

# Essentials of Our Faith

## The Bible

All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

On this foundation we affirm the following as Essentials of Our Faith:

## One God

We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To him be all honor, glory and praise forever!

## Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through his miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and his virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one person forever. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day he arose bodily from the dead, he ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, he now is our High Priest and Mediator.

## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, he gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service, and seals us for the day of redemption.

## Salvation

Being estranged from God, and condemned by our sin nature our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace; God credits his righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in his sight. Only those who are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.

## The Church

The true Church is composed of all persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity; where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord.

## The Return of Christ

Jesus Christ will come again to the earth—personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. Even so, "come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20 NASB)

## The Great Commission

The Lord Jesus Christ demands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to him who "loved us and gave himself for us." He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 5:2, 2:10 NASB)