

# First Christian Church

## What we Teach

### Mission Statement

First Christian Church desires to spread the Grace and Knowledge of  
Jesus Christ by

**\*SEEKING-** God's will **\*SEARCHING-** God's Word

**\*SHARING-** God's Love

### Core Values

**\*Loving God**    **\*Building Relationships**

**\*Responding to the Spirit**

### Statement of Faith

**The Bible-** Is the supreme authority on all things. It is the inspired and inerrant word of God. Scripture speaks with the authority of God and reflects the background, styles and vocabularies of the human authors.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 | 2 Peter 1:19-21**

**The Trinity-** Almighty God, the creator and sustainer of all things, exists eternally in three persons; Father, Son and holy spirit, each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity.

**Genesis 1:26 | Deuteronomy 6:4 | Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19 | John 5:22-23**

**God the Father-** Is unchanging, all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere present. God created the Heavens and the Earth, all things visible and invisible.

**Genesis 1:1 | John 16:23-27 | Galatians 4:4-6 | Ephesians 1:3, 17-23**

**Jesus Christ-** Is the Son of God who became flesh through his miraculous conception of the Holy Spirit and birth from a virgin. He lived a sinless life and willingly accepted his death on a cross to pay the price for the sin of the world. On the third day, Jesus physically rose to life, had interactions with many witnesses before ascending into Heaven, and is now at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus is the only savior and mediator between God and man, and apart from Him there is no salvation. Jesus will return to earth one day.

**Matthew 1:18-22 | Luke 24:1-8 | John 1:1,14 | Acts 1:11 | 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 | Hebrews 4:14-16 | 1 John 2:1**

**Holy Spirit-** Is fully God. The spirit is given to all who trust in the name and work of Jesus Christ. He draws unbelievers to faith in Christ, and enables believers to grow in Christ like character and deeds. Gifts of the Holy Spirit empower believers for service to Christ.

**Matthew 28:19-20 | John 3:5 | Acts 1:8, 5:3-4 | 1 Corinthians 6:11, 19; 12:4-13 | Ephesians 3:5-6, 4:11-13 | 1 Peter 4:10**

**Humanity-** Humans are created in the image of God. Original sin by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden as well as personal sin separates all of humanity from God. All humans need to trust in the sacrifice of Jesus for salvation and receive the renewal and regeneration of the Holy Spirit. A response to the Gospel includes, faith, repentance and baptism.

**Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7-9, 19 | Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23**

**Salvation-**We believe the central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call all people into relationship with Himself. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that salvation is based upon the grace of God, was paid for by Christ on the cross, is received by faith, and cannot be earned through good works or rituals. We also believe that salvation produces a desire to become more like Christ in character and purpose. We believe that sanctification initially occurs at salvation and is not only a declaration that the believer is holy, but also a lifelong process of separating from evil as the believer continues to draw closer to God and become more Christ-like.

**1 Timothy 2:4-6 | John 1:12; 3:3-7; 5:24; 3:16-17 | Titus 3:5 | Ephesians 2:8-10 | Romans 10:9-10; 13:8-10**

**The Church** is a spiritual body, with Jesus Christ as its head. The Church is made up of all those who have trusted Christ as their Savior and Lord. Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of believers' baptism and communion as the ordinances established by Jesus Christ. The church and its members are called to fellowship, provide service to the body through their personal development and use of talents and gifts, and to provide outreach to the world. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and mutual submission of believers to each other and their spiritual leaders.

**Matthew 28:18-20 | Acts 1:8; 2:41-47 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | Ephesians 5:21 | Colossians 1:18 | Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:17**

**Faith & practice-** Scripture is the final authority in faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to Whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible. We believe that every Christian's purpose in life is to glorify God, grow in Christ, and help believers and unbelievers to grow towards Christ. We also believe that Scripture teaches faithful management of our resources.

**1 Corinthians 4:2; 10:31 | Colossians 1:28 | 1 Timothy 6:6-9 | Hebrews 10:24-25 | 1 Peter 1: 13-15 | 1 Peter 5:8-9 | 2 Peter 3:18**

**The Last Things-** There will be a resurrection of the body for all people, and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Unbelievers will be eternally separated from God and believers will be received into eternal communion with God.

**John 5:19-30 | 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 15: 1-58 | 2 Corinthians 5:8, 10 | Ephesians 2: 8-9 | 1 Thessalonians 4: 13- 18 | 2 John 8 | Rev 19-20**

**Baptism-** is the first act of Christian obedience after salvation. We teach Baptism by immersion, for professing believers. Baptism by immersion is shown to us as obedience by Christ, and is the standing practice of all the apostles upon a believer's repentance of sin, and profession of faith. In baptism, we publicly confess our faith in Christ and declare our commitment to following him from that point forward. It requires us to move our allegiance from ourselves, anyone, or anything else and to be committed to Christ.

**Mathew 28:19 | Matthew 3: 13-17 | Romans 6:3-8 | Matthew 3:16 | Acts 8:34-39**

**Communion-** We teach open communion, to all Christian believers. We believe that communion is not just a sacrament but also an act of obedient worship. Communion is held weekly, and should be taken in reverence, in the manner prescribed by Christ and practiced by the early Church.

**Matthew 26: 26-38 | John 6: 53-58 | 1 Corinthians 11: 17-29**

We believe this Statement of Faith to be an accurate summary of what Scripture teaches. While we understand we may not all be in agreement on everything, all members shall refrain from advocating doctrines that are not included in this Statement of Faith in such a way as to cause dissension.