

What We Believe at Spirit of Life

We believe the Bible is God's revealed Word to all people and the sole basis of our faith. It is inspired by God, without error, and has complete authority over our lives.

We believe there is only one true God. Contrary to public opinion, only one spiritual path leads to heaven. And that path passes through the God of the Bible, who has revealed Himself in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe God the Father is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

When God first made the universe, He was pleased with everything He created. And when He created mankind—Adam and Eve—the Bible tells us God said they were “very good!” By giving them each a soul, God's desire was that they would reflect His image, live in fellowship with Him and care for His creation. But Adam and Eve doubted that God would provide and care for them in the best way possible. So they rebelled against God. Once they broke that relationship, their natures became selfish and self-centered.

We believe every human being is born with a self-centered (sinful) nature and a tendency for evil that violates God's will and desire. Attempts to change human nature or to please God with our own good are doomed to failure, for God demands perfection. No matter how hard we try, we are not and can never be perfect. Therefore, all of us are in the same boat: we need to be forgiven. That total and real forgiveness is found only in Jesus.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was 100% human and 100% God, all in one. As a human, He experienced all the pain, suffering, and temptation we do. But because He was God, He dealt with it all in perfect, sinless ways. He did what none of us can do: He never sinned. After three years of publicly teaching and demonstrating that He was God, He allowed Himself to be crucified on a cross, paying the price for the sin of the world. Through His crucifixion, the debt we owe for our sin has been forgiven. Jesus' resurrection from the dead testifies to this fact. He ascended into Heaven after commissioning His disciples to tell the world about Him. He will return again to raise the dead, separate those who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior from those who don't, and then take the believers to live the rest of eternity in Heaven with Him.

We believe the Holy Spirit gives us this new relationship with Jesus. It's a relationship built on faith, a simple word that speaks more about heart-knowledge than head-knowledge. 'To have faith in Jesus' means “Jesus has saved and forgiven me...and I trust in that fact.” It's the Spirit who gives us that relationship. That same Spirit constantly reminds us of what Jesus has done, encouraging and empowering us to mature in this relationship with God. He gives spiritual gifts to

each committed Christian to use in serving others and growing the church. He is the Counselor who keeps each Christian connected to God and working together with other Christians to bring the Gospel message to all people.

We believe the Church is the fellowship of everyone God has brought to faith. The Church is more than one congregation or denomination. It consists of everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. God has given His Church two great gifts to continue its growth: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. In Baptism, God establishes a relationship with us, marking us as members of His Family and promising to always be our God. While baptism is a simple act of washing with water in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, its power lies in God's Word as He gives us a new name—His. The power of the Lord's Supper is also found in the Word of God when Jesus promises that "this (bread) is my body...this (wine) is my blood." While the Supper is a simple act consisting of bread and wine and involving all of our senses, the Word of God insures that Jesus' body and blood are also present, in and with the bread and wine, for the strengthening of our relationship with Him.

We believe a Christian is a member of the Church not because of what he has done or who he is, but because God has brought him into a relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It's a very one-sided thing: God has forgiven our sin because of Jesus' death on the cross; now His Spirit brings us into God's Family so that what Jesus did, He did for us personally. So even though our imperfections remain with us while here on earth, thanks to Jesus we are already perfect in God's eyes.**We believe Christians are called to live for Jesus, seeking to serve and honor Him in all facets of life.** Life cannot be divided into compartments, some where Jesus is present, others where He is not, for He is the author and Lord of all of our life.

We believe death is no longer something to be feared. Rather, all those who trust in Jesus will live in joy with Him in heaven for eternity. Death is now simply a doorway to another level of intimacy with God.