

Statement of Faith and Theological Distinctives

This is our statement of faith and summarizes the core doctrines of Christianity.

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and completely inerrant in their original writings. They are the ultimate and final authority in faith and Christian living.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is the Almighty God who created and sustains the whole universe.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He is true God and true man. He was crucified, died, and buried for the atonement of sin. He rose again from the dead on the third day, and ascended bodily into heaven as our Priest and Advocate. He will return bodily to earth.
4. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead. He is the Comforter who guides and inspires us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He leads and enlightens us in understanding God's Word, and He also guides and inspires our daily walk with God.
5. We believe that humankind was created in the image of God. Humankind sinned and fell, thereby incurring not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God. All humankind is born with a sinful nature.
6. We believe that all who repent of their sins and receive by faith Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God.
7. We believe that the local church is the gathering of the redeemed believers on the earth in a certain locality and is a part of the universal church of God. We believe in the principle of separation of Church and State, guaranteeing an individual's freedom to choose one's own faith.
8. We believe that every redeemed believer is commissioned to witness and make disciples both locally and worldwide.
9. We believe that every redeemed believer is to be light and salt of the earth, including leading a life that demonstrates, upholds, and aids the welfare and justice of society.
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the believer and of the non-believer, and in the everlasting blessedness of the believer and the everlasting conscious punishment of the non-believer.

Theological Distinctives

Our theological distinctives reflect what distinguishes Anchor Community Church from other churches who would affirm the basic doctrines. These distinctives indelibly shape the way that Anchor Community Church is led and the direction the church is headed. We do not expect all members to embrace all aspects of these distinctives, but members should expect that the distinctives will be maintained in all ministry environments at Anchor Community Church, and members may not teach contrary to them.

Distinctive: Marriage and Sexuality

Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union in the covenant of marriage that establishes the only God-ordained pattern of sexual relations for men and women. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. (Gen. 1:27, 2:24)

Distinctive: Sovereignty of God in Salvation

The salvation of humanity is fundamentally the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, God elected His people, setting His affection and grace upon them (Rom. 8:29–30). In love God predestined His people for adoption (Eph. 1:4–6). Faith is a gift of grace that is given by the mercy and pleasure of God, so that no one may boast. Apart from the intervention of God, humanity cannot choose of his own accord to worship God and pursue righteousness (Rom. 3; Eph. 2:1–3). God's sovereignty in salvation is comprehensive: from first to last, all of salvation is the work of God. We believe that God's sovereignty in salvation neither diminishes the responsibility of people to believe in Christ nor marginalizes the necessity and power of prayer and evangelism, but rather reinforces and establishes them as the ordained means by which God accomplishes his ordained ends. (Acts 13:48, 16:30-31, Matthew 11:27-28)

Distinctive: Believer's Baptism

Water baptism is only intended for those who have received the saving benefits of Christ through the new birth of the Holy Spirit. (Col. 2:11-12) In obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to God, the Church, oneself and the world, believers are baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19) Water baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that a former way of life has been put to death and vividly depicts the release from the mastery of Satan, sin and death. (Rom. 6:3-5)

Distinctive: Complementarianism

Men and women are absolutely equal in essence, dignity and value but are distinct by divine design. As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. However, the office of elder is reserved for qualified men. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18, Gal. 3:28, 1 Cor. 11:2-16, 1 Tim. 2:11-15, 3:1-7)