

## We Believe

At the Body of Christ Church, our primary endeavor is to embody the Heart of God in our world and reflect Jesus as He Is in every aspect of our lives in Christ. Because of this core focus, we are *less* about divisive doctrinal details and *more* about a way of being that we believe reflects God's Heart in every situation and decision—to love like Jesus in an intimate, real, touching, and encountering way.

Our mission for this generation is inspiringly highlighted in our Vision and Values (a separate resource booklet) and is consistent with what we believe...

### **We Believe:**

#### Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority for determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, the Bible is inspired, infallible, and inerrant.

#### God

There is one God, eternally self-existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal.

- The Father is fully God; his Fatherhood is eternal and personal. He is the Father of the Lord Jesus and of all who believe in Christ.
- The Son is Jesus Christ. He was sent to the Earth by the Father. On Earth Jesus was fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin, died blameless on the cross for humanity, and, thus, paid the penalty for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory.
- The Holy Spirit is equal in deity and being with God the Father and God the Son. He makes people aware of their need for Jesus Christ, performs the miracle of the new birth, and comes to live in every Christian the moment they trust in Jesus Christ.

#### Fall and Redemption

We are created beings, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world and separated us from God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to redeem us from sin so we could be reconciled to God.

#### Eternal Life and the New Birth

When we understand the vastness of the chasm that sin drives between us and God, and how Jesus restores us into relationship with God, Godly sorrow produces repentance. As we first perceive and believe the Truth and Love to know Jesus Christ, we receive the gift of eternal life

and are regenerated in a new birth to see the Kingdom of God. As new creations, we live in salvation, sons and daughters of God.

### Salvation and The Kingdom of God

Salvation is offered to everyone by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We are God's masterpiece created for good works. When Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected as the Savior of humanity, He inaugurated the Kingdom of God to come on Earth as it is in Heaven. Delivered from sin, we now as saved people proclaim the Kingdom of God and The King's rule, reign, supremacy, and dominion to rescue those held by evil and the evil one.

### The Church

The Church consists of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. The Church is to be unified in loving God, loving one another, and making Him known to the world. He gave His Church the practice of baptism and communion. The Church exists to carry on the ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ and further advance His kingdom to rule and reign as His overcoming bride.

### Water Baptism

Water Baptism in the Name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit by immersion is a commission and direct commandment of our Lord and is for believers only. This water baptism in Jesus' Name is the practice and symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

### Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God, poured out as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers who hunger to receive it, subsequent to the new birth. This experience of The Holy Spirit's indwelling enables us to bear the fruit of the Spirit, live a holy life, and be His witnesses. Speaking in other tongues or spontaneous praising unto God are manifestations of the infilling of the Holy Spirit as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance and activates us to operate in the gifts of The Spirit.

### Sanctification

Sanctification is the process by which we are set apart for holy use and purpose. Sanctification is a definite and progressive work of Grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return.

### Healing

Healing is for the inner wounds of the soul and the physical ills of the human body. Inner healing comes by Spirit-Led Godly Counsel. Physical healing is produced by the power of God through supernatural acts. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, Grace, and the Merciful expressions of God's Love to the Church and humanity.

### The Return of Our Lord

The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "...this same Jesus...shall come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, He shall return to the

Earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests; He shall reign a thousand years.

Heaven, Hell, and Eternity

We believe that heaven and hell are real places. There will be a resurrection of the lost and the saved, the one to everlasting death and the other to everlasting life.