

# Tenets of Faith of Local Church

Local church believes in and affirms the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed as the basis of orthodox belief.

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

## Core Beliefs

Core beliefs are beliefs that should be shared by all Christians around the world. You cannot serve on a leadership level at our church if you do not affirm and adhere to the following core beliefs.

### One God

There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), who is infinitely perfect (Matthew 5:48), existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man (Philippians 2:6–11). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:34–38). He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18), as a substitutionary sacrifice (Hebrews 2:9), and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (Romans 5:9). He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures (Acts 2:23–24). He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest (Hebrews 8:1). He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace (Matthew 26:64).

### Divinity of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person (John 14:15–18), sent to indwell, guide, teach, empowers the believer (John 16:13; Acts 1:8), and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:7–11).

## Authority of the Scriptures

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rules of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 3:15–16) .

## Original Sin and Salvation

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27) : he fell through disobedience, incurring both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with sinful nature (Romans 3:23), are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:20–23). The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment (Revelation 21:8); and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss (Revelation 21:1–4). Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God (Titus 3:4–7).

## Baptism of the Holy Spirit

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly (1 Thessalonians 5:23), being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service (Acts 1:8). This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion (Romans 6:1–14).

## Healing Power

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body (Matthew 8:16–17). Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age (James 5:13–16).

## The Church Body

The Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church (Ephesians 1:22–23), which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19–20). The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, in observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41–47).

## The Resurrection and Second Coming

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, resurrection unto life (1 Corinthians 15:20–23); for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment (John 5:28–29). The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent (Hebrews 10:37) and will be personal and visible (Luke 21:27). This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service (Titus 2:11–14).

## Distinctives

Distinctives are particular beliefs or practices that set one group, tradition, or church apart from others — while still agreeing on the core of the Christian faith.

The following distinctives are the beliefs of Local Church leadership. You do not have to believe or affirm the following beliefs to attend or serve at Local Church, but if you hold opposing viewpoints very highly then there may be a church that is a better fit for you.

## Continuation of the Gifts of the Spirit

Local Church leadership believes in the continuation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the gifts of the Spirit were given to the Church for the building up of the body of Christ and continue to be available to believers today. (Acts 2:17-18, 1 Corinthians 12:1,4-11,31, Romans 12:6-8)

## Women in Ministry

Local Church leadership believes scripture affirms the equality of men and women in Christ and supports the active participation of women in ministry. In Acts 2:17-18, Peter (referencing Joel 2:28-29) declares that in the last days, both sons and daughters will prophesy, signifying the inclusion of women in the work of the Holy Spirit. Women like Phoebe (Romans 16:1), Priscilla (Acts 18:26), and Junia (Romans 16:7) are highlighted in the New Testament as leaders, teachers, and servants in the early Church. In the Old Testament Miriam (Exod. 15:20) is prophet, Deborah (Judg. 4:4) is a prophet and a judge and when Josiah and the priest realized they had not been obeying the scriptures, they turned to the prophet Huldah (2 Kings 22:14) to receive God's direction for the nation.

We understand that there are several scriptures in the Bible that as read can be and have been interpreted to mean that women should not hold leadership positions in church and should not be allowed to teach men (2 Timothy 2:12-15, 1 Cor. 14:12). But we interpret these passages as addressing specific cultural and situational issues, not as universal prohibitions. The Bible affirms women in leadership roles (both new and old testament) and spiritual gifts, including teaching and preaching, are given to all believers, regardless of gender, for the edification of the Church.

## Baptism

Local Church leadership believes in adult baptism because it aligns with the biblical understanding that baptism is a personal decision, a public declaration of faith, and a symbol of the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. As seen in Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:3-4, baptism follows repentance and faith, meaning a person must be old enough to understand the significance and to decide to be baptized.

We also believe being baptised is a command from Jesus and that he includes the command in the great commission (Matthew 28:19) where baptism is a part of discipleship. We encourage any Christian who has not done so, to personally make the decision to be baptized.