

# CORE BELIEFS



“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in everything charity.” This trustworthy maxim from Repertus Meldenius highlights the unity of Word of Grace. We wholeheartedly believe Paul’s treatise to Timothy that we should watch our life and doctrine closely, and stand on the following essential core doctrines as a community of faith, while welcoming conversation on all matters relating to following Christ. It is vital to build on a firm foundation as Jesus calls us to as we grow in spiritual maturity, and the following core doctrines are the basis of our life together as followers of Jesus:

## 1. **The Bible is the inspired Word of God**

The Scriptures are directly inspired by God, centered around his desire to redeem our fallen world and find their completion in what Christ has done and continues to do. It is infallible and trustworthy, has the power to change our lives and by the Word of God we can grow (2 Timothy 3:15-17, Matthew 5:17, 1 Peter 1:22-25, Hebrews 4:12, Thessalonians 2:13).

## 2. **There is One True God**

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” The Bible speaks from beginning to end of one God who has many dimensions to his character. He is all-powerful, all-knowing and not limited by time or space and has revealed himself to us as the self-existent “I AM,” creator of heaven and earth and Redeemer of humanity. While God is one, He has revealed Himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10-11, Luke 3:22, Matthew 28:19)

## 3. **Jesus is the Son of God**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, both 100% man and 100% God. He was born of a virgin, lived the perfect life, performed many miracles, suffered and died for our sins, and was raised to life again. He ascended to the right hand of the father and makes intercession for us (Matthew 1:18-23, Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; John 3:4-5, Acts 2:22, 10:37-38, 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:4, Matthew 28:1-6, Acts 1:9, 11; Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 8:34)

## 4. **Sin separates us from God**

We were created in the Image of God, but Adam and Eve voluntarily used their free will to act in disobedience to God. This sin incurred the removal of man from the Garden of Eden, and also began the process of physical death. Man also began to die spiritually, being separated from God’s presence. Because of this separation humanity continues in a fallen or sinful existence. (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:6, Genesis 3:23, Romans 5:12-19, Ephesians 2:11-18, Romans 3:23)

## 5. **Salvation comes through Christ alone**

Our only hope of salvation is Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and allow us to trade our sin for his righteousness and be adopted into the family of God. When we choose to repent and express our faith in Jesus, we receive salvation, are born again spiritually, receive the Holy Spirit, become citizens of Heaven and receive eternal life. We are claimed by God and He gives us a new inheritance in His Kingdom. Although nothing we could ever do will earn His favor or salvation for ourselves, we are saved by the Grace of God alone, through faith. Salvation is seen outwardly by the fruit of the Spirit in our lives as we become a

new creation and are conformed to His image. The internal evidence of salvation is the witness of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 4:12, John 14:6, 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 9:26, Romans 10:9-11, Romans 8:16, Ephesians 2:8, John 1:12, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Philippians 3:20-21, John 3:16-17, John 3:3, Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Peter 1:3-5)

#### **6. The Church is the body of Christ**

Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." The church is the Body of Christ and his dwelling by the Holy Spirit. We exist, as the church, to glorify God, to make him known, to make disciples and to share his love by meeting the needs of our world with selfless humility. (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 3:16-17, Ephesians 1:12, Ephesians 5:16-19, Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:2, Acts 1:8, Luke 6:35-36, Acts 11:29, 1 John 3:17, James 1:27)

#### **7. The Ordinances of the Church are important for every believer**

Baptism:

The Bible teaches us that after repentance and confession of faith in Jesus Christ we should be baptized by immersion in water, following the example of Jesus himself. It is a public declaration of faith in Christ and symbolizes His death, burial and resurrection. Baptism means to the world that we have died to sin and been raised with Christ to new life. (Matthew 28:19, Matthew 3:13, Romans 6:4)

Holy Communion:

The table of the Lord consists of the bread and the cup, symbolizing the body and blood of the Lord in the New Covenant. Jesus Himself instructed us to take these elements together to remember His death and as a celebration of our salvation. Communion also gives us the opportunity to examine our hearts, repent and receive forgiveness of sin. Finally, communion is a time to look forward to sharing the bread and cup with Christ in eternity. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

#### **8. The Holy Spirit is Essential to Christian Life**

The Holy Spirit is the gift of God for every believer. He is our comforter, counselor, and guide. By him we are convicted of sin and adopted into God's family. He produces fruit in our lives that are signs of spiritual maturity and also gives different gifts to believers for the building up of the Body of Christ. All believers are instructed to eagerly seek the gifts of the Spirit in the context of God's love. (John 14:26, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

#### **9. The Future Judgment and Eternal Life**

At the end of the age there will be a final judgment where the dead will be resurrected and judged according to their works. Those who have found salvation through Jesus Christ will enjoy the Presence of the Lord forever, and those who have not will be eternally separated from God and condemned along with the devil and his angels. For those receiving eternal life and entering God's presence, they will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be rewarded for the good deeds of their life. Jesus promises to make all things new, including a new heaven and new earth. (Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2: 1-9, Revelation 20:11-15, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1-5)

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