



## Beliefs

### God - We want our friends to see and embrace God.

There are many who have misconstrued God to fit their own understandings and agendas. Some flat out deny His existence. However, we see the fingerprints of God all around us. He created everything and is involved in all things. Quite frankly, nothing makes sense without His existence. The Bible explains this one-of-a-kind God as One eternal God with three distinct persons. This Godhead is identical in nature, but distinct in roles and relationships. He is, in and of Himself, a family - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We admit He is still a mystery to us, but He has opened our eyes to enough of Himself to make us curious and passionate about knowing Him personally and accurately. - Deuteronomy 29:29 -

*Therefore, it is our primary responsibility to provide everyone with an accurate picture of God. We must agree with God as He describes His character, His heart, and His commands in His Word.*

### Human - We embrace who God created us to be

There are so many pressures in this life to become someone who we are not. We can pretend for a bit to be somebody else, but there is a desire within all of us just to be ourselves. We believe that everyone finds their true self not by looking within themselves nor outside of themselves. We find our true self within God. Our original design was to be an imprint of His nature. This does not mean that we all look the same. Rather we each have been uniquely and beautifully stamped with the nature of God - His love, compassion, and justice. - Genesis 1:26-28 -

*Therefore, we shepherd people not to look within themselves nor to others, but to God for their identity and purpose. He is our inspiration for how to be truly human.*

## Sin - We know the fundamental problem with humanity

The abuse and neglect, the infidelity and immorality, the hatred and injustice, are all symptoms of something God has diagnosed as sin. It is like a cancer that has taken over the entire world. Everyone has been infected. All aspects of our lives have been affected. Everyone's hearts are polluted with mixed motives; everyone's minds are corrupted with false worldviews; everyone's lives are consumed with self-serving ambitions. - Romans 1:16-2:4 -

*Therefore, with a posture of overwhelming kindness and deep humility, we take sin seriously. If the Bible determines something to be sinful, we must agree with God despite the evolving worldview of the culture. God has called us to be full of grace and truth. To be full of grace, does not mean overlooking sin. To be full of truth, does not mean we address every imperfection we see.*

## Salvation - We know the cure to give us true life

Since sin is slowly poisoning us, we are in need of a cure. There is no system of morality nor a large dose of good intentions that will cure us. We are terminally ill. Jesus is the only remedy. He did not give us a vaccination from sin nor give us a regime of sin purging treatments. The only cure was for Him to take the deadly virus upon Himself and give us a transfusion of His pure blood. We now have a clean bill of health. Sure, we still have moments of sin, but we are in remission because of Jesus. We have been cured of this deadly virus and have a new lease on life. There is nothing we have done; He has done it all for us. - Ephesians 2:1-10 -

*Therefore, we focus first and at every moment on the work of Christ. He initiates, matures, and finishes the work of faith in our lives. Our first step and every step that follows is by faith in the person and work of Jesus. Therefore, every aspect of shepherding is leading people deeper into their faith in Jesus.*

## God our Father - We can know the Father

God is not a mysterious supernatural being or distant deity. We actually know Him. We not only know facts about Him, but we know Him like a Father - a Daddy. We believe that He's got us; nothing catches Him by surprise. He planned it all. Every detail and aspect of our lives are being shaped by Him to work together for our good. He really is for us, not against us. He will never fail us. He made His heart for us undeniably clear through His Son Jesus. - [Romans 8:15-39](#) -

*Therefore, we encourage people to learn and lean into God's sovereignty. Our Father is in total control of all the good, bad, and everything in between. As we walk with people, we help them trust their Father even when they don't have eyes to see His good nature or His good will. Somehow and in some way our Father works all the details for our good and His glory.*

## Jesus - We see Jesus as the hero of God's story

Jesus did not make a grand entrance - He entered quietly; He lived simply; He walked humbly. Jesus was and is ordinarily human, yet also extraordinarily divine. He is God in flesh. He is God with us. He healed the sick, gave hope to the destitute, and befriended ordinary people. He preferred having outcasts and no names in His circle of friends. But this hero did something unexplainable; something that has never been done before or ever since. He died for those considered His enemies so that He could make them His friends and members of His Father's family. Yet our hero is not dead. He came back to life three days later proving that death couldn't stop Him. Today, He sits next to His Father cheering us on and advocating on our behalf. And there will be a day just around the corner when He leaves His throne to come gather His family. Jesus is really coming back, not as an unnoticed servant, but as an indisputable King. - [Philippians 2:1-11](#) -

*Therefore, we stay humble, remembering that we are merely undershepherds pointing people to Jesus their Chief Shepherd.*

## Holy Spirit - We see God in our daily lives

The Father chased after us. Jesus came to live with us. Now, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and through us. Jesus told His disciples that life would be better after He left. That is hard to believe. Could you imagine spending a day with Jesus? However, Jesus said life in the Spirit would be better than physically walking with Him here on earth. The reason He said this is because we now have God Himself living inside of us. He has re-identified us as children of God and is imprinting our lives with the character of our Father. He has empowered us to live like Jesus. There is nothing more thrilling and fulfilling than living our life with and for God. - Galatians 2:20-3:3; 5:16-26 -

*Therefore, we encourage people to not depend upon their power, but the powerful person of the Holy Spirit. He, not it, gives us the ability to live godly lives. We point people to depend upon Him rather than their own self-confidence or self-righteousness.*

## His Children - We walk with our Father

The worldly path of maturity is growing from dependence as a child into great independence as an adult . The journey of maturity as a child of God is the complete opposite. As we mature into our identity in Christ, we move towards greater dependence on God and interdependence with God's people. This journey towards embracing our identity and living in greater dependence is not easy. There are some days that are harder than others. In fact, we will never perfectly and entirely eradicate sin from our life. Despite our ongoing battle against sin, we should never question our new identity in Christ. He never disowns us. Therefore, each day we seek to live as who already are - His beloved children. - Ephesians 5:1-2 -

*Therefore, we shepherd people into their identities in Christ (indicatives - who we are in Christ), which leads them to live like Christ (imperatives - what we do because of Christ).*

## Church - We are the church

The church is not merely a building or a Sunday service, but the name given to God's people. As a local church, we are designed to be a billboard for God. Our love for Him and for others paints an accurate picture of God for our friends in our community. We are all vital members of the body of Christ who work together to represent Him to the world. - 1 John 4:7-12 -

*Therefore, we encourage people to BE the church, not simply GO to church. We are the church. A weekly family meal is not family, but an aspect of being a family. Similarly Sunday is not church, but an aspect of being the church. We gather to scatter. Our Sundays prepare us to be sent as the church to live on mission together being the hands and feet of Jesus.*

## Bible - We view the Bible as God's actual words

We believe the Bible is God's very own words. God used over forty authors from various cultures, every social class, and different time periods to accurately write His words. Since He is the author, we believe that the Bible in its original writings (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic) are without error (inerrant) and will not mislead in their instruction (infallible). This is exciting. God can and does actually speak to us! Whether we need encouragement, direction, or wisdom to navigate a difficult circumstance, God has something to say to us. Everyday we are looking to hear from Him and then live with Him. - Psalm 19:7-14 -

*Therefore, we live under the authority of Scripture. If God's Word says it, we believe it. We make it a priority to teach people to read and understand the Bible so they see the full story of God's relentless love for us. We teach others to view the world and their lives through the grid of Scripture.*

## Future - It's pretty fantastic

Just as His story had a beautiful beginning, it will have a more stunning ending. The future is not uncertain or unknown. Our Father declared the end way back before the beginning. Our groom, Jesus, will come to gather us - His bride. Our first day in eternity will be the largest wedding celebration this world has ever seen. Our groom will be the crowned King. We will be standing beside Him looking forward into endless eternity knowing that we will live forever with Him. Although all are invited to the wedding day, not all accept the invitation. Some will live forever without the love and peace of our Father. - [Revelation 19-22](#) -

*Therefore, we encourage people to look beyond this present moment to our future with Jesus. He gives us hope to face the challenges of today. This hope in Him gives us joy and the ability to keep-on-keeping-on.*