

THE NEXT MOVE



WHAT WE BELIEVE

VIDEO ONE

The purpose of this class is to ensure that we can preserve unity within our church family in accordance to what we believe. We will strive to keep the main thing the main thing. That is to say that we want to focus more heavily on primary, foundational and fundamental aspects of the christian faith than on secondary, less important issues.

Today’s class will be broken down into 3 sections:

- 1. Navigating Doctrine.**
- 2. Basic Beliefs.**
- 3. Theological Distinctive’s.**

Section 1: Navigating Doctrine

- 1. We strive to build our beliefs and doctrine off of scripture in its original context.**

The Scriptures are our ultimate and trustworthy authority for faith and practice. This means that everything else we learn about God and his world, and all other authorities, should be interpreted in light of Scripture. We should not take our beliefs to the Bible in an attempt to find verses to backup what we believe, rather we should take our beliefs from the Bible and let our doctrine be molded and shaped by what we see in scripture. The Bible gives us everything we need for our theology.

Remember, Biblical words must be interpreted in light of their sentence, the sentence in light of it’s paragraph, the paragraph inside of the literary unit, the literary unit in light of the complete book/letter, and the book in light of the whole of scripture.

Scripture cannot mean what it never meant.

2. We are always willing to give up what we believe for the truth.

This is our call to be teachable and always humble ourselves to the authority of scripture as we continually submit ourselves to the truth of God's Word, being willing to acknowledge our capacity for error as humans, and a deep rooted conviction that believing the truth is more important than believing what we want to believe, or what we like to believe, or what is most palatable.

3. We embrace the tension of paradoxical concepts in scripture.

We must be mindful that the Bible was written by and to an ancient, eastern culture...and we live in a modern, western culture. In other words, the Bible was written for us, but not to us.

VIDEO TWO

Section 2: Basic Beliefs

About The Bible

- **It's the authoritative Word of God.**
God inspired the thoughts, intentions and words of the original authors of scripture, therefore it is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths, what we need to know about the character and nature of God, as well as practical teaching of the christian faith and lifestyle.
- **It is infallible or inerrant in its original writings or manuscripts.**
Although there have been variations of manuscripts throughout history, as well as many varying translations written in many languages, we believe the Bible is completely without error or flaw in its original writings. Therefore scripture can be trusted.

About God

- **The Trinity.**
There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and coeternal. They execute distinct but harmonious offices in creation, providence and redemption.

- **Jesus Christ.**
Jesus Christ is God the Son. He is the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life.
- **The Holy Spirit.**
The Holy Spirit is active today in (a)drawing sinners to the Father, (b)convicting people of their sin, (c)revealing Jesus Christ as the savior to sinners, (d)regenerating and transforming the sinner into a new creation in Christ, (e)empowering believers to live a life worthy of their calling, (f)emboldening believers to be witnesses to Christ, and (g)sanctifying the child of God unto the perfect day.

About Mankind

God created man and woman in His perfect image with equality across lines of ethnicity, gender, and class. **All humanity**, Christ excluded, is sinful by both birth and action. Adam passed his sin nature down from generation to generation all the way to you and me. That is why we are all sinners and have fallen short of the Glory of God, and are in need of a savior to save us from the penalty of our sin against God...death.

- **Salvation:** We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts
- **Repentance:** Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His salvation and to be made new by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation.
- **Sanctification:** Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life. Sanctification is an ongoing, perfecting process that will be taking place through the rest of our lives until we are "perfected" which becomes complete only when we are with Christ either through his second coming, or our earthly death. Philippians 1:6 tells us that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

- **Resurrection:** Both the saved and the lost will be resurrected to their final judgment before God. Those who, in their earthly life, turned from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward. Those who did not turn from sin and to Jesus will be raised to eternal punishment.

About The Church

- **The Church.**
We believe that upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Scriptures exhort believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, the ordinances of baptism and communion, service to the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world to make disciples. Scripture teaches and displays over and over that we need each other and it is foolish for any believer to think they can have a healthy spiritual life without the mutually shared encouragement, accountability, and sharpening of fellow believers.

VIDEO THREE

Section 3: Theological Distinctives

- **Water Baptism:** Upon coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This act is a public testimony with symbolic imagery of someone who has chosen to die to themselves "been buried with Christ" washed clean of their sins and raised from spiritual death into new life in Christ. It is not a means to salvation, rather a testament to salvation. A person who is baptized should be able to articulate their testimony of salvation in Christ alone - their recognition of their need for a savior from their sins, a repentance (or turning away) from those sins and a placing of their faith in Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross, whereby they have received new life in Christ, made new by the Holy Spirit and have committed the rest of their lives to joy filled pursuit and obedience to Christ.

- **Communion:** The Lord's supper is a unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (that represent the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. This act is not a means to salvation but rather a remembrance and stirring of worship. It is a sacred moment in which we remind ourselves of the insurmountable price that was paid for us, the priceless body of Christ, brutally broken for us, in our place... the priceless blood of Christ, shed to pay for forgiveness of our sins. When we take communion together, it reorients our focus to awe, wonder, gratitude and humble worship of our precious savior, Jesus Christ.
- **Marriage:** We believe marriage is defined in the Bible as a covenant, a sacred bond between one man and one woman, instituted by God and publicly entered into before God.
- **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible's lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. They are to be exercised decently and in order, never in a way that draws attention to self, rather points attention and glory to God. We believe that the Christian life is supernatural and that the Lord continues to perform miracles. We also believe there are some who place an out-of-balance priority on specific gifts which can distract from the main task of the local church, which is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission. A few ways that some can practice an unbiblical lack of balance with spiritual gifts are as follows:
 - Giving unwarranted prominence to a certain gift, when each gift is described as being only one of many spiritual gifts.
 - Suggesting that speaking in tongues is a required proof of being spirit-filled or of possessing salvation in Christ, even though scripture does not teach this, rather scripture teaches that the proof of being spirit-filled is the Fruit of the Spirit, or evidence of the spirit as listed in Galatians chapter 5:22.

If you have any questions regarding this class reach out via email to info@wog.church.

