

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Essentials

What follows is the Nicene Creed. It has served as a basis for orthodox faith since 325AD. If we agree on these things, then we are family.

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. Amen.

For those who struggle with the "one holy catholic and apostolic church," dictionary.com defines "little c" catholic as: 2) universal in extent; involving all; of interest to all. 3) pertaining to the whole Christian body or church. It is an archaic word to mean "the body of Christ at large." We are not a branch of Catholicism, though we embrace them as our brothers and sisters.

The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the immutable word of God, and that all theology must be scripturally based. We believe this according to 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness," therefore we do not recognize biblically unfounded theology as legitimate expressions of the faith.

Salvation & The Christian Life

We believe that actively following Jesus is the only way to salvation, and that the Christian life requires the denying our flesh and submitting to God. We do this by adherence to the Bible, the Holy Spirit's guidance, and the wisdom of our spiritual elders. We affirm the importance of the corporate and private walk with God. John 14:6 (ESV) "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Water Baptism

We believe in the practice of full immersion as both a public testimony of faith and as a mystery fully understood only by God, in which we are buried and resurrected with Christ to newness of life.

Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12, & 1 Peter 3:21

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the full baptism of the Holy Spirit that is separate from the indwelling of the Spirit of God received at salvation, as evidenced in the Book of Acts. This "baptism of fire" is accompanied and evidenced by the gifts laid out in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV), "For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."

Five-fold Ministry

We believe in the present-day function of all five types of ministers in Ephesians 4:11, that these functions did not cease with the first generation church, and that the global body of Christ will only reach maturity by embracing the role of all five ministerial types as stated in Ephesians 4:12-14.