

**Essential Doctrines:**

**The Nature of Scripture:** We believe the Bible is God's Word and has ultimate authority in our beliefs and actions. We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the infallible Word of God, verbally inspired by God, and without error in the original manuscripts.

**The Nature of God:** We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is YAHWEH (the Lord), the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the three in One.

**Creation and Fall:** We believe God is the creator of all things and is working His divine plan by His sovereign will. We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state.

**Salvation:** We believe one comes to a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior; that election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners.

**The Church:** We believe the church is the body and bride of Christ, and God's primary way of advancing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

**Family:** We believe that God instituted the family, and assigned it stewardship and responsibility for life. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.

**The Kingdom of God:** We believe in God's general sovereignty over the universe and His particular rule over those who accept Him as Lord.

**The Lord's Day:** We believe the first day of the week is resurrection day, or Christian Sabbath, and is a day to celebrate His rest and rule in our lives.

**Essential Disciplines:**

**Worship:** We celebrate the glory and goodness of God and worship Him for who He is and for what He is doing in our lives. We believe that all humanity was created for the purpose of worship and that the chief end of man is to love God by enjoying Him for all eternity.

**Bible Study:** We study the Bible to know God and to connect His truth with our daily lives. We believe the primary way that God reveals His will to us is by the careful study and meditation of Scripture.

**Community:** We fellowship with other Christians in genuine biblical community to accomplish God's purpose for our lives, to hold one another accountable and to meet each other's needs as we journey together for the purposes of the Gospel.

**Witness:** We believe that God has put us on this earth to bring Him glory and to fulfill His cause by loving all people to Christ and by helping them in their journey with God and each other. It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations.

**Service:** We give our lives away in order to accomplish God's purpose. The Proper response to the Gospel of Christ is loving servanthood.

**Prayer:** We pray to God to know Him, to lay our requests before Him and to find direction for daily life. We believe that faith is awakened and sustained by God's Spirit through his word and prayer.

**Stewardship:** We give our time, talents and material possessions to accomplish God's purpose for our lives. We believe that the result of Christ at the center of our hearts is the breaking of the bondage of idolatry and selfishness, the natural outcome of which is cheerful generosity

**Fasting:** We devote ourselves to the fast as a way to seek the Lord and to recalibrate our priorities and to understand His will. We believe that our most basic need is to deny ourselves and to find God's purpose for our lives, and that God's word calls for the fast as a way for focusing our hearts on the unique will of God

**Essential Virtues:**

**Love:** To love means to love and forgive others unconditionally and sacrificially. To know love is to know the Father, for God is love and anything in our lives that does not include His love, is in resistance to His grace.

**Joy:** To have inner contentment and purpose in spite of circumstances. Joy is the result of an underlying conviction that God is real, active and present in our lives.

**Peace:** To be free from anxiety because things are right with God, others, and ourselves. Peace is the pervasive sense of commitment that comes from being rooted in God's truth, while being fully aware of our own inadequacies.

**Patience:** To take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life. Patience is the evidence of an inner strength brought about by the Spirit's work and our trust in God's promises.

**Kindness/Goodness:** To choose the right things in our relationships with others.

**Gentleness:** To be thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others. A gentle heart comes from having a love for others.

**Faithfulness:** To establish a good name with God and others based on my long term loyalty to the relationship.

**Self Control:** To have power, through Christ, to maintain control of myself