

beingchurch

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT



PART ONE:

WHAT WE BELIEVE

IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE UNITY

There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...

Ephesians 4:4-6 ESV

IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE LIBERTY

While the Bible must be the source for all we believe, we understand that people will differ in their interpretation of some non-essential beliefs.

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand... So then each of us will give an account of ourselves to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

Romans 14:1,4a,12,22a ESV

IN ALL OUR BELIEFS - WE SHOW CHARITY

...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 (Paraphrase)



THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

SCRIPTURE

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three are co-equal and are one God and yet He demonstrates in relationship within Himself how we, too, should submit ourselves to Him in loving trust. God is timeless, with no beginning nor end; He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, perfect and complete, lacking nothing; unchanging in His character, ruling over all creation.

*Gen. 1:1,26,27;3:22,
Psalm 90:2, Matt. 28:19,
1 Peter 1:2, 2 Cor. 13:14*

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father, and all creation is created through Him. Jesus was born to a virgin, 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 reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

*Matt. 1:22-23, Isaiah 9:6,
John 1:1-5,14:10-30,
Heb. 4:14-15, 1 Cor. 15:3-4,
Rom. 1:3-4, Acts 1:9-11,
1 Tim. 6:14-15, Titus 2:13*

3. ABOUT 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(s) when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

*2 Cor. 3:17,
John 16:7-13;14:16-17,
Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 2:12;3:16;6:19,
Eph. 1:13, Gal. 5:25, Eph 5:18*

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. Its sixty-six books were 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. It reflects the background, culture, and style of its human authors while speaking with the authority of God. It is the ultimate authority for right and wrong for all people. As a church and as individuals, we therefore seek to live according to God's plan for our lives as explicitly and implicitly stated therein, applying it wisely, and in light of the Gospel, in every sphere of our existence.

*2 Tim. 3:16,
2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Tim 1:13,
Psalm 119:105,160; 12:6,
Prov. 30:5*

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

The ultimate purpose for every human life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. God made humanity in the spiritual image of God; male and female; to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Every person has a tremendous potential for good, but human nature is inherently sinful, separating people from God and negatively impacting each individual and their relationships.

*Gen. 1:27, Psalm 8:3-6,
Isaiah 53:6a, Rom. 3:23,
Isaiah 59:1-2*

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

SCRIPTURE

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must choose to accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ's finished work on the Cross as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

*Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:8-9,
John 14:6;1:12, Titus 3:5,
Gal. 3:26, Rom. 5:1*

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ. As such, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

*John 10:28-29, 2 Tim. 1:12,
Heb. 7:25, 10:10,14,
1 Pet. 1:3-5*

8. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by our sin, or eternally with God through His 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, Rom. 6:23,
Rev. 20:15*

9. ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE

Human Sexuality - The Bible teaches that God created human sexual relations to be exercised solely within marriage. Hence, this church opposes all forms of sex outside of marriage as sin, because it is destructive spiritually, emotionally and physically to all involved.

Marriage - Marriage is a Biblical institution established by God; designed to be a picture of Christ and the Church, as clearly described in the Bible. This church recognizes that marriage always has been intended to be and always will be the uniting of one man and one woman (according to the biological sex of each at birth) in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this church, its pastors, staff and members, will not participate in same sex unions or similar ceremonies, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.

*Gen. 1:27-28, 2:18-25,
Matt. 19:2-9, 1 Cor. 6:12-20,
Eph. 5:25-33, Col. 3:18-21*

10. ABOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church consists of a group of baptized believers who gather together regularly for worship, fellowship, service, praise, teaching, edification, prayer and confession: sharing the Gospel and growing in Christ-likeness. We seek to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission as we live out the Great Commandment. Every covenant member of the local church is a "priest;" committed to using their spiritual gifts, resources, and talents to serve others and share the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 1:6-8, 2:42-47,
Matt. 28:18-20,
1 Peter 2:1-10, Eph. 4:11-16,
1 Cor. 12:20-26,
James 2:15-16,
1 John 3:17-18*

PART TWO: OUR COVENANT



Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been scripturally baptized (by immersion, after salvation), and being in agreement with Being Church's Articles of Faith (reprinted above), and it's strategy and structure, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. PROTECT THE UNITY OF BEING CHURCH

- By acting in love toward other believers.
- By devoting myself to the Scriptures.
- By refusing to gossip and resolving conflicts using Matt. 18:15-17.
- By following the leadership and holding them accountable.

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19 ESV

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6 ESV

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart...

1 Peter 1:22-23 ESV

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 ESV

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17 ESV

2. SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING CHURCH

- By praying for its growth.
- By sharing the Gospel with the unchurched.
- By warmly welcoming all.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers... 1 Thessalonians 1:2 ESV

And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'

Luke 14:23 ESV

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7 ESV

3. SERVE THE MINISTRY OF BEING CHURCH

- By discovering my gifts and talents.
- By being equipped to serve by the leaders.
- By developing a servant's heart.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... 1 Peter 4:10 ESV

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. [Being like Christ Jesus]... by taking the form of a servant...

Philippians 2:3-4,7 ESV (Paraphrased)

4. SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF BEING CHURCH

- By attending faithfully.
- By living a growing and godly life.
- By giving regularly.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another... Hebrews 10:25 NLT

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...

Philippians 1:27 ESV

On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned [to be used as an offering].

1 Corinthians 16:2 NLT

"One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy." Leviticus 27:30 NLT