

About God

We believe there is one divine being who has existed eternally. He exists and reveals himself to man in three distinct, equally divine persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While we cannot fully comprehend his divine nature, it is possible for people to know him. At the beginning of time, God created the entire universe and all its creatures. He continues to exercise his supreme power to sustain his creation. Throughout history he has expressed his desire to be our God and have a personal, eternal relationship with us. We believe that God loves us and wants what is best for us. Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 1:20

About Jesus

We believe that Jesus is the eternal divine son of God. He chose voluntarily to be made in human likeness and was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Although he lived a sinless life, he allowed himself to be executed by crucifixion. His death paid the penalty for the offenses of mankind against God. However, as foretold, he rose from the dead three days after his execution. After appearing to witnesses on a number of occasions for forty days, he ascended into heaven where he now serves as the mediator between God and man. We believe, that at the end of time, he will again visibly return to Earth to complete his eternal plan. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:25-38; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13

About the Holy Spirit

The third person of God is the Holy Spirit. We believe the Holy Spirit dwells in every Christ-follower. His indwelling presence gives spiritual life to believers and distinguishes them as children of God. The Holy Spirit guides Christ-followers in understanding and applying God's principles and values. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Christ-followers are empowered to live Christ-like lives. The Holy Spirit also equips Christ-followers with talents and abilities for the purpose of the building up God's kingdom. John 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; 16:8-11,13; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 6:19-20; Hebrews 9:14

About Man

God created mankind to live in relationship with him. However, the first man and woman were deceived by Satan. They rebelled and chose to be wrongfully independent from God. Their decision alienated them from God. Every human being since that time has suffered the consequences of that rebellion. We all fail to please God and are open to Satan's deception. Unless a relationship is re-established with God, our failure to please Him results in condemnation under God's judgment and will cause us to spend eternity in hell. Furthermore, there is nothing we can do on our own to reestablish our relationship with God. Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2

About the Bible

God divinely inspired human authors to write the sixty-six books of the Bible. He communicated through these writers the values, principles, and ideals which please him and are in our best interest. We believe the Bible is entirely accurate, complete, and reliable. We look to the Bible for the revelation of the character of God and the final authority on all matters of faith and conduct. Romans 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

About a Relationship with God

Our inability to reestablish our relationship with God leaves us dependent on God's mercy. God graciously provided the means to reconcile this relationship through faith in Jesus Christ. Our

relationship is re-established when we make a commitment to accept Jesus as God's Son and our Savior and Lord. Through faith in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life. Practically speaking, this acceptance is demonstrated through both a private and public commitment. We demonstrate our commitment privately by faith (acting upon our belief that God has the power to save us) and repentance (turning back to God and depending upon him to control our lives). We also publicly express our commitment by confessing our acceptance of God's salvation and submitting ourselves in Christian baptism. John 3:16-17; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

About the Christian Life

Once our relationship is re-established with God, we naturally want to spend time with him and know him better. The Holy Spirit enlightens us as we read God's word, the Bible, as we communicate with him in prayer, and as we enter into loving relationships and biblical community with other Christ-followers. In this way we begin to know God more intimately. As we become acquainted with God, we desire to be like him and please him. This process of spiritual development motivates us to seek ways to serve God and prepares us to spend eternity in fellowship with him. 2Timothy 2:21; Colossians 2:6; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 3:10;

About the Church

We believe the church represents Jesus Christ to a needy world. The Bible speaks of the church as Christ's body. It compares it to a living organism, where Jesus is the head. God arranges the parts of the body, Christ-followers, just as he wants them to be. He gives each Christ-follower special functions to perform for the good of the body. To remain healthy, the body's members must work together and each part contributes to the growth and maturity of the body. God then works through the church to reconcile a lost world to himself through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47