



Northside's Beliefs

It can be hard to sort through all different churches, denominations and beliefs. Our hope is that this will help you understand what it is we consider essential to faith in Jesus Christ, and what is not. Our faith, ministries, and practices are defined and anchored in these beliefs. Our goal is to hold tightly to what the Bible (God's Word) says and to strengthen unity through holding to the essentials of our salvation. The following three statements can help us as we consider the essentials of our faith.

- In essential beliefs: Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- In non-essentials: Liberty (Romans 14:1)
- In all things: Love (1 Corinthians 13:2)

These statements allow us to realize the value of listening to and learning from those who may come from different backgrounds, while celebrating and clinging to those things that are essential. Generally, there has been a broad area of consensus and agreement regarding the essentials of the Christian faith.

Northside holds these truths to be essential to faith and fellowship

Concerning God:

We believe that God is the creator, ruler and sustainer of the universe and has eternally existed in three distinct but equal persons. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is constantly acting throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes, even to this very day. (Genesis 1:1,26-27, 3:22, Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Concerning Jesus Christ:

We believe that Jesus was fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died for our sin, rose in bodily form from the dead, and that He will absolutely return personally, visibly and powerfully in His Glory.

Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ and is the Son of God. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Living a perfect life and through the Will of the Father, Jesus gave Himself as a perfect sacrifice (once and for all time) for the sins of humanity. Jesus rose from the dead after three days demonstrating his power and authority over sin, death and Satan. He is the only mediator between God and man and the only name by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12; Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 6:14-15, and Titus 2:13)

Concerning People:

We believe that people are made in the image of God. They are the masterpiece of His creation. We believe that every person has amazing potential for good. All of us are marred by an attitude and practice of disobedience toward God called sin. Sin separates humanity from God and ultimately leads to eternal death. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)

Concerning the Holy Spirit:

We believe in the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit, who lives within God's people and empowers them to live for Jesus.

He is the comforter who dwells in the hearts of believers, convincing them of truth, teaching and helping them to do what's right. The Holy Spirit works within us through convicting us of sin, empowering our faith, and in bringing new life as we grow in our relationship with God. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the guarantee of our relationship with God, reminding us that we are His children. (Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:13,5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:12,3:16, Galatians 5:25)

Concerning God's Word (The Bible):

We believe that the Bible is wholly and completely the Word of God. The Bible is God's revelation to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is inspired by God and without error. We believe God's Word is the final authority for all matters of faith, truth, morality and Christian living. We believe the Bible teaches that God established marriage in the beginning as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between a man and woman. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160,12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

Concerning Salvation:

We believe that salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone. He is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to God.

We believe salvation is God's free gift to us, that we must accept. We can never make up for sin by self-improvement or by "doing better". Salvation comes through trusting in Jesus, what He did on the cross and through God's forgiveness (without which no one can be saved). Accepting God's gift

through faith in Jesus and in turning from sin we are saved. (John 1:12,14:6; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

Concerning Eternity:

We believe that the souls of humanity live forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in the presence of God is Heaven. (John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9)

A few things we hold as important at Northside

The following are things that Northside holds as important and part of the way we experience faith and fellowship together.

Northside is a non-denominational independent Christian Church. Our leaders consist of an elder board who we believe have been called by God and recognized by the congregation for the purpose of serving and directing the life and ministry of Northside.

We believe in baptism by immersion. In the New Testament, whenever someone made the decision to follow Jesus, they marked that decision with a public display of their faith through immersion. We believe that immersion was the practice of the early Church.

We observe the Lord's Supper every week (with very few exceptions). We believe communion was instituted by Jesus Himself as something we do to remember His life, death, and resurrection as often as we gather.