

Basic Beliefs First Christian Church, Salem, IN

We believe these things:

About God . . .

There is only one true God. He is the Creator of life and the Supreme Ruler of the universe. He has always been (eternal) and co-exists equally as God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. We learn about God through creation, Bible, and His Son. God loves us more than we can imagine.

Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 6:4; Job 38:1-41:34; Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:16; Romans 1:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:6

About Jesus Christ . . .

Jesus Christ is the one and only Son of God. He was completely God while at the same time being fully man. He revealed to us who God is. His miraculous acts, sinless life, and life-changing teachings all confirm that He is God's Son. His purpose for coming to Earth was to show God's love by dying on a cross, thus taking the sins of all mankind upon Himself, and paying the penalty that our sins deserve. His bodily resurrection from the grave and His promise to return someday are testimonies to the fact of who he is. Jesus desires a relationship with every person.

Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1,14,18; Acts 10:37-43; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:4-8; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-21; Hebrews 1:1-3

About the Holy Spirit . . .

The Holy Spirit is God. He dwells in each member of God's family as a Helper and Guide. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that a person comes to salvation. At the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our physical bodies as His home. He provides help to every Christian to do what is right, strength to serve Jesus, and direction for living life God's way.

John 14:16-17; John 16:7-13; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 3:16-20; Ephesians 5:18

About the Bible . . .

The Bible is God's written Word. The process that God used to give us His Word is called inspiration, which means God-breathed. The Word of God is without error and is truth. It tells us who God is, why He loves us, and what His plans are for us. The Bible is the authority or standard for living our lives according to God's will for us.

Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:105, 160; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

About Man . . .

We are created in the spiritual likeness or image of God. God gave us free will: we have the ability to choose to love as God loves, to choose to do right in the likeness of God's righteousness, and to choose to value what God values. God created us because He wants a family who will love Him because we want to love Him, and not because we have to love Him. The first man, Adam, chose to sin, and now every person lives in a marred creation with a marred spiritual nature. As a result, every person will eventually choose to sin and subsequently become separated from God and that is why we need God.

Genesis 1:27; Genesis 3:1-24; Psalm 8:3-6; John 4:24; Ephesians 1:4-6; Romans 3:23

About Salvation . . .

All need salvation because all have sinned. Sin separates us from God who desires relationship with us. It is impossible for anyone to restore that broken relationship with God by any amount of personal goodness, religious deeds, or by belonging to a church. We cannot earn, merit or achieve a right relationship with God by our own efforts. The death of Jesus was God's plan from the beginning to save us from our sins through his death. The Bible calls God's act of love, grace. His grace is His gift to us. The way we receive His gift is by entering into a covenant relationship with Jesus by placing our trust and faith in Him. When we decide that we will follow Jesus for the rest of our lives, we demonstrate our trust in Jesus by obeying His command to be

immersed (baptized) in water demonstrating the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and receiving forgiveness, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the hope of eternal life.

Isaiah 59:2; John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 2:37-39; Romans 3:10, 11, 23; Romans 6:3-4, 23; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-8; Colossians 2:9-12; 1 Peter 3:20-22

About the Church . . .

The Church is God's spiritual family. It is made up of all those who have chosen to place their trust and faith in Jesus and who are His followers (disciples). The Church is not a building or one particular group of believers. To belong to the Church, is to belong to Jesus. The Bible uses the analogy that Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is His body. God's will is for the Church to gather regularly to worship, to use its various gifts and abilities to serve, to love and encourage those who are in the body, and to work diligently to maintain the unity of the body. As the members of His Church love one another and maintain unity of purpose and relationship, the world around us will recognize that we belong to Jesus.

Matthew 16:15-18; John 17:20-23; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Ephesians 5:22-33

Communion . . .

We believe in the regular taking of Communion (Lord's Supper) as an act of remembering what the Lord Jesus did for us on the cross. We take the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (grape) as instituted by Jesus before his death. Weekly we remember what he did and the promises he made and the reason he died for all of us.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Acts 20:7; Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:17-20; Mark 14:22-26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Growing Relationship . . .

We believe every believer should be in a growing relationship with Jesus by obeying God's Word, yielding to the Holy Spirit and by being conformed to the image of Christ.

Romans 11:1; 1 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:17; 3:17; Philippians 1:9, 25; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; James 1:3, 4; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:8; 3:18; 1 John 4:17

About Eternity . . .

When God created you and me, He created us with a soul that will never cease to exist. Those who choose to follow Jesus as Lord, and have a growing relationship with Him, will spend eternity with God in Heaven. Those who reject Jesus by refusing to follow Him will spend eternity in Hell. Heaven and Hell are real places.

Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 10:28; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-6; Romans 6:23; Philippians 3:17-21; Revelation 20:15



**Remembering our
past**

**Letting God create
our future**

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