



DISCOVER TRI-CITIES

SEPTEMBER 2025

WE ARE A
Redeemed
COMMUNITY
of
JESUS
FOLLOWERS
on mission
TOGETHER

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We are honored that you are choosing to learn more about us. This interactive document is designed to parallel and supplement Discover Tri-Cities.

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OUR IDENTITY

WE ARE A *Redeemed* COMMUNITY of JESUS FOLLOWERS *on mission* TOGETHER

This is more than a tagline. It is the expression of our identity and purpose.



REDEEMED

We are redeemed people, not perfect people.
We are reconciled to God by His grace through faith in Jesus.

COMMUNITY

We are a family, not isolated individuals.
We are united in Jesus, therefore we are eternally brothers and sisters in the family of God.



JESUS FOLLOWERS

Christianity is a relationship, not a religion.
We make much of Jesus, abiding in Him in position and pursuit, and affirming and modeling after Him as the head of the church.

ON MISSION

We are an army, not an audience.
We are commissioned to take the life-changing message everywhere we go, helping others follow Jesus.



TOGETHER

The Great Commission was given to the church, not an individual.
We are individually gifted and collectively mobilized to serve the whole church and carry out the mission as a body of believers.

PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND PROMISES

PRINCIPLES



GOD'S GLORY

We exist for Him.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

The Bible is the ultimate
source of truth.

THE CHURCH

We are the body of Christ.

GOSPEL SUFFICIENCY

Jesus is enough.

PRACTICES



ABIDE

In Christ.

GATHER

For Worship.

EQUIP

The Saints.

GO

Make Disciples.

PROMISES



MEMBERSHIP

The commitment we make to one another as God's family.

OUR PRINCIPLES

OUR PRINCIPLES

GOD'S GLORY

We exist for Him.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

The Bible is the ultimate source of truth.

GOSPEL SUFFICIENCY

Jesus is enough.

THE CHURCH

We are the body of Christ.

GOD'S GLORY

We exist for Him.

God's Glory Is Immeasurably Significant

There is only one, true God (Deuteronomy 6:4), one supreme being who created all things from nothing. He is holy and perfect. All value and worth is measured by Him, through Him, and for Him (Colossians 1:16). His glory, or manifested greatness, is the supreme value, the highest goal, and the most satisfying reality in all the universe.

God's Glory Is The Purpose of His Creation

All creation exists to glorify God! In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). From the beginning, everything was created with one ultimate purpose - the glory of God. Every person was created by God and for God. The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1). From the billions of galaxies to the smallest particle, everything ultimately exists to declare God's glory.

God's Glory Is The Aim Of The Church

As a church family, we exist for God. He does not exist for us. We do not exist for the applause of men or for our own preferences. This means we pursue a radical God-centeredness in all that we do and say (Colossians 1:18). It means we place significant emphasis on personal holiness and godliness (Ephesians 2:10). It means we find our ultimate joy in Him. It means God's people long to know Him through His Word and His Son and to make Him known.

Scripture:

Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.
Isaiah 43:7

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalm 145:11-12

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Exodus 33:18-20; Psalm 19:1; Isaiah 6:3; Isaiah 42:8

Matthew 24:30; John 1:14; 17:4-5; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:27; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 5:13; 19:1

Resources:

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

The Bible is the ultimate source of truth.

The Bible Is God-Breathed

The Bible is inspired by God (1 Thessalonians 2:13). It is the product of God's creative breath. Each word in the Bible was written by a living, conscious human author fully inspired by God to reveal God's desired revelation without error.

The Bible Is Authoritative

The Bible is God's Word and therefore inerrant - without error in all its assertions. It is absolutely true (John 17:17) and our ultimate source of authority. The full counsel of Scripture should be taught, believed, and obeyed (2 Timothy 3:16). All other knowledge stands under the judgement of the Scriptures.

The Bible Is Sufficient

The Bible makes known the way of salvation and sanctification (2 Timothy 3:15, Jude 1:3). No other special revelation is needed to know God and His will for our lives. God's Word is unchanging and will stand forever (Psalm 119:89). Thus, knowing God and growth in Christlikeness is built on a Spirit empowered devotion to the Scriptures.

Scripture:

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:19-21

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:14-17

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
Psalm 19:7-10

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25.

Resources:

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full 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.

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3. **Note: This article was amended June 14, 2023, by action of the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention***

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; Psalms 127; Psalms 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

GOSPEL SUFFICIENCY

Jesus is enough.

Jesus Is The God-Man

The triune God revealed Himself to humanity as Jesus, the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation, Jesus took upon Himself human nature yet remained sinless and holy (Philippians 2:5-11), existing as fully human and fully God. As God, Jesus is our redeemer (Ephesians 1:7). As man, Jesus is our propitiation, satisfying God's wrath toward sinful man (Romans 3:25). As the resurrected glorified God-man, He ensures our future as the first of many who will be made like Him (Romans 8:29-30).

Jesus Is Righteous

Jesus is sinless and holy. He is for us what we could never be apart from Him, perfectly right with God (Romans 5:19). Because of his holiness and perfect righteousness, He is the only sacrifice acceptable to God the Father to bear the sin of humanity. Through repentant faith in Jesus we are given His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thus, the believer is seen as blameless and fully accepted by the Father on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. (Jude 1:24-25).

Jesus Alone Is Redeemer

"It is finished!" (John 19:30) From the cross Jesus spoke those words as He took His last breath. He declared that everything necessary was complete for God and man to be reconciled. The sinless life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection of Jesus make redemption and eternal life freely available as a gift to those who repent of their sin and place faith in the person and work of Jesus. No other being has done, will do, or can do what Jesus did. He alone is our path to redemption (Acts 4:12).

Scripture:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

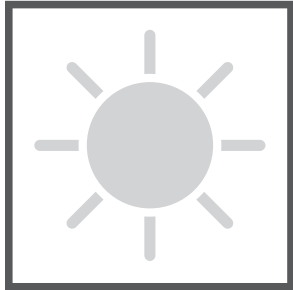
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

Resources:

The Gospel is Good News! The Gospel is the message that God saves sinners. The Gospel is the story of God sending His own righteous son Jesus Christ, to bear the penalty of our sin and die in our place. But Jesus did not remain dead. He rose from the grave proving He was the only worthy sin bearer and defeated the curse of death forever.

But to understand why the Gospel is such good news, it is vital to understand the storyline of history found in the Bible:



Creation

How our story began

It all starts with God. God created us.
We existed in harmony.

Genesis 1:1, 1:28-31; 2:15-25;
John 1:1-3; Revelation 1:8;
Isaiah 42:5; 43:7; Hebrews 11:3



Redemption

The gift of salvation

God promised a savior. God kept his promise through Jesus. We can claim God's promise through faith.

Genesis 3:15; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14;
Luke 19:10; John 3:16-17; 1 Peter 3:18;
Galatians 1:4; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 1:9



Fall

Where we went wrong

We disobeyed our creator. Death and separation were the consequences.
We needed reconciliation.

Genesis 3; Romans 3:10, 19-20, 23; 5:12-14, 6:23; Ephesians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:6



New Creation

Our eternal reconciliation

In Jesus all things are new. In Jesus we have a divine adoption. In Jesus we will live forever with God.

John 3:16, 36; Romans 8:12-17, 31-39;
2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 2:12;
2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 John 3:1;
Revelation 21:1,3-4



View The Story booklet online at
www.thestoryfilm.com/read

What is saving faith?

When we realize our deep need for a Savior, and we by faith see that Jesus Christ is the only Savior...we respond in faith and repentance. Faith is trusting in the person and finished work of Jesus Christ as totally sufficient to save us from the curse of sin. Salvation is receiving what has been accomplished for us by Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which we respond in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is turning from the notion that we do not need redemption or that we can rescue ourselves from our sin. It is turning to Jesus as God and Redeemer.

How do I place saving faith in Jesus?

- Acknowledge your sin and need for redemption to God.
- Turn to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you.
- Trust in Jesus' redemptive work as atonement for your sin.
- Follow Jesus as Lord and Savior.

What's Next?

The Bible charges the new believer to respond in baptism (Acts 8:35-38). To talk to us about saving faith or baptism... Visit www.tcbchurch.org/baptism.

THE CHURCH

We are the body of Christ.

**The Church Is
A Redeemed
Community Of Jesus
Followers On Mission
Together**

We are not a building, location, or program. The church is a people who have been redeemed through repentance and saving faith in Jesus. Together we follow Jesus, the Head of the church and make Him known to our neighbors and the nations.

**The Church Is
A Gifted People**

Every believer is equipped by the Holy Spirit to serve the family of God and make Him known to the world. As the church abides in Jesus (John 15) the many gifted parts work in harmony to build one another up and carry out the church's mission in incredible ways.

**The Church Is A
Diverse Family**

We are the adopted children of God redeemed from the nations of the world (Revelation 7:9-10). We gather as a diverse family united as one in Jesus our Redeemer (Romans 12:5).

Scripture:

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:41-42, 46-47

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

Resources:



Water baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection.

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.
Acts 2:41

Who?

Only a genuine, born again follower of Jesus Christ is suitable for baptism.
(Acts 2:41)

Why?

The purpose of baptism is to symbolize the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is a step of obedience after salvation, publicly declaring faith in Christ.
(Romans 6:3-4)

How?

The word "baptism" literally means "to immerse, to dip, or to plunge." Only immersion properly symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
(Mark 1:9-10)

To request baptism visit
www.tcbchurch.org/baptism



The Lord's Supper is practiced by the gathered church vividly and consistently remembering the finished work of Jesus.

And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."
(Luke 22:19-20)

Who?

The Lord's Supper is for those who have by faith received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Believers are asked to examine their fellowship with God and His people and should not come to the Lord's table harboring unconfessed sin against God or bitterness or disunity toward another member of God's family.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

Why?

Jesus followers celebrate the Lord's Supper to REMEMBER the finished work of Christ, EXAMINE our hearts before the Lord and PROCLAIM the Lord's death until He returns.
(1 Corinthians 11:25-30)

How?

Tri-Cities celebrates the Lord's Supper on a regular basis as a part of our worship gatherings.

Note To Parents

Tri-Cities upholds and values children worshiping with their families in the gathering. Believing children are welcome to celebrate the Lord's Supper. We ask those who have not yet trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord not to participate in the Lord's Supper. This provides a tremendous teaching tool for parents and caregivers. The Lord's Supper is a picture of the Gospel and a tool for the discipleship of the next generation.

Lord Jesus

[Jesus] is the head of the body, the church. Colossians 1:18 (Ephesians 5:23)

The church belongs to Jesus. He purchased it with His life. We submit to His authority in all matters as revealed in Scripture.

Elders / Pastors

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness, not yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:1-3 (Acts 14:23; 20:17; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1; 1 Timothy 3; 5:17; Titus 1:5-9)

God has set apart Elders / Pastors to shepherd the church. Our Elders / Pastors are responsible for overseeing the church's teaching, vision, and faithfulness.

Members

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:4-5 (Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Corinthians 12)

God has set apart the church for His mission and empowered each member with His Spirit. Our diversely gifted members work together to make disciples of Jesus.

Directors / Coordinators / Staff

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Ephesians 4:11-14 (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12)

God has supplied the church with various leadership gifts. Our Staff works together to help equip the church for the work of ministry.

Deacons

And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. Acts 6:2-3 (1 Timothy 3:8-12)

The early church selected Deacons to serve the body. Our Deacons serve the church's benevolent, care, and missional (unity) needs.

OUR PRACTICES

OUR PRACTICES

ABIDE

In Christ

Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. Before anything else, Jesus invites us into a dynamic, love relationship with Himself. We are to rest in the completed work of Christ and pursue Him daily through spending regular time with Him.

GATHER

For Worship

Because we exist for Him, Jesus followers gather with one another to worship. We gather to celebrate the greatness and grace of God in Jesus Christ, to experience His unique presence in our midst, and to demonstrate that we belong to something bigger than ourselves: the Body of Christ.

EQUIP

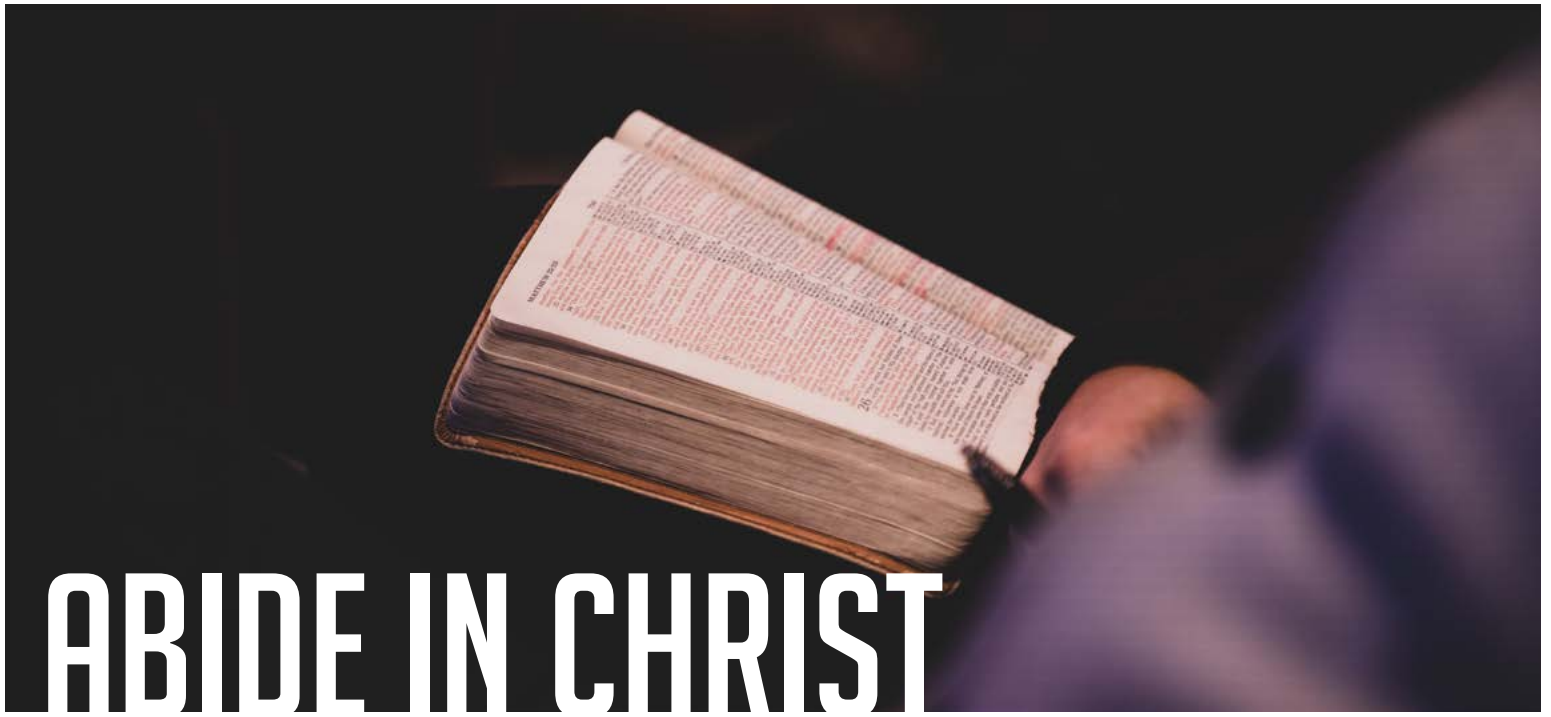
The Saints

The church is a redeemed people, set apart to display God's glory in the world and make known all that He has done and commanded. Tri-Cities seeks to equip every member to grow as disciples of Jesus and make disciples in every aspect of their lives, beginning in their home.

GO

Make Disciples

We mobilize the church to go make disciples as we make known the love of God and share the gospel. When we live on mission, we will Send Disciples, Serve the Vulnerable, Train Leaders, Reach the Unreached, and Plant Churches.



Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship.



We are in Christ (Position).

Through faith in the finished work of Jesus, we are declared to be positionally “in Christ” (Ephesian 2:4-7). Because of this grace, we are as accepted, loved, and righteous before the Father as Jesus Himself. Therefore, we live from a place of resting in what is completely and forever true because of the unchanging person and finished work of Christ.

We are set apart to be like Christ (Pursue).

Through faith in the finished work of Jesus, we are being transformed practically into the very likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). God’s grace awakens in us a desire to know and be like Jesus. As a result our lives are characterized by a daily pursuit of Jesus while His Spirit in us continually conforms us to the image of Christ.

We abide personally.

Jesus said to His disciples, “Follow Me!” Some dimensions of abiding in Jesus are personal and individual pursuits (Mark 1:35). We pursue Jesus personally through spiritual disciplines such as Bible intake, meditation, prayer, fasting and solitude.

We abide together as the church.

Although following Jesus is very personal, it was never intended to be private. Many other dimensions of abiding in Jesus can only be pursued with other believers. Together, we pursue Jesus as we gather for worship, serve and care for one another, challenge and admonish one another, confess our sins to one another, speak truth and encourage one another, and make known the Gospel alongside one another.





Because we exist for Him, Jesus followers gather with others for worship.



Together we worship.

We gather to celebrate the greatness and grace of God in Jesus Christ, to experience His unique presence in our midst, and to demonstrate that we belong to something bigger than ourselves: the Body of Christ. God graciously shapes us in unique and powerful ways when we gather (Colossians 3:16).

We gather to worship as families and welcome children of all ages. As a church, we uphold and value children worshipping with their families in the weekly gathering as we seek to grow together in multigenerational fellowship.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/gather



Together we give.

We worship in regular tithes and offerings by acknowledging God as our provider and sustainer. We give as an act of worship, not out of routine or obligation. We proclaim in our giving that our trust is in Jesus.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/give

Together we sacrifice.

We offer our entire lives as “living sacrifices” to God (Romans 12:1). We seek to set aside everything that hinders our worship and live our lives in praise of the one true God.



Together we respond, remember, and rejoice.

We rejoice in what God has done, is doing, and will do in His redemptive work. In baptism we respond to the gospel and rejoice in Jesus’ victory over sin and death. In the Lord’s Supper we remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us and rejoice in our deliverance from sin.



Equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12)



Together we are being built up in Christ.

The church is one body made up of individual members who are charged to help, encourage, admonish, share, depend on and show patience to one another. Together we pursue holiness and maturity to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/equip

Together we equip disciples for disciple making.

Every Jesus follower is set apart to the church for the purpose of mutual edification and fulfillment of the Great Commission. Tri-Cities provides Go Groups that every disciple can be equipped through study, fellowship and serving and sent out as a disciple maker, helping others to follow Jesus and obey all that He has commanded.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/gogroups

Together we make disciples.

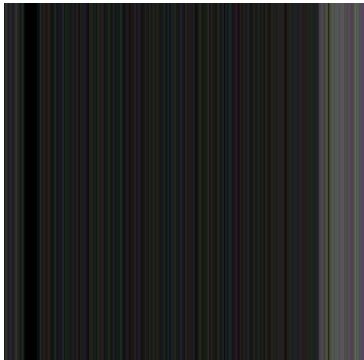
The Great Commission is a weighty responsibility and a joyful calling given by a good God to His people. Tri-Cities provides simple and accessible resources that help every disciple walk in obedience to the Great Commission. We resource and equip disciples to be able to walk alongside others and help them take their next step of obedience and together, grow in Christlikeness.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/blueprint

Together we disciple the next generation.

Tri-Cities honors the family as the foundational institution of human society and primary setting for discipleship of the next generation. We equip, resource and partner with families for gospel advancement and spiritual growth. It is the pursuit of the family at home and the family of faith to make disciples together.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/family





*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:18-20***



Together we are disciples on mission.

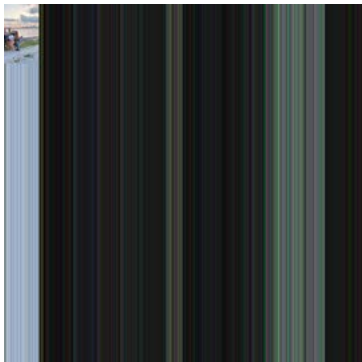
As Jesus followers our mission isn't a place we go; the mission defines who we are and the lifestyle we pursue of making Jesus known. At TCBC, we the people are the primary evangelistic strategy. We aim to equip disciples and send them out as disciple makers who strive to advance the gospel as part of their everyday life, in their primary mission field where they live, work and play. As ambassadors of Jesus we proclaim the gospel and call the world to respond.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/share

Together we go to our neighbors.

Our desire is to be a regional church that serves our communities and proclaims the gospel of Jesus. We pursue opportunities to feed the hungry, serve international students, volunteer at non-profit organizations, and be present in our communities at various events for the ultimate purpose of proclaiming the gospel.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/serveandshare



Together we go to the nations.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) tells us to spread the gospel to all peoples. We all have a role to play whether that is praying, giving or going. The local church raises up and sends out missionaries (Acts 13) for cross-cultural missions, international church planting and business as mission (relocating to live in and reach another part of the world).

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/go



Together we give to go.

Give2GO is the primary opportunity for our members to give above and beyond regular tithes and offerings to advance the gospel locally and globally. As God provides through the sacrificial generosity of His church, the result will be a significant increased capacity for our church to: Send Disciples, Serve the Vulnerable, Train Leaders, Reach the Unreached, and Plant Churches.

Learn more at www.tcbchurch.org/give2go

OUR PROMISES

MEMBERSHIP PROMISES

Our Promises

The commitment we make to one another as God's family.

Together in membership we serve one another.

We are a family. We are committed to love one another. It is our responsibility to one another that leads us to membership. Every member affirms the Membership Promises and commits to prioritize the well being and growth of the entire body. Please regularly review these promises and seek to serve your brothers and sisters faithfully.

Together in membership we are served.

We are a family. We are committed to love you. It is your responsibility to choose vulnerability, fellowship, and allow the church to serve you. Every member affirms the Membership Promises and is committed to your well-being and growth.

GOD'S GLORY

WE PROMISE...

- to do all as a church to the glory of God. *Psalm 115; Isaiah 43:7; Romans 9:17*

I PROMISE...

- to do all as a Jesus follower to the glory of God. *Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; Jeremiah 9:23-24*

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

WE PROMISE...

- to affirm, teach, and adhere to the absolute authority of the Bible in all matters. *Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16*

I PROMISE...

- to affirm and submit to the absolute authority of the Bible in all matters. *Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16*
- to affirm the doctrinal statement of Tri-Cities Baptist Church. *Romans 16:17; 1 Peter 3:15*

GOSPEL SUFFICIENCY - ABIDE IN CHRIST

WE PROMISE...

- to make much of Jesus, keeping Him as head of our church and calling people to abide in Him. *John 15:1-17; Ephesians 1:22, 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18*

I PROMISE...

- to abide in my Savior Jesus by resting in His saving and sanctifying work through faith and pursuing Him through regular Bible study, prayer, and the consistent practice of spiritual disciplines. *Psalm 105:1-2; 119:97; John 15:1-17; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3*
- to pursue holiness by the grace of God, living a life of obedience to Scripture as an ambassador of Christ and representative of His church. *Ephesians 4:1-3; 6:10-20*

THE CHURCH

WE PROMISE...

- to lead you with leaders who meet the Biblical criteria according to their role. *1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4*
- to exhort, admonish, and discipline you when necessary according to Scripture. *Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14*

I PROMISE...

- to pray for and submit to my church's leadership. *1 Thessalonians 5:25; Hebrews 13:17*
- to love and promote unity and mutual edification. *Romans 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:1-3, 12-13*

THE CHURCH - GATHER FOR WORSHIP

WE PROMISE...

- to gather to worship with you. *Matthew 4:10; 22:36-37; Hebrews 10:25*
- to lead you in the two ordinances (Baptism and Lord's Supper) according to the criteria set in Scripture. *Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Colossians 2:12*

I PROMISE...

- to gather with my church family to worship. *Matthew 4:10; 22:36-37; Hebrews 10:25*
- to sacrificially and cheerfully steward the resources God has given me through regular financial giving. *Malachi 3:7-10; Acts 2:45; 20:33-35; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8-9*

THE CHURCH - EQUIP THE SAINTS

WE PROMISE...

- to pursue fellowship, equipping you to connect in community. *Matthew 22:39; Acts 2:42-44; 4:32; Romans 13:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:14*
- to pursue mutual edification, equipping you to serve one another. *Romans 12:3-5; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-13*
- to pray for you. *Colossians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; James 5:14-16*
- to love you. *Matthew 22:39; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Hebrews 10:24; 1 John 4:7,11*
- to value and prioritize the family as the first place of faithful ministry for every Jesus follower. *1 Timothy 3:4-5; Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Ephesians 5:22-33*
- to resource, encourage, and partner with families for gospel advancement and spiritual growth. *Ephesians 4:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalm 145:4-7*

I PROMISE...

- to live in Christian fellowship, connecting in community with my church family. *Matthew 22:39; Acts 2:42-44; 4:32; Romans 13:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:14*
- to discover, develop, and use my gifts, talents, and experiences to serve one another. *Romans 12:3-5; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-13*
- to value my family as the first place of faithful ministry. *Joshua 24:15; 1 Timothy 5:8; Psalm 71:17-18; Ephesians 5:22-33*
- to be committed to the discipleship of my family in partnership with the family of faith. *Psalm 78:4-8; Ephesians 4:12; 6:4; Proverbs 1:7-9*

THE CHURCH - GO MAKE DISCIPLES

WE PROMISE...

- to pursue the Great Commission, equipping you to go make disciples. *Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8*

I PROMISE...

- to go make disciples, sharing the love and message of Jesus. *Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8*

Obedience

In light of the example of the early church, biblical church leadership, and our mutual responsibility for discipline and edification, local church membership should be viewed as an act of obedience.

Community

Believers are commanded to live in fellowship with one another. This involves transparency and vulnerability as well as trusting, encouraging, admonishing, teaching, correcting, and helping one another.

Mission

Sharing the love and hope found in Jesus is our joint mission.

Worship

We exist to worship and glorify God. As members of a local church body, we are commanded to gather regularly and worship Him in song and proclamation of His Word.

Growth

Discipleship does not occur in isolation. The local church has been designed to function together in community to build one another up to maturity.

Ministry

The church is healthy only when individual members are utilizing their gifts to serve one another, disciple one another, and build up the body of Christ.

How Scripture Affirms Church Membership:

The example of the early church

The early churches organized themselves locally. (Acts 2:37-47; 5:14; 16:5; 1 Timothy 5:9)

Paul and other apostles addressed organized, local churches (Corinth, Philippi, etc.).

New Testament language consistently affirms some form of recognizable local church membership. (Acts 14:23; 15; 1 Corinthians 14:23; Hebrews 10:24-25)

The leadership of church elders

God appointed elders to lead local churches. His Word gives elders the responsibility of overseeing and the church the responsibility of following their leadership. This charge demands a commitment to a local church.

(Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:2)

The responsibility of church discipline

The local church is responsible for the admonishment, correction, and discipline of their own. Again, this demands a committed belonging to the local church. (1 Corinthians 5:1-12)

The expectation of mutual edification

Similar to discipline, edification is communicated and charged to the local church body. The local church gathers believers of various giftedness and calling to edify the local and global church.

(Ephesians 4:12-16)

MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY

A TCBC member has a personal relationship with Jesus, has been scripturally baptized by immersion, and affirms Tri-Cities Baptist Church's Membership Promises.

Discover Tri-Cities

Discover Tri-Cities is our way of helping you determine if Tri-Cities is the church for you and is recommended for everyone. Upon completion of DTC, participants are encouraged to become a member of TCBC.

Membership Form

Prospective members complete the membership form to affirm the Membership Promises and become a member of TCBC.

New Members Celebration

TCBC publicly welcomes and celebrates those that God has brought to us as members during the previous quarter. In our New Members Celebrations we introduce the church to our new members and pray for them in our worship gatherings. We remind our church of their commitment to you and your commitment to them by mutual pursuit of faithfulness to the Membership Promises.

ONLINE FORM

[Click Here or scan code](#)

PRINTED FORM

See Next Page



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out a form for each individual of your family that is pursuing TCBC membership.



Once reviewed, you will receive an email confirmation of your membership with instructions about our next New Members Celebration.

First: _____ Last: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Street: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Carrier: _____

Birthday: _____ Gender: _____ Marital Status: _____

In your own words, please explain the message of the gospel.

Have you placed your faith and trust in Jesus and accepted him as your Savior? Yes / No

If so, please share your testimony. What was your life like before Christ? How did come to repent of your sin and place saving faith in Jesus? Describe your relationship with Christ now.

Have you been baptized by immersion since accepting Jesus as your Savior? Yes / No If so, please tell us where:

Do you understand and affirm Tri-Cities Baptist Church's Membership Promises? Yes / No

If you are transferring membership from another church, please list the name of the church, city, and state:

Have you completed "Discover Tri-Cities?" Yes / No If Yes, when?

Please list any questions you have regarding membership:
