
OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

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. 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. ABOUT 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. 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 when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His influence 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. ABOUT 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. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us 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. ABOUT SALVATION

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

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5;
Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. ABOUT SANCTIFICATION

Recognizing the tendency toward self-rule, every believer should present himself to God, fully yielded to His will in all aspects of life. This complete giving of ourselves to God, as an act of our will, is followed by a lifelong process of spiritual growth, in which the Spirit-filled believer is transformed more and more into Christlikeness.

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Gal. 2:20; 1 Peter 1:13-16

8. ABOUT 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. Hell is an eternal separation from God. Heaven is a place of eternal union with God. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18;
Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

What We Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

“He made us to be a kingdom of priests who serve God his Father.” Rev. 1:6 (GWT) ***“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*** 1 Pet. 2:9 (NIV)

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.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

“The earth is the LORD’S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Psa. 24:1 (NIV)

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” 1 Cor. 16:2 (NIV)

The Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and things, and that we are to be good stewards of that which He entrust to us. This stewardship applies especially to our finances and possessions.

At ECW 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.

GOD-HONORING LIFESTYLE

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31 (NIV)

“Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything” 1 Cor. 6:12 (NIV)

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;” 1 Pet. 1:15 (NIV)

We believe that Christians should live a life that exemplifies holiness and does not bring shame to the name of Christ. Although some habits are not explicitly condemned by Scripture, we encourage believers to prayerfully consider actions that may be harmful to themselves or others.

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Gal. 5:25 (NIV)

(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. (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18)

ABORTION

**“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are
wonderful, I know that full well.”**

Psa. 139:13-14 (NIV)

We affirm the sanctity of human life as established by God and believe that such sanctity extends to the unborn child. Therefore we oppose induced abortion when used for either personal convenience or population control.

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

“and (God) said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Mat.19:5-6 (NIV)

We believe that the institution of marriage was ordained by God and should be cherished by all Christians. Marriage is intended to be a permanent union of one man and one woman that is morally binding as long as both shall live. We believe that physical, emotional and sexual abuse have NO place within the Christian home and are not condoned or allowed by God under any circumstances.

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 with whom God gives us opportunities. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.