

C O R E B E L I E F S

The Word of God - We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation, and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak. Ps. 19:7-8; Is. 40:8; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21

The Trinity - We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally divine existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; we believe that these are equal in every divine perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. Gen. 1 and 2; Dt. 6:4; Mt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

God the Father - We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, justice, knowledge, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Ex. 6:2-3; Ps. 19:1-3; Jn. 14:6-14; Heb. 11:6; 12:9

Jesus Christ - We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, who has precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven. Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:23-28; 9:26-28

Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation of every believer. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost, and to empower the believer for godly living and service. Jn. 16:7-11; Rom. 8:9-17; 1 Cor. 12:7-13; Eph. 1:13-14

Humanity - We believe God created the universe out of nothing. As part of this, God created persons, male and female, in His image and free from sin, prior to the fall. We further believe all people are now sinners by nature and choice and are spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are justified by His death and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Gen. 1:26-39; Rom. 1:18-2:1; 3:22-24; 5:12-6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19

Salvation - We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross, and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. However, we further believe that those who are truly regenerated will continue toward righteous living, good works, and proper social concern. Jn. 1:12-14; Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:3-14; 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Pet. 1:1-5, 18-21

The Church - We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have been baptized upon a credible confession of faith and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism, and for service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love. Mt. 18:15-20; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-30; 2 Tim. 4:1-2

Autonomy of the Local Church - We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life and that each one should be free to worship God according to the dictates of conscience. Acts 4:18-19; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 5:1-4

Christian Conduct - We believe that the supreme task of believers is to glorify God in their lives and honor him in their conduct before the world. We further believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions and that they should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ. Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Tim 3:1-5; 1 Jn 2:15-17

The Last Things - We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal existence of all people either in heaven or hell, in divine judgment, rewards, and punishments. We also believe in the eternal destiny of the ancient tempter and adversary Satan, and his demons, in the lake of fire. Mt. 25:31-38, 41-46; 1 Cor. 15:23-28, 50-58; 1 Th. 4:14-18; 2 Th. 1:5-10; Titus 2:11-14; Rev. 19:9-22:13