

The Source

Core Beliefs

The Apostles' Creed allows us to celebrate the unity we share with Christians throughout the ages and across cultures without getting lost in debatable details.

We believe in God the Father, almighty Creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the Right Hand of the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

We Further Believe:

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is God's Holy Word, His revelation to man, written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it is inspired by God, it is absolute Truth, without any error in the original manuscripts and authoritative in our copies today. The Bible is the complete revelation of God's will for salvation and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires and trusted in all that it promises.

[2 Timothy 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:21](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [Psalm 119:138](#)

GOD

We believe in one God, the creator and ruler of the universe. He is one in nature and essence and has eternally existed in three equal persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In character our loving God is always merciful and just, Holy and personal, infinite and unchanging, perfect and without contradiction. God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His Own Glory.

[Genesis 1:1,26,27](#); [3:22](#); [Psalm 90:2](#); [Matthew 28:19](#); [1 Peter 1:2](#); [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

PEOPLE

All people are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character and are the supreme object of God's creation. When Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan and chose to sin, they brought both physical and spiritual death to the human race. As a result, all human beings are alienated from God and under his wrath. Having been born with a sinful nature, we commit acts of sin in our lives and must be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

[Genesis 1:27](#); [Psalm 8:3-6](#); [Isaiah 53:6](#); [Romans 3:23](#); [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)

GOD THE FATHER

God, the Father is a personal being who is sovereign over all. He mercifully concerns Himself with the details of each person's life and hears and answers prayers. He saves all who come to Him through Jesus from sin and death.

[Ephesians 4:6](#); [John 3:16](#); [Matthew 6:9-13](#); [1 John 1:5](#); [Acts 4:24](#)

GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God. He is God incarnate, fully God and fully man. Jesus is the promised Messiah and has or will fulfill all Old Testament prophecy. Though tempted as we are, Jesus lived a sinless human life, performed miracles, and offered Himself as the all-sufficient substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days and demonstrated His power over sin and death. Belief in His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. He ascended to Heaven and will physically return again someday to earth, reigning forever as King.

[Matthew 1:22-23](#); [Isaiah 9:6](#); [John 1:1-5](#); [Hebrews 4:14-15](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#); [Romans 1:3-4](#); [Acts 1:9-11](#); [1 Timothy 6:14-15](#); [Titus 2:13](#)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is present in the world to convict people of their need for Jesus Christ because of sin, unrighteousness and the judgment to come. The Holy Spirit regenerates sinners and in Him they are baptized into an eternal union with Christ. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation and is the seal of the promise of eternal life. He illuminates Scripture and Truth to believers; guides, empowers and equips them for Christ-like living and service. As Christians we are commanded to be constantly filled with the Spirit and seek to live under His daily leading.

[2 Corinthians 3:17](#); [John 16:7-13](#); [14:16-17](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [1 Corinthians 2:12](#); [3:16](#); [Ephesians 1:13](#); [Galatians 5:25](#); [Ephesians 5:18](#)

THE GOSPEL AND SALVATION

The Gospel is the message from God about Salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. Everyone is in need of salvation due to our sinful state. Salvation is God's free gift extended to all, but each person everywhere must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by acknowledging our sinfulness and trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty and have eternal life.

[Romans 6:23](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [John 14:6](#); [1:12](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [Galatians 3:26](#); [Romans 5:1](#) [1 John 1:9](#)

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

God calls us to love Him supremely and to love others sacrificially. Once we receive new life in Christ, we seek to demonstrate our love for God by obeying Him and following Him with all our heart, soul and mind. We also live out our faith with care for others and compassion toward the poor. We constantly strive to grow in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit through the instruction of all of Scripture and loving people as Jesus loved them. Christ's followers should strive to live a lifestyle as described by Paul, free from adultery, idolatry, sexual immorality, homosexuality, thievery, nor greedy, drunkard, revilers or swindlers. We are called to make disciples among all people and be a witness of the Gospel in word and deed.

[Matthew 22:36-40](#); [John 14:15](#); [Ephesians 4:15](#); [1 John 2:3-6](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through life-changing faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the head of the church. All of Christ's followers are members of what the Bible describes as Christ's body. The church is manifest in local churches whose members are comprised of only believers. To remain healthy, the body's members must work together with each part contributing to each other's growth and maturity. Since the Church represents Jesus Christ to a needy world, God works through the Church to reconcile a lost world to Himself and to be His arm of righteousness in an unrighteous world.

[Ephesians 4:1-14](#); [1 Peter 4:10](#); [Micah 6:8](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#); [Matthew 25:34-40](#), [John 3:16](#)

BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

We practice baptism by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling of water as a one-time, public demonstration of the invisible, inner work of God, and a testimony of the Gospel of salvation. We receive Communion regularly in remembrance of Jesus' death and sacrifice on our behalf, and as a testimony of the offering of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus alone. Jesus instructed believers to continue these practices until He returns.

[Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)

ETERNITY

The Lord Jesus Christ will personally and visibly return to earth and establish His kingdom. Because people are created to live forever, there will be a resurrection of our bodies. People will either exist eternally separated from God in Hell because of their sin and unbelief or in union with God in Heaven through forgiveness and salvation that comes through faith in Christ alone. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

[John 3:16](#); [1 John 2:25](#); [5:11-13](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [1 Corinthians 15:20-24](#); [Revelation 20:15](#)