

WHAT WE BELIEVE

OUR CORE BELIEFS

All of our teaching and ministry is rooted in and flows out of these biblical doctrines.

1. One God

We believe there is only one real God who made the universe and all that is in it. He is one, pure, spiritual being that exists in a tri-unity of: The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a mysterious concept, but we can somewhat visualize it like a triangle: a triangle has 3 distinct points, yet it is one geometric figure. Each point is inseparable from the whole object but there is no confusion between the points either. So – God is not three gods, only one God in three persons (like the points on a triangle).

2. Jesus Is God

We believe that God loves people, so God took on a human nature, by a miraculous virgin birth– what better way to really communicate with us than to come down to our level? Jesus is the God-man. You can picture it like adding a balloon to one point of a triangle – the triangle never changes, it just adds the balloon. In the same way, God never changes but Jesus took on a human nature (he was born and grew up – just like a balloon can start out small and inflate) – so Jesus is both fully God and fully man at the same time. This means that Jesus was able to live a perfect life because He was God in the flesh. He was also able to give His human life as a payment for our bad choices, our sins, because He was also a perfect man. Since the Bible says, “the wages of sin is death,” but Jesus never sinned, when He gave up His life on the cross it caused a spiritual explosion – in fact, it literally caused death to work backwards and Jesus rose from the dead. His death on the cross and His resurrection paves the way so that anyone who puts their trust in Him can have a real relationship directly with the real God.

3. Humans Are Disconnected From God

The evil things we do and say and think – our sins – are like cancer in our souls. If you had cancer, no matter how many vitamins you might take, it just won't cure it. It's the same with sin – just living a good life (like taking vitamins) won't cure the sin problem. To God, sin is spiritual cancer and just a little bit of sin will keep us separated from truly knowing the real God.

People can only be saved from this terrible separation by admitting they have a sin problem, then turning away from a self-directed lifestyle (the Biblical word for this is repentance) and placing all hope and trust in the payment for sin that Jesus made when he died on the cross.

This process is called being “born again”.

OUR CORE BELIEFS (Continued)

4. Accepting Jesus As Lord Washes Our Sins Away

We believe Christians are those who decide to accept the peace offering made by Jesus. A person accepts this peace offering by a choice (faith) and if your choice is real, from the heart, there will be a change in your everyday actions. In effect, becoming a Christian is making Jesus the Captain of your life.

Think of it like joining the Military. In the Military, you have to turn away from a civilian life, swear to follow the orders of your Captain and train to live out the Military lifestyle. In the same way, Christians are people who turn away from living just any way they want (repentance), swear to follow Jesus as their Captain (pray and accept Him as master of all life choices) and begin to train in how to live the Christian life (learning from other Christians and from the Bible, serving others – this is what church should be all about).

5. Our Life Should Reflect Jesus

Once we become Christians, God's Spirit begins to change us from the inside out. The Holy Spirit also gives us the power to live lives that reflect God's goodness. It isn't our good life that puts us right with God, but our changed lives show that we really have put our trust in Jesus.

Just as a bad tree cannot grow good fruit, so we can see by a person's actions if they have indeed made Jesus their Captain.

6. The Bible Alone

The 66 books of the Bible are God's only and complete revelation to people about spiritual truth.

The Bible, and the Bible alone, is the final rule and authority over how Christians should live.

There are many English translations of the Bible and we believe those translations which most accurately reflect the oldest copies of the originals should be our guides. We often check our scripture references against word for word translations of the oldest Greek and Hebrew Bible versions available.

We primarily use the New American Standard Bible and the New King James Version but refer to others on occasion.

7. The Church Is Every Believer

The Church is not a building or an organization. Instead, the church is made of all people who are born again.

Since people make mistakes and the church is full of people, it is necessary that all church teachings and practices be confirmed by the Bible.

OUR CORE BELIEFS (Continued)

8. Be Baptized

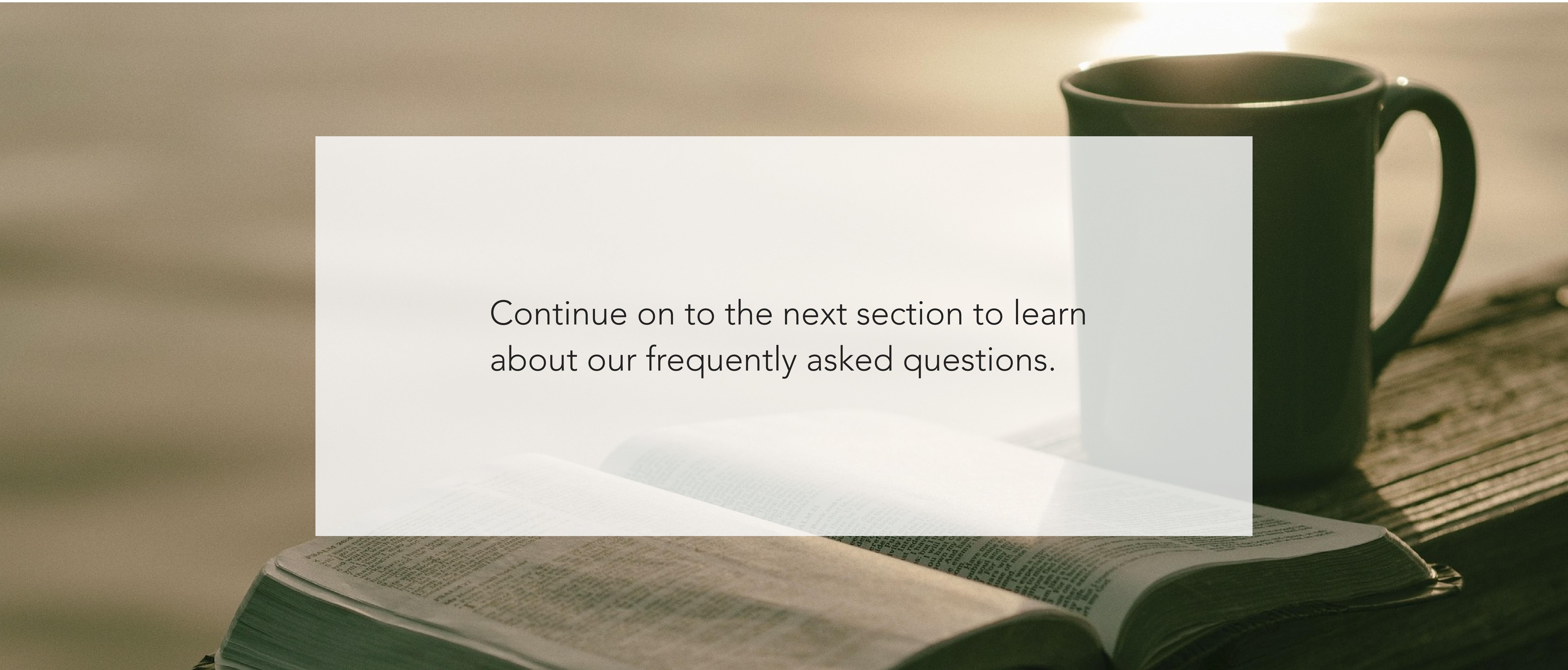
Jesus instructed us to be baptized as a public demonstration of our faith in Him as our Master in life and our savior from sin. We baptize people by dipping them completely in water, in the name of the triune God, after a person declares faith in Jesus.

9. Taking Communion

The Lord Jesus instructed us to remember his death and resurrection by observing the “Lord’s Supper” on a regular basis. The ceremonies of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper do not save us, it is our trust in God’s mercy alone (our faith alone) that saves us, but these works are public declarations of our faith and important reminders to us of what we believe.

10. Jesus Is Coming Back

Jesus is coming back – no one knows when, but His return will be seen by the whole planet and mean the end of history. There’s a lot of debate about end-times prophecy but we believe that two things are absolutely 100% certain – either Jesus will come back during your lifetime or you will die before His return – either way, everybody is going to face Him; what truly matters is HOW WE LIVE.



Continue on to the next section to learn about our frequently asked questions.



CALVARY CHAPEL ARISE

FREQUENTLY ASKED

Our most asked questions are in a FAQ format with accompanied scripture for further reading.

Who Is God?

We believe that God exists (Psalm 14:1), that He is the creator (Gen. 1:1), that He is and uncreated, spiritual being, (John 4:24), that the Son of God incarnated himself into the body of a human being (John 1:1, 18), that God is self-existent (Isaiah) 43:10, 48:12), Omnipotent (Job 42:2, Psalm 115:3), omnipresent (1 Kings 8:27, Proverbs 15:3, eternal (Psalm 90:2, 93: 2), God alone (Is. 46:9), unchangeable (Mal. 3:6, that He loves the world (John 3:16), is just (Psalms 19:7,8) and merciful (Deut. 7;9,10).

Who Is Jesus Christ?

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth (called the Christ) is God incarnated in human flesh (John 1:3,4; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Titus 2:13). He was born of a true virgin (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:27), led a sinless life (Heb. 4:15), died literally on a Roman cross (Matt. 27:50) but rose from the dead physically, in the same body, on the third day after the crucifixion (Matt. 28:5,6; John 2:19-21). Jesus is the only mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5), God's ultimate sacrifice for the sins of mankind (Romans 3:25), our only hope of salvation (Acts 4:12), the head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23) and judge of the entire world (John 5:22).

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

The Spirit is the third person of the trinity (Matt. 28:19), not an impersonal force (Acts 5:4), possesses all the attributes of God (1 Cor. 2:10,11; Psalms 139:7,8; Genesis 1:1,2). Convicts a person of sin, guides, equips, teaches, fills and empowers the believer, enabling the believer to live a life pleasing to God (Gal. 5:16). The Spirit will not lead the believer away from God's revealed truth, but rather will come to the believer with the Bible and through the Bible, never apart from the Word of God (2 Tim.3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21).

What Is The Trinity?

Understanding the word "Catholic" to refer to the general body of believers and not just the denomination based in Rome, we affirm the Athanasian and Nicene Creeds. We believe there is only one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are co-equal in their essential nature, attributes, and perfection; and each of whom is to be honored and worshiped as God. We do not believe the trinity is a group of three gods (tritheism) nor is the one God manifested in different modes (modalism). (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Psalm 18:30,31; Psalm 147:5; Matt. 28:19; Mark12:29; Luke 3:22; John 4:24, 5:23, 10:30, 14:9; Acts5:3,4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Continued)

What Is Human Nature? What is the Atonement?

We believe that humans are created beings, not gods or gods in embryo (polytheism), not a part of God's essence (Pantheism) nor are they a product of a mindless natural process (Darwinism) - but a separate creation from Him and subservient to Him (Genesis 1:27). God does not answer to us, but we to Him. We were originally created perfect and able to directly communicate with the Creator. By act of willful disobedience, we rebelled against God, thus cutting ourselves off from direct fellowship with Him (Genesis 3;24). Since God is Holy, we cannot enter fellowship with Him when stained by sin.

Humans are sinful by nature (Rom. 3:23) but maintain a conscience constantly bearing witness that we are out of line with the Creator (Rom 2:15). We also believe that God loves us with an everlasting love. Not willing that we should perish, God took the initiative to reconcile us to Himself through the cross of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23). Some who lived before the days of Jesus were justified by their faith in God - even though they may not have understood God's plan nor had a clear understanding of His holiness. Those that came after must also put their faith in God and His atoning work on the cross or their sin will not be cleansed.

Since we are all sinners there is no room to boast. Christianity and the church are not a "we're better than you" club but is, instead, a gathering of people who have put their faith in Christ for salvation and the power to live a life that is pleasing to God.

What Is Sin?

God is Holy, His statutes and requirements for human behavior are perfect, thus, sin is NOT a relative concept. Sin is more than a transgression of a list of rules. A sinful act is merely giving in to what we are by nature - sinful creatures (Psalm 14:1). We believe that no amount of good behavior can make up for the stain of sin on our lives. Continuing to live in the sinful state produces moral and spiritual bondage, guilt, death and eternal punishment (Romans 6 and 7). All sin is serious, but we preach the good news that Christ has overcome sin and death. This does not give us a license to sin (Rom. 6:15) but gives us power to overcome sin. While we do believe that the ceremonial Old Testament law, with its animal sacrifices and prohibitions, were completed in Jesus Christ; thus freeing us from Kosher eating and the observation of the Old Testament social laws, we still affirm that God's moral laws are absolute and eternal (Deut. 5; Romans 1 and 2). The Old Testament is also the inspired Word of God.

What Are Moral Standards?

We recognize that ALL sin is an affront to God. It is the mission of the church to help all who wish to repent in their efforts to turn from sin. As defined in Romans, chapter one, we acknowledge that sin is a real issue, that sinful behavior cannot be overlooked but must be confronted "speaking the truth in love" and that there are Biblically defined boundaries between acceptable and unacceptable behavior in our personal lives and in the church. In short, ARISE is not a refuge for the self-righteous or a place that refuses to acknowledge what is sin and what is not. Though imperfect, we long for completeness (maturity) as our fear turns to love for God in an ever-increasing relationship.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Continued)

What Is Our View On Marriage And Sexuality?

God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21 – 26, Romans 10:8 – 17, Ephesians 2: 1 – 10, James 5: 16 – 20). Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the statement of belief of ARISE, Inc. Galatians 6: 1 – 3, 1 Peter 4: 1 – 11).

As far as ARISE is concerned, the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man (who has been a male continuously since his birth and who has not undergone sexual reassignment surgery) and one woman (who has been a female continuously since her birth and who has not undergone sexual reassignment surgery) in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18 – 25, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:3 – 9, Ephesians 5: 28 – 33). We believe, affirm and teach that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Ephesians 5:3 – 5, 1 Corinthians 7: 1 – 5, Galatians 5: 16 – 25).

We believe, affirm, teach and hold all employees, volunteers, staff or agents of ARISE, Inc. (AKA, ARISE Christian Church or ARISE Calvary Chapel or Calvary Chapel ARISE) to affirm, live-by and teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one’s gender or disagreement with one’s biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God (Ephesians 5: 1 – 3, Hebrews 13:4, Isaiah 5: 20 – 21, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:10 – 16, Deuteronomy 23: 17 – 18, 1 Timothy 1:8 – 17, Romans 1:22 – 32, 1 Corinthians 6:9 – 20, Galatians 5: 16 – 23, Hebrews 12: 15 – 17, 2 Samuel 11:2 – 12:15).

All persons employed by ARISE, Inc. or any of its Ministries in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers in ARISE, Inc. or any of its Ministries, must abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly (Hebrews 13: 4 – 8, Hebrews 13:17 – 21, Colossians 3: 1 – 17).

What is being “born again?” What Is Salvation?

Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, paid for all sin, completely satisfied the righteous wrath of God against sin, and provided redemption and forgiveness for all who believe. Those who recognize their sinful state, actively turn from it towards God (repentance) and put their total trust in Christ’s work on the cross on their behalf are set apart as God’s children (Rom. 9:8; Gal. 3:26). Salvation is provided for us because of God’s great love for us, not because we have earned it from any number of good works (Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Rom. 9:14). Though justified before God because of our faith in Christ, all Christians will continue to struggle with sin and will not totally cease from sinning in this life (1 John 1:9), however, the Holy Spirit in our lives makes it possible for us to overcome sin and not be dominated by it (Rom. 6:14).

As Christians we now have the righteousness of God imputed, or added, to our account (2 Cor. 5:21), old things have passed away and we are the children of God. (John 1:12). We can, therefore, do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). Because we are saved and filled with His Spirit, we are set apart to bear fruit for God (John 15:16). Through the power of the Holy Spirit and by total submission to Him, we are able to resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7). Nevertheless, it is not US the devil fears but Christ in us. It is important to emphasize that we are nothing in and of ourselves - our position as one redeemed is to be humble at all times.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Continued)

What Is The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is that person of the trinity who convicts men of sin, causes spiritual birth, indwells, seals, sanctifies (sets apart), guides, equips, teaches and fills the believer enabling the believer to walk in obedience to God and His Word (Eph. 3:14 - 19). We believe the Holy Spirit can, and does, intercede for us in worship uttering groaning's from our hearts toward God that even we cannot comprehend (Rom. 8:26).

We believe that the Spirit fills ALL who put their faith in Christ immediately at the time a person truly puts faith in Jesus. Yet still, we believe the ministry of the Spirit continues to this day and the cup of the Spirit in our hearts may overflow from time to time in a believer's life as God allows (sometimes called the "filling" of the Holy Spirit but we believe this is actually the "overflowing" since the cup is already full).

What About Miracles and Manifestations Of The Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NASB) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

The Spirit is the author of miracles and visions (including healings and tongues) but these manifestations of the Holy Spirit are given as God desires (1 Cor. 12:11) not by the will of the people. The Spirit is not a genie in a bottle that responds to the right words or actions of people. These manifestations will NEVER contradict the revealed word of God, will always bring glory to God alone and are NOT subject to the will or faith of any individual believer. We may ask for them, and indeed we should earnestly desire them (1 Cor. 12:31) but it is the Holy Spirit who acts to demonstrate a gift or manifestation of the Spirit by the will of God alone (1 Cor. 12:11). We believe all should be done in the church in an orderly manner. We believe that we should "Test everything. Hold on to the good" (1 Thes. 5:21). Although we believe in miracles, signs and wonders we believe all true manifestations of the Spirit should be empirically verifiable and Biblically supported.

What Is The Revealed Word of God?

The apostles were the original leaders of the church, laying down the New Testament, explaining the work of Jesus as it connects with the promises of the Old Testament and establishing the workings of the church. We believe, therefore, in apostolic authority - that is the authority of the original apostles encoded in the works they left for us in the Bible. Since not every issue relating to the church may be found directly in the Bible (there is no mention of indoor plumbing in the Bible or electronic instruments) we do believe in the guidance of the Holy Spirit - but that guidance is only genuine so long as the direction given does not contradict the precepts (principles) of the Word of God.

(Continued on next page)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Continued)

What Is The Revealed Word of God? (Cont.)

We believe, therefore, that the 66 books of both the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible comprise God's revealed will to mankind and are without error in the original writings. Only these books have the authority of God Himself and are the final authority on all issues of Christian living. There are many other books, both ancient and modern, that contain some historical and even spiritual value (including works by major Christian authors, psychologists, apologists, missionaries and other leaders) and may help in the function of the church or Christian life, but all controversies, variations of opinion, traditions of men, psychological opinion or scientific interpretation must be judged in light of God's revealed word (the Bible alone). In all matters of doctrine, the words of the Bible are absolute - we will add nothing to it or take anything away from it. Issues of minor importance (music style in the church, clothing style etc.) will be dealt with by grace, understanding, forgiveness and balance. We affirm without equivocation the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy.

What Is The Church?

We are affiliated with and recognized as a member of the Calvary Chapel Association (CCA) – but the CCA is not a denomination in the common sense of the term; thus, we are not a denominational church, but we are not opposed to denominations either. We do not agree with the overemphasis of the doctrinal differences which have led to division in the body of Christ.

We believe the church is composed of all who have placed their faith in the Jesus Christ of the Bible for their salvation from sin and are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the unity of the body of Christ and will gladly rejoice with all believers in the truth. Yet still, since the church is filled with fallible human beings it is critical that we fully examine any position, behavior, vision, miracle, leadership or manifestation of the Spirit in light of God's Word alone.

While there may always be room to discuss and debate peripheral or secondary issues (spiritual gifts, communion, future events etc.) the basic fundamentals of the faith (the Athanasian and Nicene Creeds and the authority of the Bible etc.) are not to be compromised.

Dive even further into Our Theology by reading:

Athanasian Creed
The Nicene Creed
Biblical Inerrancy

Revisit [OUR THEOLOGY](#) page to view and download these