

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

The Open Door exists to provide a community where adults, youth and kids can experience...

FAMILY

- a safe place where all can enjoy authentic relationships within the church family
- unconditional love and acceptance

FAITH

- a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the Bible, worship and prayer
- growth in their spiritual journey

FREEDOM

- a contemporary, relaxed atmosphere
- freedom to discover and live out God's purposes

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

- **IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE UNITY.**
 - » "There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..." *Ephesians 4:4-6*
- **IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE LIBERTY.**
 - » "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So what ever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God." *Romans 14:1,4,12,22*
- **IN ALL OUR BELIEFS - WE SHOW LOVE.**
 - » "If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains - but have no Love, I amount to nothing at all." *1 Corinthians 13:2*

Our faith centers on Jesus, who left heaven to become a servant, demonstrating how much God loves us. He was crucified on a cross to free us from the bondage of sin and to bring us into right relationship with the Father. He rose again on the third day and sent us His Holy Spirit to fill us and equip us for every day life. Every person is responsible to receive Jesus as Lord of his or her life. He is returning to take His people home to live with Him forever at God's appointed time.

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

1. GOD - God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. *Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

2. JESUS CHRIST - Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. *Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13*

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT - The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. *2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18*

4. THE BIBLE - The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. *2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*

5. PEOPLE - We believe that, without exception, every human being is a valuable person created by God in His image and thus possesses inherent dignity, and we are called to love and treat every person with genuine respect. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. *Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2*

6. SALVATION - Because of sin, all people deserve the judgment of God. However, God freely offers salvation and eternal life to anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ and in His sacrifice on his or her behalf. Salvation cannot be earned through personal goodness or human effort. It is a gift that must be received by humble repentance and faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross. *Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5*

7. ETERNITY - People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. *John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18 Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9*

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT: WHAT WE PRACTICE

1. THE BIBLE IS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." *2 Timothy 3:15*

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

2. AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

"Christ is the head of His Body, the Church. He is the source of the Body's life..." *Colossians 1:18*

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In relating to other churches we encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure and style. We are a small part of God's bigger family.

3. PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

"Christ loved us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God." *Revelation 1:6* "You are a chosen people ... chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." *1 Peter 2:9*

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

4. TITHING

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." *Leviticus 26:30*

We practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. The act of giving is important, but God is also concerned with the motive for giving. Generosity means giving willingly, for "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) If a person gives grudgingly, their bad attitude makes the gift less meaningful. In the Old Testament, we are told to "give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." (Deuteronomy 15:10)

5. BAPTISM

Water Baptism

- a. Water baptism is an important symbolic identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-6, Colossians 2:11-14).
- b. Water baptism should be done by immersion (Matthew 3:16, John 3:23, Acts 8:36-39).
- c. Water baptism should be done into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19), and should be done in the name of Jesus (Acts 8:16, 10:48).

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:4, 19:6).
- b. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes the receiving of the power of God (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8).
- c. The Holy Spirit also gives the manifestation of the spiritual gifts, and distributes to each one individually as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:1-31).
- d. This experience is subsequent to the experience of new birth and distinct from new birth and water baptism. (Acts 8:12-17, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 11:14-15, Acts 15:7-9, John 20:22, Acts 4-8).

6. SPIRIT-LED LIVING

"Jesus said, I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5*

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18)

7. TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." *1 Peter 3:15*

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those whom God brings us into contact with.

8. MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- a. Marriage is not a human creation or invention but a God-given, God-initiated, and God-ordained institution (Genesis 2:18 & 2:24).
- b. God intended marriage to be a monogamous, life-long union (Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:14) between one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others (Genesis 2:18, 20-25; Mark 10:7-9).
- c. Marriage is constituted in mutual covenant and is a solemn, binding agreement entered into before God and others (Malachi 2:14). God views the breaking of this covenant very seriously (2 Samuel 12; Malachi 2:16).