

# thechapel.life

## Doctrinal Statement

We accept the Scriptures as our authority in matters of faith and practice, and adopt the following Doctrinal Statement as our interpretation of Bible doctrine.

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three in one, co-equal, which is the Trinity.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, one of the three persons of the Trinity, who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the life of every believer, and he empowers the preaching and teaching of the gospel.
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in thought, word, and deed.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.
7. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, his ascension into heaven and his present life there as High Priest and Advocate for all believers.
8. We believe in that “blessed hope,” the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
9. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby they become children of God, and heirs of eternal life. This is a relationship in which they are eternally secure.
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the un-just, the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost, and the felicity of the saved, which demand heaven and hell.
11. We believe in the existence of a personal devil, who is working in the world to destroy the souls of men and that he and all his angels and all who receive not Christ as their Savior will eternally perish in the lake of fire.
12. We believe in the Church, the Body of Christ, whose mission it is to preach the gospel to all the world with its endeavors being supported by the freewill gifts and offerings of the people.
13. We believe that the ordinances of the Church, given by our Lord, are Baptism (by immersion following conversion) and the Lord’s Table (communion).

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## **Core Distinctives**

### **1. GOSPEL CENTRALITY**

Together, we believe that The Gospel (Jesus Christ died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day) is central to the story of God, the redemption of creation, the salvation of humanity, the life of God's people, and the mission of His church. We believe the Gospel is not only received (by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone), but it is that upon which we stand and are being saved (1 Cor 15:1 –5). Therefore, we are committed to making the Gospel central in everything we do as churches.

### **2. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION**

We affirm and believe that God is the source of the salvation of human beings, necessary because of their radical depravity. Therefore, God chose those whom He would save in Christ before the foundation of the world, not based on any foreseen faith or merit, but unconditionally, according to the purpose of His sovereign will. Further, God is also the accomplisher of salvation. Therefore, those whom God has elected for salvation He graciously and effectually draws to himself, so that they would believe, and further provides the grace necessary for them to persevere in their faith. (Jn 1:12 – 13, 10:25 – 30, Rom 3 – 4, Eph 1:4 – 5 2:8 – 10, 1 Jn 1:7, 9)

### **3. THEOLOGICAL UNITY WITH SECONDARY DIVERSITY**

We affirm and uphold the doctrinal statement and these core distinctives of The Chapel and remain firmly committed to theological unity in these central doctrines. We also recognize that there are doctrines which are not clearly stated in either our doctrinal statement or any of these core distinctives. For these, we embrace the maxim, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity."

### **4. EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING**

Because of our belief in the authority of Scripture (see our doctrinal statement) and the centrality of The Gospel (see above), we are committed to faithful exposition of the Scriptures as the regular means of preaching and teaching for the equipping and edification of God's people within our congregations. (2 Tim. 3:16 – 4:2)

### **5. A UNITED FAMILY OF CHURCHES**

While fostering diversity within our movement of churches, we are committed to unity; cultivated primarily in shared commitments to our mission, vision, overarching governance structure, global outreach initiatives, Camp Carl and fellowship among the Lead Pastors of each congregation. Secondly, we share central services for the benefit of our churches.

### **6. MISSIONAL OUTREACH**

We believe that mission is not a program of the church, but an essential element to the identity of the church. Further, we believe that mission is a primary part of Christian discipleship. Therefore, we are committed to each church engaging outreach by mobilizing the people of God through local ministry and disciple-making, church planting, and global missions. (Mt 28:16 – 20, Acts 1:8)

### **7. ORDERED EQUALITY IN SHARED MINISTRY**

We believe and practice that God has created men and women with equal worth, dignity, value, and personhood and that He has given them distinct and complementary roles in both the home and the church.

Men and Women share ministry in our churches and fulfill a variety of roles and responsibilities. Accordingly, we believe and practice that God has designed the role of Elder/Pastor in the church to be exercised by men under the authority and headship of Christ Jesus.

#### **8. CHRIST-CENTERED CORPORATE WORSHIP**

We believe that God is ultimate and that human beings were designed to worship and enjoy Him forever. We do this through Jesus, empowered by the Spirit of God. Therefore, our corporate worship gatherings are structured so that Christ-Centered Worship is the primary activity of those gathered. In this way, followers of Jesus are edified and equipped while being evangelistically mindful of those who are not yet worshippers of Jesus.