

ENGAGE

Engage: a Biblical Ethics and Bible Teaching Event

11th Annual Biblical Ethics and Bible Teaching Event for Youth
Hosted by the Bethany Fellowship of Churches – March 14, 2018

The Mission: What is the mission of Engage?

Engage helps churches mentor youth to proclaim and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Purpose: Why participate in Engage?

Every day our students are bombarded with false claims, from peers, music, media, and movies. Without a firm conviction in God's Word, they face these challenges unprepared. Students need the best training our churches can offer from shepherds to help them connect the Bible to real life.

The Participants: Who can participate in Engage?

Any student (7th-12th grade) who:

- Submits a completed application by **February 21, 2018**.
- Regularly attends an evangelical church that agrees with our "What We Believe" doctrinal statement.
- Prepares for Engage under the oversight of a pastor or church leader.

The Event: What does Engage look like?

Students may participate in one of two areas: **Biblical Ethics** (7th-12th grade) or **Male / Female Bible Teaching** (9-12th grade.) In each area, students must choose to participate in one of two categories: *written* or *oral*. Every student must email their submission to erin@bethanycentral.org no later than **March 7, 2018**. We will award scholarship prizes toward outstanding submissions.

The Requirements: How should a student prepare for Engage?

Biblical Ethics:

Written

- *Required Reading* – *Spiritual Disciplines within the Church: Participating Fully in the Body of Christ* by Donald S. Whitney. Read the Introduction and Chapters 1-3, 7, & 9. We would also recommend, but not require, the following books: *What is a Healthy Church?* (Mark Dever); *Habits of Grace* (David Mathis); and *The Church in God's Program* (Robert L. Saucy). A limited number of copies will be available in the Bethany Baptist Church office or may be purchased from another source.
- *Paper* – The student will submit a 3-page minimum, 5- page maximum paper on any one of the topics listed on the Biblical Ethics Topics page of this packet. The paper must discuss the issue biblically and explain how it relates to the gospel. The paper must be double spaced, 12-pt. Times New Roman font, 1- inch margins (include citations and bibliography if necessary). The focus of the judges will be on content more than form; however, glaring errors may affect the final score. Students must submit an electronic version of their paper to erin@bethanycentral.org **no later than March 7, 2018**.
- The results of these papers will be announced the day of Engage. *Those who choose to only participate in the written paper category are still required to be present on the actual day of Engage.* See Judging Criteria for more detail.

Oral

- The student must complete the requirements of the *written* section above and

- *Make* a 5-minute (maximum) oral presentation of one of the Biblical Ethics topics before the panel of judges. The student must discuss the issue biblically and explain how it relates to the gospel. This presentation should not be a reading and should be presented as if communicating to peers. Visual aids such as PowerPoint or displays are allowed and could be helpful. See Judging Criteria for more detail.

Bible Teaching:

Scripture maintains distinctions between the roles of men and women in the church (1 Tim 2:12). It also encourages both genders to teach in Biblically appropriate settings (2 Tim 2:2; Tit 2:3). Engage is designed to be a healthy arena for young men and women to develop teaching skills for the future benefit of the church.

Written

- Recommended reading - *Christ Centered Preaching* by Bryan Chapell, *Living by the Book* by Howard Hendricks, *Heart-Deep Teaching: Engaging Students for Transformed Lives* by Gary C. Newton, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* by John Piper, *Biblical Preaching* by Haddon Robinson, *Preach the Word* by Denis Lane, and *Knowing Scripture* by R.C. Sproul. A limited number of copies will be available in the Bethany Baptist Church office or may be purchased from another source.
- *Written Lesson* - Submit a written expositional lesson based on a passage of Scripture. An expositional lesson properly identifies the writer's intent to the original biblical audience and communicates the timeless truths that apply to today's audience. (See Lesson Helps for a model.) The lesson should be enhanced by cross-references and illustrations with emphasis upon the application of the truths of this passage to the audience's personal lives. Students must submit an electronic version of their lesson to erin@bethanycentral.org **no later than March 7, 2018**. See Judging Criteria for more detail. *Participants may not submit lessons they submitted previously to Engage.*

Oral

- The student must complete the requirements of the *written* section and
- *Teach* the prepared lesson before a panel of judges in a 10 to 12 minute timeframe. See Judging Criteria for more detail.

The Details: Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact Erin Blucker at Bethany Baptist Church by phone at (309) 692-1755 or by email at erin@bethanycentral.org.

Engage Details

Church Participation

Engage is designed with the expectation that parents, pastors, and teachers will assist young men and women as they prepare for this event. The following is an example of the roles of these adults as they assist the students (with the understanding that varied family situations may not make this feasible).

Parents

- Pray for your student.
- Assist your student with the application process.
- Encourage study and preparation.
- Attend the event on March 14.

Pastor/Church leader

- Assist student with application process.
- Give student advice on how to begin preparation.
- Provide resources and instruction.
- Give student feedback on their paper or presentation.
- Consider opportunities for the student to make a presentation at an appropriate venue prior to Engage.

Dress

Young Men: neatly dressed (collared shirt, tie is optional, jacket is optional, no jeans)

Young Women: modest, and neatly dressed.

Bible Versions

Participants must primarily use NIV, ESV, NASB, KJV or NKJV translations. However, participants may occasionally reference verses from other versions.

Doctrine

Engage is organized by The Bethany Fellowship of Churches. All papers, presentations, answers, and lessons should avoid conflicting with the Engage "What We Believe" document. Students are not expected to personally adhere to every aspect of the detailed doctrinal statement, but every student must sign the shorter, general doctrinal statement included with the application.

Spiritual Condition and Personal Character

Each participating student must trust in Jesus Christ alone for the payment and forgiveness of their sins and should be walking in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, exhibiting spiritual fruit and lifestyle consistent with one who is born again of the Spirit of God.

March 14 – Schedule, food, and lodging

All entrants must be present on the day of Engage (even the paper only entrants). Engage will consist of a general session address starting at 6:15pm in the sanctuary and will begin with the Biblical Ethics event. Bethany Baptist Church has a family meal on Wednesdays starting at 5:15pm. Engage participants may eat for no charge; the meal suggested donation is \$3 per family member to a maximum of \$15 for the family. Please **RSVP** to erin@bethanycentral.org if you plan to attend the family meal.

Timekeeping

There will be an official timekeeper for the presentations. A deduction will be assessed for each minute over or under, and those who do not finish within an appropriate time period will be cut off.

Biblical Ethics: 5 minute-maximum.

Men's Teaching / Women's Teaching: 10 minute-minimum, 12 minute-maximum

Deadlines and Fees

*Applications must be received at Bethany Baptist Church by **February 21, 2018**. Each application must include a \$20.00 non-refundable entry fee.* Mail applications to Bethany Baptist Church, 7422 N. Heinz Lane, Edwards, IL 61528. Contestants must submit an electronic version of their paper by **March 7, 2018**. Engage will be held Wednesday, March 14, from 6:15pm to 9:00pm in the sanctuary of Bethany Baptist Church.

Biblical Ethics Topics

2018 Biblical Ethics Topics: Church — A Beautiful Mess

For your paper you will be required to choose from 1 of the 7 topics listed, write a response based on the scenario given, deal with all the questions from both the Practical and Theological Sections and incorporate and connect your answers to the Gospel section.

Topic:	<i>Baptism</i>
Scenario:	A friend from church tells you that she is saved but doesn't want to get baptized. When you ask why, she says, "I'm just too scared to go up in front of all those people. Besides, why is it so important anyway? I'm already a Christian. It's not like getting dunked in water is magic or anything." How would you respond to her?
Theological questions	How does Christ model this in Matt 3:13-17? What does Matt 28:18-20 add to this? What model do Acts 2:38-41, 8:36-38, 10:44-48, & 16:31-33 show for baptism? How might Phil 4:19 affect your friends thinking?
Practical questions	What is the purpose of baptism? How important is baptism? Who is baptism for? Does Scripture ever seem to indicate it is okay to believe in Jesus and not also then pursue baptism? Does God ever ask us to do things He won't give us the strength to accomplish if we trust Him?
Gospel questions	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Topic:	<i>Communion</i>
Scenario:	A friend at school is talking with you about all the problems and sin in the world. He shares how guilty and sinful he feels. Then he says, "That is why me getting to church to take communion weekly is so important. Without communion every week, I would be so far from God." What would you say to him?
Theological concerns	What is the model for communion we see in Luke 22:14-20 & Matt 26:26-29? What does Paul say about practicing communion in 1 Cor 11:17-34? How is communion modeled in the early church (Acts 2:42-46 & 20:7)?
Practical concerns	What is the purpose of communion? What is the origin of communion? Who is communion for? Does the Bible specify when/how often to take communion?
Gospel	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Topic:	<i>Membership</i>
Scenario:	A student from church starts talking with you about the topic of membership after hearing about an upcoming class. She states, "Maybe membership is good at some point for older adults, but it seems like more of a cultural thing. I don't think it's important or even biblical, especially for me now that I'm going off to college." What would you tell her?
Theological concerns	How might a passage like 1 Cor 5:1-13 affect your thinking about people being considered as part of the church? How does Heb 13:17 play into this? Does 1 Tim 5:3-16 indicate anything about organizing people in the church? Does Acts 20:28 affect this? How does Matt 18:15-17 add to this? How does the metaphor of marriage affect this topic (Eph 5:22-33)?
Practical concerns	Why might it be important to be a member? What are some of the reasons to become a member? Is the purpose of membership for the person or for the church or both? Are membership and commitment synonymous? Do people commit as members to other organizations? What are some limitations of not being a member?
Gospel	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Topic:	<i>Serving</i>
Scenario:	A Christian friend and you start talking about a sermon you heard about using spiritual gifts. He says, "I have no idea what my gift might be. I took an online survey, but it was too confusing. I'll just wait to figure it out when I'm older. Besides, we have plenty of people serving now. It's not like they need me." What would you say to him?
Theological concerns	In the context of Eph 4:11, are spiritual gifts just things or are they people too? How does Rom 12:4-8 play into this? What does 1 Cor 12:7-27 add to this? How might Phil 4:19 affect your friends thinking?
Practical concerns	Who has God chosen to serve in His church? What might result from the mentality that "someone else will do it"? Who has God given to believers to empower and equip them to what He calls them to do?
Gospel	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Topic:	<i>Parachurch</i>
Scenario:	Your older sibling goes off to college and returns to tell you all about a new parachurch ministry they joined on their campus. They say they are actually so excited about it and involved with it that they've decided to do it instead of attending a church while in college. How would you respond to them?
Theological concerns	How does Heb 13:17 play into this? What does 1 Tim 3:15 say about the church? How does Heb 10:25 play into this? How might 1 Cor 12:27 add to your thinking? How does Rom 12:4-8 play into this?
Practical concerns	What are the differences between the church and parachurch? What is the purpose of each entity? Should the 2 entities be in conflict for a believer's time and attention?
Gospel	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Topic:	<i>Attendance</i>
Scenario:	As you're talking with a teacher from your school, you find out they claim to be a Christian, but don't attend a church. When you ask them why, they say, "Well, I was hurt pretty badly in my last church so don't really want to go anywhere new. I worship at home online, and the preaching and music is better than any church in town." What would you say to them?
Theological concerns	How does Heb 13:17 play into this? How does Heb 10:25 play into this? How might 1 Cor 12:27 add to your thinking? How does Rom 12:4-8 play into this?
Practical concerns	What is the purpose of the church? What is the purpose of corporate worship together? What is a believers' purpose as part of the church? What are some benefits of being at a physical location with people during church? Does listening to a sermon or music online count as 'church' or does 'church' mean something more? Does God ever allow us / or say it's okay to sin because someone sinned against us?
Gospel	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Topic:	<i>Giving</i>
Scenario:	You come into a room where your three younger siblings are arguing about money and giving. One states that everyone should always 'tithe' 10% of their income to church. The other says giving to the church isn't important at all, so long as you give to some cause you believe in. The third says, "Well, really it's my money, and I don't think God wants me to feel guilty into giving." How would you respond to each of their thinking?
Theological concerns	How does 2 Cor 9:1-15 add to this? How does Luke 16:9-13 affect your thinking on this? How might Matt 25:14-30 add to your thinking? What does 1 Tim 6:7-10 say about this? Does Phil 4:10-20 add to this? How does Acts 2:44-45 affect this? Does 1 Cor 16:1-4 give any model of help on this? How might 1 Tim :17-18 play into this?
Practical concerns	Whose money is ultimately in your wallet / bank account? Is a 10% 'tithe' biblically commanded for New Testament believers? Is it a matter of wisdom? Where does the idea of 10% come from? What is the New Testament model for giving? What is the purpose of the church? How do the ministries and ministers in the church function financially?
Gospel	How does this issue relate to the gospel? How does this issue relate to the purpose of a believer's salvation? How might a wrong understanding of this topic affect someone's relationship with Jesus?

Lesson Helps

It is highly recommended that you schedule a time to meet with a pastor as you prepare.

Expository Prepping Principles

- Pray and ask the Lord to guide you and help you understand what you read
- Read the entire book in which your passage is found 3 times
- Read the chapter in which your passage is found 5 times
- Read the paragraph in which your passage is found 10 times
- Read your passage 5 times

Expository Lesson Principles

- Determine the original meaning of your passage
- Identify the timeless truths / principles of your passage and how they fit in the entirety of the book
- Apply the gleaned timeless truths / principles to your contemporary audience
- (Use explanations as necessary)
- (Use illustrations throughout)

Helpful Resources

Commentaries:

Boice
MacArthur

Online Helps:

<http://www.preceptaustin.org>
<https://www.blueletterbible.org>
<http://www.studydrive.net>

Example Expository Lesson Outline

Passage: Hebrew 9:11-15

Main Idea: Christ as our high priest is superior in every way to the Old Testament high priest.

Outline:

Introduction
I. Christ as the Tabernacle (v. 11)
II. Christ as the Sacrifice (vv. 12-14)
III. Christ as the Mediator (v. 15)
Application / Conclusion

**** This is just a sample outline to assist you; it does not need to be exactly like this.**

Judging Criteria

Biblical Ethics – Oral

Poise / Confidence

- Eye contact
- At ease
- Good use of space around lectern

Organization

- Introduction (grab audience attention)
- Flow of points
- Conclusion (restate main points)

Content

- State topic
- Use of Scripture

- Use of supporting material/cross references
- Use of logic
- Use of illustrations

Delivery

- Strength and clarity of voice
- Good and clear enunciation
- Correct grammar
- Limited use of “ums” and “uhs”
- Limited rocking or repetitive nervous motion

Biblical Ethics – Written

Organization

- Introduction
- Flow of points
- Conclusion

Content

- Statement of topic
- Use of Scripture

- Use of supporting material, cross references
- Use of logic
- Use of illustrations
- Effective communication to Christian and non-Christian audience

Men's and Women's Teaching – Oral

Poise / Confidence

- Eye contact
- At ease
- Good use of space around lectern

Organization

- Introduction (grab audience attention)
- Flow of points
- Body (message clear and easy to follow)
- Conclusion (personal application direct and clear)

Content

- Lesson Subject (applicable to audience)

- Exegesis, correct teaching, correct application
- Supporting material, cross references, historical background
- Illustrations, stories, visual aids
- Use of humor or other way to connect

Delivery

- Strength and clarity of voice
- Good and clear enunciation
- Correct grammar
- Limited use of “ums” and “uhs”
- Limited rocking or repetitive nervous motion

Men's and Women's Teaching – Written

Organization

- Introduction (grab audience attention)
- Flow of points
- Body (message clear and easy to follow)
- Conclusion (personal application direct and clear)

Content

- Lesson Subject (applicable to audience)
- Exegesis, correct teaching, correct application
- Supporting material, cross references, historical background
- Illustrations, stories, visual aids
- Use of humor or other way to connect

Engage 2018 – March 14

The 11th Annual Youth Biblical Ethics and Teaching Event
Hosted by the Bethany Fellowship of Churches on March 14, 2018

APPLICATION DEADLINE – Must be received by Bethany Baptist by February 21, 2018.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____ T-Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL

Parents' Name(s): _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Area of Participation (Check One):

BIBLICAL ETHICS (7TH-12TH GRADE) MEN'S BIBLE TEACHING (9TH-12TH GRADE) WOMEN'S BIBLE TEACHING (9TH-12TH GRADE)

Category 1 – Written

Category 1 – Written

Category 1 – Written

Category 2 – Oral Presentation

Category 2 – Oral Presentation

Category 2 – Oral Presentation

Chosen Topic/Passage: _____

Student – I am applying to participate in Engage. I understand and agree to the deadlines, requirements and rules as outlined in the packet I received with this application and am submitting this application, the \$20 non-refundable entry fee and the attached, signed doctrinal statement with the intent to participate in Engage.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian – I agree to the participation of my son/daughter in Engage. I will personally be with the student at the event or will designate another adult to supervise my student.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor / Church Leader – I enthusiastically recommend the above student to participate in Engage having seen evidence of their salvation in their speech, character, and life. I agree to assist this student with preparation with Engage as outlined in the attached packet.

Pastor / Church Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Send this application and a check for \$20 to the following:
Bethany Baptist Church, Attn: Engage, 7422 N. Heinz Lane, Edwards, IL 61528.
For questions contact Erin Blucker at Bethany – 309-692-1755 or erin@bethanycentral.org

Doctrinal Statement for Participants in Engage

1. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes completed and final revelation. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole and in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details.
2. God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God come in human flesh being fully God and fully man, except without sin.
3. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act, and are therefore under his wrath and just condemnation. Jesus Christ came into the world to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross - the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection.
4. Salvation is offered as a gift, free to the sinner. Salvation comes to the sinner by God's grace alone, not as a result of any personal works or merit, but wholly as a work of God's grace. This gift must be received through individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.

God's Plan of Salvation

God loves you

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Man is separated from God by sin

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23; "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

The death of Jesus Christ in our place is God's only provision for man's sin

"He (Jesus Christ) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." Romans 4:25

We must personally receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." John 1:12 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Student – I believe and agree to this doctrinal statement.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this signed doctrinal statement with the application and a check for \$20 to the following:

**Bethany Baptist Church
Attn: Engage
7422 N. Heinz Lane
Edwards, IL 61528**

What We Believe

What We Believe Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written is God breathed, verbally inspired, and the product of Spirit-controlled men. Therefore, it is truth without any admixture of error in its matter. We believe the Bible to be the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, history, and opinions shall be adjudged.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21

Of the True God

We believe there is one, and only one, eternal, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and Supreme Rule of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love. In the tri-unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. **Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Rev. 4:11; 1 John 5:7**

Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman. He is the Son of God, and God the Son from eternity. **Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; John 10:30**

Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father, and God the Son, and of the same nature. He was active in the creation. In His relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in teaching and testimony. He is the agent of the new birth; He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. He is God's advocate with believers as Jesus Christ is the believer's advocate with God. **John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:56; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26-28**

Of the Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation literally, in its entirety, and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by the process of evolution. **Genesis 1, 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3**

Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence and in the spiritual and moral likeness of God and lived under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind is now guilty and condemned not only by constraint, but of choice, and is therefore without defense or excuse. Fallen man is incapable of redeeming himself and must rely upon a merciful God for salvation. **Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:19; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32**

Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. Having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wondrous person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. He died for all sinners, His salvation is effective only unto those who believe on Him. **Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21**

Of the Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again. The new birth is a new creation in Jesus Christ; it is instantaneous and not a process. It is the exclusive work of the Holy Spirit in the soul of man. In the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. The new creation is brought about in a manner beyond our comprehension, employing divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel. Its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, newness of life, and love for the brethren. **John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:1; John 3:6,7; Acts 16:30-33; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8; 1 John 4:14**

Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are the essential factors in the salvation of a soul. **Acts 16:31; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9-10**

Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; (a) that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness. (b) that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, and in the fact of His resurrection that His righteousness is imputed unto us. **Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:1, 9; Ephesians 2:8-9**

Of The Resurrection, Personal, Visible Pre-millennial Return of Christ, and Related Events

(a) We believe in the Bodily Resurrection of Christ. (Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6)
 (b) The Ascension of Christ. (Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 12:2.)
 (c) The High Priesthood of Christ. (Hebrews 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 2:7; Hebrews 5:9- 10) (d) The Literal, Pre-tribulation rapture of the Church. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20-21) (e) The Pre-millennial return of Christ to judge the nations and to reign universally upon the earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 1 Corinthians 15:52)
 (f) The Millennial Reign. (1 Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 32:1; Isaiah 11:4-5; Psalm 72:8; Rev. 20:14; Revelation 20:6) (g) The New Heaven and the New Earth. (2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-5)

Of The Security Of The Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept eternally by God the Father for Jesus Christ. It is impossible for the validity of a Christian experience to be annulled. **Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Jude 1**

Of The Righteous And The Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse. This distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting conscious physical suffering of the lost, following the great white throne judgment.

Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; 1 John 5:19; Romans 7:6; Romans 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21

Of The Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and friendship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, right, and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its officers are pastors and Elders, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the Bible to be the sole standard for faith and practice. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing for Christ to all men unto the ends of the earth. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of a hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only true Head is Christ, through the Holy Spirit. It is scriptural for true local churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith for the furtherance of the Gospel. Each member has priestly rights and a conscience to be respected. Each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation, and on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence. The will of the local church as expressed in democratic procedure is final. **Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 3:17; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18**

Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is, according to the scriptures, the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, setting forth our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. It is a prerequisite to the privileges of local church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. It is to be partaken of only by prepared, bona fide believers. **Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

Of the Devil (Satan)

We believe in the personality of Satan and that his present peculiar realm of activity is the atmosphere and scheme of this present world. He is the unholy god of this age and the author of all the powers of darkness. He is destined to be judged by an eternal justice in the lake of fire. **Matthew 4:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10**

Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society. Those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. **Romans 13:17; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19-20; Daniel 3:17-18**