

THE HEART OF WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible

God inspired 40 writers over a period of 1500 years to record stories, teachings, commands, wisdom and poetry that revealed who God is and what His heart and mind is for all humans. The bibles we read are translated from ancient Greek and Hebrew manuscripts that have been preserved, copied and verified as accurate to the originals.

The Bible cannot be understood or applied without the help of the Holy Spirit who is our counsellor and teacher who leads us into all truth. We seek to “fact check” what we believe say and do, by being faithful to what is revealed in the bible which we hold as final authority. Every disciple and those seeking to discover Jesus can be taught by the Holy Spirit as they read, discover and apply it (privately and with others.) God has also given the gift of leadership and teaching to the church in order grow, develop, equip and train the church in their understanding and application of the Bible in their lives.

(2 Tim 3:16; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:27, Hebrews 4:12; 2 Tim 2:15, 1 Cor 2:1-5; Eph 4:12-15)

The Trinity

That there is one God, who created all things, who has always existed in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 28:19, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

God the Father

God is SPIRIT and is neither male nor female. God the Father is all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere. God the Father is eternal and beyond time, the one who is, always was, and always will be. God the Son became human (Jesus) and related to God as His Father and taught us to call him “Father” too. God the Father is pure and good. He is the perfect father and only knows what is good. God the Father gave us his only Son and sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always.

(Genesis 1:1, 26, Matthew 28:19, Revelation 4:8-11)

God the Son - Jesus

The Lord Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. He existed as God the Son before creation and everything was created by his word. He became a human, born of the Virgin Mary, lived without sin, was betrayed and died on the cross on our behalf. He was raised on the third day, physically revealed himself to his disciples, returned to heaven and continues His work to mediate on our behalf. The father will

send him back in power and glory to judge the living and the dead and to establish an eternal kingdom.

(Matthew 1:22-23, Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1-5, 14:10-30, Hebrews 4:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 1:3-4, Acts 1:9-11, John 14:6, 1 Timothy 6:14-15, Titus 2:13)

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God is at work in the world and in our lives – creating, speaking, comforting, transforming, living, working, teaching, leading, encouraging, convicting and empowering us. Through him we have access to the Father and everything Jesus has done for us.

(2 Corinthians 3:17, John 16:7-13, 14:16-17, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16, Ephesians 1:13, Titus 3:5, John 14:26, Galatians 5:22-23,25)

Humans

Humans were originally made to be like God (in his image) and to be loved by God and to partner with God to rule the earth and everything in it. In the beginning everything about humans was good. God was there source of knowledge about good and evil and they were created to live eternally with God. God gave humans a choice to live according to their own idea of good and evil (to ignore God's rule and design). Humans chose to self-rule. This divided and separates us from God. (death in this life and the next.) From that time on, humans have been hostages to sin, death and Satan. They unwittingly became enemies of God. Without God, they are lost and without hope. They need to be found and saved.

Knowing that humans could not never make themselves good enough or remove their sin, God sent his Son to become human in order to reveal his great love and mercy so that we could be forgiven and restored.

(Genesis 1:27, 3:1-7, Psalms 8:3-6, Romans 5:12,19, Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 John 4:10, 2 Thes 1:8-9)

The Good News

God loved the world so much he sent His Son to become human. Jesus lived 100% according to His Fathers design and purpose. His death and life restored us to God's original identity, design and purpose for us. In order to be restored to Gods intended identity, design and purpose Jesus became human and laid down His perfect life as a ransom for us. Every human needs to turn to God from self-rule, confess that they have sinned against God and accept Jesus's rule over their lives. When a person confesses and turns from their sin and believes on the Lord Jesus, his death and resurrection, they are born again, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in them. They are given a new life, a new heart and life eternal. From that day onward, the Holy Spirit works in them to make them more like Jesus and empowers them to do the good works God has prepared for them.

(Col 1:6, John 3:16; Acts 2:22-24,31-33,36; Rom 1:1-6; Rom 3:25-26; Rom 4:24-25; Rom 5:6-8; Rom 8:3; Rom 10:9-11; Rom 14:7-10,12; 2 Cor5:21; Gal 3:13-14; Eph 1:20-21; Eph 2:1-3,5; Col 1:13-18,20-23; Col 2:9-14; 1 Thes 5:9-10; 1 Tim 2:5-6; 2 Tim 2:8; Titus 3:4-7; Heb 9:28; 1 Pet 2:22-24; 1 Pet 3:18; 1John 8-9; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10)

The Power and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit seeks us out and draws us to Jesus even before we are aware of God. He reveals his truth to us, convicts of sin and our need to turn to him for help. He comes to live within us as we turn to God, turn from sin and believe in the good news that Jesus died and rose again and is the Lord of all. This is what the bible describes as being “born again.”

The Holy Spirit tells us about Jesus, reminds us of everything Jesus said and did and teaches us all things. We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit (or being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit) is a distinct and ongoing experience that is promised to believers in which they are given power for sharing Jesus and living with power and authority in the name of Jesus. We believe that followers of Jesus should desire and pray to be constantly filled with His power and to eagerly desire spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit sovereignly distributes gifts to people as he wills. All of the spiritual gifts are available and are given by God as he chooses for the building up of the church and to reveal the glory of God to those who don't know him.

(John 14:17; 15:26; 16:8,13; 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:13, Luke 24:48-49, Acts 1:4, Acts 2:32-33, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 12:11, Acts 2:39)

The Three Greats

To obey and to be part of fulfilling the Great Commission and the two Great Commands is a privilege given to all followers of Jesus and is part of being a reproducing disciple. Making disciples begins as we go into the world with other disciples to make disciples in every nation, sharing the good news, baptising those who turn from their sin to God (repent) and who receive and believe that Jesus died and rose again and is the Lord of all. We then continue to walk with them and teaching them how to obey everything Jesus commanded through our example of life and faith.

(Matthew 22:35-40; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Cor 11:1; Col 3:16; Heb 10: 24-25; 2Tim 2:2)

Jesus's return and eternity

We believe that Jesus Christ is coming back to establish his eternal rule and reign. We trust in God's promise that a day is coming when he will banish sin, sickness, death, decay, and Satan forever. When he returns, those who have rejected God and the good news he offers through Jesus, will be eternally separated from him in Hell, while those who have accepted the immeasurable gift of his forgiveness will receive eternal life with him in Heaven. When Jesus returns, he will introduce the New

Heavens and New Earth where we will live peacefully and joyfully in harmony with God and one another forever.

(Revelation 19:11-16, Acts 3:20-21, Revelation 21:1-5)

The Kingdom of God

God is sovereign and rules and reigns over all things. It is what he meant when he asked his followers to pray for his "Kingdom to come and his will be done." There is nothing outside of His control. This rule is achieved as we his followers agree and join with Him to see his will done.

Jesus revealed the reality of the Kingdom of God through a life ruled completely under the authority and power of His Father in heaven and the Holy Spirit. We are called to live under Jesus' rule and reign over our lives and to see that rule and reign over all things. It is what Jesus described as "seeking first the Kingdom of God"

(Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:33).

The Church

Followers of Jesus are members of the church and part of the family of God. There is power and significance in the Church (worldwide, local, big and small). The church is made up of disciples who are called to make disciples - meet regularly, to worship, study the scriptures, fellowship, pray, serve one another and work together to serve God, one another and to demonstrate and share the good news about Jesus with the world. We see the church's primary mandate is to obey the three Greats (Great commission and Two Great Commands.)

(Hebrews 10:14, Ephesians 2:19-22, Romans 5:1, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Acts 2:42-47)

Water Baptism

When a person turns from sin and turns to faith in Jesus (repent and believe), the Bible commands them to be baptised (be immersed) in water as a way of immersing themselves into everything Jesus accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is the mark of a new beginning. Taking off the old and putting on the new.

When we baptise those who believe the good news we model to them a fundamental part of the great commission that they are called to follow. To be able to fulfil the great commission every believer needs to be authorised to baptise those who have become disciples through repentance and faith.

Baptism is for:

- A person who is born again

The New Testament accounts show that people were baptised:

- After they turned from sin to God & believes in the Lord Jesus

- By the person who has shared the good news or who will disciple them
- Almost immediately and wherever there was enough water for them to go under (pool, spa, beach, creek, waterfall, bath)
- With little teaching about the meaning of baptism. Baptism was a response to the good news. Understanding baptism was covered as they were disciples by others.

(Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:38, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Communion

The night before he died, Jesus shared his last Passover meal with his disciples and gave them bread and wine as two simple common foods as symbols to remind them that He gave his body and his life for us to take our place, our sins and bring us into right relationship with God. We believe that communion is for all believers to celebrate whenever and wherever 2 or more meet. We encourage families, friends and Life Groups to celebrate and remember everything Jesus has done for them. There is no requirement for a authorised leader/elder/pastor to officiate.

(1 Corinthians 11:25-26, Matthew 26:26-29)

Marriage, Family, Divorce and Sex

Marriage, (for those not called by God to be single), was designed by God as a sacred covenant between God, man and woman at the exclusion of all others (monogamy).

Marriage is for life – “Till death do us part”.

Both husband and wife together show a true picture of the love between Christ and His church to the world and demonstrate the true nature of God to their children, who are the blessing of their union under God. Marriage is like a picture of Jesus relationship to the church. A wife submits to her husband who himself loves and submits to his wife and serves her sacrificially. (Eph 5)

We believe that sex and sensuality (the things that lead to sex) were designed by God to be enjoyed within marriage. This means that sex outside of marriage (before or whilst married with another person) is not part of Gods design for anyone. We believe that the Bible clearly reveals that God does not desire divorce. However, the Bible does allow for divorce on the basis of marital unfaithfulness. We desire to encourage and build up strong and lasting relationships (before marriage) and partnerships (after marriage) that honour God and grow to be fruitful, loving and strong.