

# What I Believe

I believe:

- In God, the Father, and His son Jesus Christ,
- His sacrifice on the cross to forgive our sins, because we are all sinners!
- God raised Him from the dead,
- He calls us to repent,
- We are to transform our lives and we are called to Love, as He loved,
- When we share His love in service to others, we mature in His grace and mercy,
- In the Holy Spirit, His gift to dwell in and through us.

I believe in the authority of the Bible:

- The books of the Old and New Testaments are the primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured.
- CONTEXT is everything. You cannot take one verse from the Bible to support your point...you must discern what is said and how it connects to the whole story.
- Study - prayerful, intentional study and conversations with mature Christians are vital to understand the truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

I believe the greatest commandment is Love:

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Every person deserves compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:29-31)
- Renounce hateful and harassing behavior because this is not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the church.
- Faithful, gentle, proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance, does not constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of the church's loving mission to the world. (2 Tim. 4:1-2, Matt. 28:16-20; 2 Cor. 5:11-20; 1 Tim. 1:5)

I believe marriage is an essential part of God's plan:

- Human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between man and woman (Gen. 2:18-24, Exodus 20:14, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31).
- Living in obedience to the Scripture and in union with the Holy Spirit, we can begin to experience peaceful, productive, and fulfilled marriage as intended by God. (Gen 1:28; Eph 5:32-33)

I believe we all sin:

- For a spiritual leader, when their sin begins to have a negative impact on people, especially those that are under their care – then something must change. We need to love. We need forgiveness. We need to pray. We need to transform - so we can grow closer to God.
- Should a leader who is practicing adultery be a leader in the church? Not until they have transformed. Should a leader who is no longer in an adulterous relationship, and found forgiveness and transformed into who God wants them to be – should he



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or she lead? Most assuredly! Replace the underlined words with any other activity that separates us from God and you get the same answer!

I believe God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin:

- Repentance is a radical change of heart and mind, with action to transform our life. A desire to change is not repentance, until it leads to an active response to God's word and a changed life.
- His forgiveness is total and complete. (Ps. 103:11-12, 130:3-4; Is. 43:25, 44:22; John 5:24; Col. 2:13-14)
- The forgiven sinner has been cleansed from the guilt of sin, set apart unto God, made holy, and justified before Him.
- Anyone who has received that forgiveness is "in Christ" and is a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

I long for Christian Unity:

- Not of this world, but as Christ (John 17:11-21, Romans 12:2)
- All who belong to Christ are heirs according to promise (Gal 3:26-29)
- Speak truth in love so we can grow the body of Christ (Eph 4:14-25)
- God's word endures forever (1 Peter 1:24-25)

