and lifestyles; socialism and Marxism; and false biblical teachings, cults, or religions). □