



Heritage Church Statement of Faith & Beliefs

Statement of Faith. In matters of doctrine and belief, the church strives for three things: in the essential matters, unity; in nonessential matters, liberty; in all things, charity.

Essentials We Believe:

1. The Word of God: We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. For the purpose of Doctrinal clarity during disputes, we recognize the New International Version and the New American Standard Bible as our two authoritative English texts. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:13; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32)

2. The Trinity: We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1,3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6)

3. God the Father: We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1,2; 2:5,6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6)

4. Jesus Christ: We believe in Jesus Christ the Creator of all things, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16)

5. The Holy Spirit: We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and give spiritual gifts to every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22 26)

6. Humanity: We believe that human beings are wonderfully made by God, as the crowning work of creation, and that each person is immutably created as biologically male or female. Biological males and females complement each other and together reflect the image and nature of God. In the beginning Adam and Eve were innocent of sin and were endowed by their Creator with freedom of choice. By their free choice they sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. The sacredness of every human life is evident in that God created male and female in His own image, and in that Christ died for fallen humanity; therefore, every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3:9; 6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

7. Regeneration: We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Eccl. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; II Thessalonians 1:9; Rev. 19:3,20; 20:10,14,15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1)

8. The Church: We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. (Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:36-42; Hebrews 10:23-25)

9. Christian Conduct: We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the wellbeing of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (I Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15,23-24; I John 2:3-6; II Corinthians 9:6-9; I Corinthians 4:2; Col. 1:9-10)

10. Christian Marriage: We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God in the book of Genesis and affirmed by Jesus for the well-being of mankind and the propagation of the human race. It is the formally committed, monogamous, spiritual and



physical union of one biological man and one biological woman according to Scripture. (Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 18:22-23; Hosea 2:16; Matthew 5:27-28, 19:4-9; John 2:1-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Pet 3:1-7; Jude 7; Revelation 21:1-9).

11. The Ordinances: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. Both are symbolic in nature and are not required for salvation. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

12. Religious Liberty: We believe that every human being has direct responsibility before God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We believe that the church is a vital part of civil society and should promote biblical morality in the individual, the family and the public square. We affirm the original intent of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. (Acts 4:18-20, 5:29; Galatians 5:1, 13; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 14:7-9, 12)

13. Church Cooperation: We believe that local churches are the primary vehicle for the Gospel message and represent Jesus in the community. Local churches may choose to cooperate in a conference or partnership for greater effectiveness, however cooperation in a conference or partnership is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis for the purpose of spreading the gospel and Christian fellowship. (Acts 8, Acts 15, Acts 16:1-5, Acts 20:6; Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4, 10, 11)

14. The Last Things: We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous in a literal heaven, and the endless suffering of the wicked in a literal hell. (Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15)