



Essential Beliefs

God

God eternally exists in three persons; God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. While they are distinct in person, they are equal in character and nature as God. In the Bible, The Father is seen as creator, sustainer, just, loving and caring for the children of God. Jesus is God who was miraculously born of a virgin; coming to earth to show us God's character and nature, ultimately He died on the cross and rose from the dead providing the only way for man to become right with God and defeat sin. The Holy Spirit is God who lives in us at the point of salvation and works to bring about our Christ-likeness, effectiveness in ministry and the salvation of people in the world. These are just some of the attributes of God and ways He interacts with creation. Ultimately all He is and does is good.

Genesis 1:1,26, Matthew 28:19, John 1:1,3,14, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Hebrews 12:7-10, 1 Peter 1:17-21, 1 Peter 2:21-25 Galatians 4:6, Colossians 1:13-22

The Bible

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It defines God's nature and character, and reveals God's will and plans on all matters of life and faith. We received the Bible when God spoke or "breathed it" into existence having it recorded by human authors as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Because the ultimate source of the Bible is God, it is authoritative, complete and true without any mixture of error. *2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Matthew 5:17-18, Romans 16:25-2, Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119*

Humanity

Humanity was created in the image of God to reflect the character and conduct of God. That image is distorted by what the Bible calls sin; which is our attitudes and actions of disobedience towards God. While we are capable of doing good, it is not enough to bridge the gap between God's intended innocence of humanity at creation and our disobedience towards Him in sin. Because of sin, we are separated from God and in need of being restored to the character and conduct of God. *Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 3:22-23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-3, 13*

Salvation

All humanity was created to have a relationship with God, but is separated from that relationship with God by sin. No one is perfect; all of us have sinned. The results are devastating spiritually and physically through death. Humanity makes many attempts to fix this emptiness through philosophy, knowledge, religion, good works and various pleasures in the world. However, God's desire for us at creation has not changed and He has made a way for us to be restored to a relationship with Him through Jesus. Jesus is God in the flesh who lived a sinless life and came to show His love for us.

Jesus communicated His love for us by taking out His anger over our sin on Himself through His death on the cross. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead defeating the curse of sin and giving us hope of new life. Humanity can do nothing to earn or deserve this gift of forgiveness and restoration. It is exclusively a gift of God's grace given to all who would by faith acknowledge Jesus as the only God and exchange their spiritually dead life for a new life surrendered to the leadership of Jesus. *Genesis 1:26-27, John 3:16-17,36, Acts 4:13, Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5-7*

The Church

The church is made up of all who have received new life in Jesus Christ. The establishment and continuation of local congregations is clearly taught in the Bible. The church is ruled by Christ and His Word, is watched over by elders, equipped by leadership, and is resourced by the gifts, stewardship and participation of believers. The church is known in the Bible as the body and bride of Christ who is to carry on Jesus' mission of making disciples of all nations. *Acts 18:22-23, 20:28, 1 Corinthian.12:4-27, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-16, Colossians 1:18, 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8, 1 Timothy 3:1-3 Titus 1:5-11, 1 Peter 5:1-3*

Eternity

One day Jesus will physically return to earth, humans are eternal beings, and heaven and hell are real places. While no one knows what time Christ will return, we do know that in the end the believer will give an account for their actions and the unbeliever will face judgment. The believer will spend eternity with God in a new heaven and a new earth and the nonbeliever will spend eternity separated from God in a place called hell. God's desire is for all mankind to spend eternity with Him in heaven, however mankind's eternity is determined by their choice to accept or reject God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus. *John 3: 16-21,36, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-5:2, Hebrews 9:27-28, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 2 Peter 3:7-18, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:1-23:13*

Security of the Believer

Because salvation is freely given to us only through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, it is enough to satisfy God's anger over sin and we can do nothing to earn or deserve God's salvation; we can then enjoy His free gift of salvation knowing that it is secure because of the work of Jesus. While His salvation is secure, we must not use this gift as an opportunity to continue to sin. *John 6:37-40; 10:27-30, Romans 8:1; 8:38-39, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, 2 Corinthians 1:22-23, Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30, 1 Peter 1:5*