

CALVARY FELLOWSHIP ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

With deep longing our Lord prayed for our unity, knowing that on it rests our own blessing and the credibility of the church's witness for Christ (John 17:20–23). In our age of pluralism and the post-modern, relativistic approach to truth, we need clarity and boldness more than ever regarding the essentials of our faith. We agree with the quote often attributed to Augustine, *“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things Christ.”*

When looking for a church, the most important element for consideration is what the church believes and teaches. This is why “statements of faith” are helpful. At Calvary Fellowship we are also unified around what God teaches through His Word. All of God's Word is inspired and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training in righteousness.

Our Essential Doctrine listed is not exhaustive. It simply states what beliefs are absolutely essential for life in Christ (salvation) and in the body of Christ (the church).

We believe the Holy Scriptures, all 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, to be verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life, and that they will be used to settle all matters not specifically addressed in this statement of faith. [2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21]

We believe in only one living and true God, eternally existing in three distinct, equal, and fully divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead works together and is holy, sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful, and present everywhere. [Deuteronomy 6:4; John 14:16]

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived without sin, and is fully God and fully man. [Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:5-11]

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and are therefore sinners in thought, word, and deed, subject to God's righteous wrath, and in desperate need of a Savior. [Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23]

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died and fully paid the penalty for our sins as our substitute to make atonement before God. He was raised from the dead on the third day and justifies all who believe on Him by faith alone. Salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. [1 Corinthians 15:3-5; 1 John 2:2]

We believe in two ordinances of the church as given in scripture: water baptism and the Lord's supper. Water baptism is the public testimony of a believer's salvation identifying with Jesus. It is found in scripture to be an initial act of obedience of a Christ-follower. It declares faith in Jesus to all who are watching and is not a means of salvation. The Lord's Supper is a remembrance of the Lord's death “til He comes.” [Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26]

We believe God has given every believer the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our salvation. The Holy Spirit enables us to live a holy life and uses us to accomplish His purposes in the world by gifting us to serve His church. [Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 5:22-25]

We believe in the imminent, visible, and personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His literal reign of 1,000 years on earth. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:20]

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the eternal blessedness of the saved in a literal heaven, and the eternal punishment of the lost in a literal hell. [Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46]

Additional Resources:

DOCTRINE CLASS

You may watch Pastor Lee's teaching on our Essential Doctrine in 16, one-hour sessions that were offered January 21- May 13, 2015. You may access this teaching on the Sermon page of our website: Doctrine Class. If you have this document open while connected to the internet, you may click on any of the links below and you will be directed to that session on our website.

- Session 1: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/the-bible/>
- Session 2: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/the-bible-ii/>
- Session 3: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/god-the-father/>
- Session 4: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/jesus-christ-and-the-trinity/>
- Session 5: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/the-trinity/>
- Session 6: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-of-jesus/>
- Session 7: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-holy-spirit/>
- Session 8: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-alan-schafer--questions/>
- Session 9: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-spiritual-gifts/>
- Session 10: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-angels/>
- Session 11: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-satan--demons/>
- Session 12: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-hamartiology-study-of-sin/>
- Session 13: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-soteriology-study-of-salvation/>
- Session 14: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-ecclesiology-study-of-the-church/>
- Session 15: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-end-times/>
- Session 16: <http://cfdowningtown.com/resources/sermons/doctrine-class-final-session/>

Basic Theology by Charles Ryrie
Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem
Know What You Believe by Paul Little
Know Why You Believe by Paul Little
Living By The Book by Howard Hendricks
Talk Thru The Bible by Ken Boa and Bruce Wilkinson

