

Doctrine and Beliefs:

Trinity: God eternally exists as three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three distinct persons of the Trinity are all fully God; all of God's attributes are true of each person and together they are one God. While the word "trinity" never appears in Scripture, it is an accepted doctrine based on the Bible's teachings as a whole. We see throughout Scripture, evidence of the Trinity (Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, John 1:1-5, John 13:20, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 2:18, 1 Peter 1:2). Additional Supportive Scripture: John 1:14, John 10:30, John 14 16-17, John 14:26, John 15:26, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:4-6, Philippians 2:5-8, Colossians 1:15-17, Colossians 2:9-10, 1 John 5:7-8

God the Father: The first member of the Trinity is God the Father. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things (Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:16, Acts 4:24, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 4:11). God is sovereign and infinite, meaning He has no limitations. God the Father can be intimately known but because of His infiniteness, He can never be fully known (Psalm 145:3, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Romans 11:33). God the Father can only be known through Jesus (Matthew 11:27, John 14:6).

Jesus Christ: Jesus is the second member of the Trinity and the Son of God. He is God incarnate as man, and He is both fully God and fully human (Luke 24:39, John 1:1, John 1:18, Romans 9:5, Colossians 1:19, Colossians 2:9). He was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, died for the sins of humanity, was resurrected bodily on the third day, ascended into heaven and is coming again as King and Judge. He has always been and will always be. Jesus Christ is the only provision that God has given for people to be reconciled to Him. Jesus' life on earth also serves as the model for the Christian life. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Isaiah 7:14; Romans 8:34; Acts 1:10) Additional Supportive Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is promised to those who profess faith in Jesus (Acts 2:38); the Holy Spirit is the presence of God living inside each follower of Christ (Romans 8:9-11). The Holy Spirit teaches and bears witness about Jesus (John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:7-15). He empowers those who follow Jesus in different forms of ministry (Acts 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Peter 1:12); He gives different spiritual gifts to followers of Jesus for the purpose of ministry (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). He empowers prayer (Romans 8:26, Ephesians 2:18). He gives strength and empowers followers of Jesus to overcome spiritual opposition

(Matthew 12:28, Ephesians 6:10-18). He sanctifies followers of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Titus 3:4-7). He convicts the world of sin (John 16:8-11). He guides (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16-18). He gives assurance of salvation to followers of Jesus (Romans 8:16, Ephesians 1:13-14).

The Bible: The Bible is the authoritative and inerrant Word of God; the sole and final source of all that we believe. It is God's revelation about Himself to man. Historically accurate and internally consistent, telling one story of redemption pointing to Jesus Christ, and giving instructions for morality, and the proper conduct of man. God used over 40 different authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the 66 books of the Bible. The Bible is the living Word of God, applicable to all time, and is not only the measure and standard of truth, but absolute truth itself. Additional Supporting Scripture: Numbers 23:19, Psalm 12:6, Proverbs 30:5, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:20-21, Deuteronomy 4:2, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Revelation 21:5, Revelation 22:18-19

The Church: The church is the community of all true followers of Jesus Christ. The church is the body of Christ of which Jesus is the head (Ephesians 5:23), set on the mission given by Jesus to make disciples and spread the love of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Ephesians 1:22-23). All true followers of Jesus should take an active part in the body of a local church (Hebrews 10:25) to worship God (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 1:12, Ephesians 5:16-20), to know God more intimately (Psalm 9:10 Jeremiah 9:24, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Philippians 3:10, Colossians 1:9-10), pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17), to make disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:19), serve (Matthew 20:26-28, Luke 6:35-36), for encouragement (Acts 14:21-22, 1 Thessalonians 5:11), and to be nurtured in order to grow to maturity in faith (Ephesians 4:12-13, Colossians 1:28, Hebrews 13:17).

Communion: We believe communion is a time of remembrance Jesus instituted with His first followers at an event called the Last Supper. Every time it gathers together, the church is to remember the sacrifice of Jesus as part of the foundation of the faith. Through a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice, we are reminded of the sacrificed body and shed blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the offer of salvation. Because of the example of the New Testament church, we participate in communion weekly. (Luke 22:17-20; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Human Condition: We are the pinnacle of God's creation, created in the likeness of God (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 5:1-2). We have rebelled against God through sin and

separated ourselves from the glory of God (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12); we are in need of redemption and restoration to the intended likeness we were created in that has been distorted by sin (1 Corinthians 15:49, Colossians 3:10). Additional Supporting Scripture: Romans 3:23-24, Philippians 2:1-8

Salvation: That man, created by God, willfully sinned against God and is consequently lost and without hope apart from Jesus Christ. That salvation-the forgiveness of sins-is only by grace through the body and blood of Jesus Christ. That one receives salvation by putting faith in Jesus, repenting of sin, and confessing Jesus, and that the Bible commands every believer in Jesus to be baptized by immersion. That those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ are sent into the world to proclaim the gospel and to love and serve the world just as Jesus Himself did. Additional Supportive Scripture: Matthew 26:28, Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 5:1-2, Romans 5:9, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 John 1:7, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 3:19, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, 2 Timothy 2:19

Baptism: The Bible teaches that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Baptism is a public demonstration and confession of faith in Jesus to God, the church, and the world (Matthew 10:32). Following our understanding of Scripture, we observe baptism through immersion; Jesus modeled this form of baptism and commanded it (Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:19), making baptism an act of obedience and faith. Baptism by immersion represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, symbolizing our old self dying, being buried in the water, and raised as a new creation in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17). Anyone who has professed faith in Jesus Christ should be baptized at his or her conversion or soon after (Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:36-38, Acts 10:44-48). Additional Supportive Scripture: 1 Peter 3:21

Eternity: Man was created for eternal existence. Jesus will return one day (Hebrews 9:28) and on that day all will be judged (Revelation 20:11-15). There will be just punishment and reward. For those who are in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation, and they will spend eternity in the presence of God in real places, the new Heaven and the New Earth (Matthew 25:34, 2 Peter 3:13). Those who reject Jesus will be separated from Him by their sin in a real place of eternal conscious punishment called Hell (Revelation 21:1-4). Additional Supportive Scripture: Matthew 24:44, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Revelation 22:20, Romans 14:10-12, Romans 2:5-8, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 8:1-2, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 2 Peter 3:8-10 Revelation 14:9-11, Hebrews 9:27-28, Matthew 25:31-46

Sanctity of Life: We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in

His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139, Genesis 1,2).

Marriage: We believe marriage is solely the uniting of one genetic male and one genetic female in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church and to provide for the man and woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression, and the means for having children. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25, 3:1-20; Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 1:24-28; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Pet 3:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalms 78:1-8; Col 3:18-21)