

GOOD NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BASIC BELIEFS

We believe the timeless truths of the Bible and the story of God they explain. The divorce of intellectual beliefs (orthodoxy) and practical expression of those beliefs (orthopraxy) is a large part of the behavioral bankruptcy often observed in today's Christian. Thus, below is our statement of beliefs as an annotated narrative of how we must become + bring the *euangelion* (good news) to our world.

GOD

God created a perfect world for man to enjoy and a perfect word to reveal himself.

SIN

Man's sin punctured the perfection of creation and ruptured man's relationship with God + each other.

SUBSTITUTION

Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross + resurrection from the grave makes provision for man's sin once + for all.

BELIEVE

When the Holy Spirit opens a person's mind + heart to acknowledge their sin + Jesus' substitution, they receive the gift of salvation.

LIFE

Although God's final judgement + kingdom is still to come, because of Jesus' resurrection, fullness of life + joy is available to all in the **here** and now.

GOOD NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Triune God

God is Three Persons – Each Person is fully God – There is one God

We believe in one living and true God, existing eternally in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is three-in-one, executing distinct but complementary roles in redemptive history; Each equally worthy of all glory and honor and obedience.

(John 17:3; Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4)

God the Father

We believe that God the Father spoke the creative words to bring the universe into existence, for His glory according to His own will. Exercising his sovereign headship, He planned redemption and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to achieve it.

(Rev. 4:11) (John 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:9-10)

God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the “image of the invisible God.” (Col. 1:15) Born of the virgin Mary, Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man. Moved by love, in obedience to the Father, He took on flesh and accomplished redemption for us. His divinity made Him worthy of our worship, and entirely sinless. His humanity made Him a suitable substitution for our ultimate salvation. He suffered, died, was buried, resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of the Father until His return in glory and power.

(John 14:8-9) (John 1:1,14,18) (John 6:38; Heb. 10:5-7) (Rom. 5:18-19) (Acts 7:55-56)

God the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit, as the third member of the Godhead, empowers, purifies, reveals, and unifies. In all that He does, He glorifies the Son in drawing the lost to repentance and faith and imparts new spiritual life to the believer. He leads the Church into a right understanding and application of the truth of God’s Word. He brings the evidence and blessing of God’s presence.

(John 15:26-27)

Humanity

We believe that all of humanity is created – male and female – in the image of God for His own glory. Under the sovereign plan of God, humanity freely chose to disobey, severing the relationship between God and man. Therefore, we are entirely depraved by nature and by choice, leaving us hopeless without a Savior.

(Gen. 1:26-30; Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:11-12) (Rom 3:10-19; Rom. 1:18, 32)

The Bible

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament to be the full and complete record of God's self-disclosure to humankind. We believe in four fundamental attributes of this Book, and from these beliefs flow everything we do:

The Bible is authoritative; it is God's word and is fully trustworthy in all its teachings.

The Bible is clear; without error, making wise the simple.

The Bible is essential; to know the Gospel, the will of God, and to live a spiritual life.

The Bible is enough; in leading us toward salvation, hope, and life.

(2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Sam. 7:28; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; Num. 23:19; Ps. 12:6; 119:89, 96; Prov. 30:5; Matt. 24:35; John 17:17) (Ps. 19:7; Duet. 6:6-7; 2 Peter 3:15-16) (Rom. 10:13-17; Duet 32:47; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Peter 1:23-25) (2 Tim. 3:15; James 1:18; Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4)

Salvation

The death of Jesus Christ was the sole and complete payment for sins, absorbing the righteous wrath of God for each person that turns from their sin in repentance and places their faith in Christ alone by grace alone. At salvation each person is made a new creation by the Holy Spirit, declared righteous before God, and secured as an adopted child of God forever. Genuine faith continues in obedience and love for Jesus Christ with a life eager to glorify God and persevere to the end.

(Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:4-6) (Rom. 8:37-39; 2 Corinth 5:21; 1 Corinth 12:13)

The Church

We believe that the Church is made up of those who have personally placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Practically, believers are called to gather together for worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, believers' baptism, reflective communion, exercising gifts and talents, and to collectively embody the gospel both in our community and throughout the world.

(Matt 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinth. 14:26) (Matt 16:18) (Col. 3:16; Eph. 1:12; Eph 5:16-19; Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:12-13; Col. 1:28; Matt 28:19) (1 Cor. 11:20-29; Romans 6:3-3; Acts 2:41; Matt. 5:23-24)

Things to Come

We believe in and expectantly await the glorious, visible, personal return of Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has vital bearing on the personal life, service, and mission of the believer. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in hell. The saved will be raised to eternal joy in the new heaven and new earth in the manifested presence of God.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:3,9; Hebrews 7:25-26)

Human Relationships

We believe the way we treat each other, especially those with different gender, ethnicity, and generational background than us, is an important marker of our legitimate discipleship.

(John 13:35, Romans 12:16, Romans 15:1-2)

Mission(s)

We believe that the mission of every church must be the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Our unique expression of that mission is to make disciples in the NW Suburbs of Chicago:

becoming + bringing Good News to the Neighborhood.

(Prov. 21:3; Romans 12:16; Galatians 6:10; John 13:35; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:15; Colossians 3:16; James 1:17; Ecclesiastes 3:12-13)