

What We Believe

Anew Church is built on a core set of beliefs that we call our Essential Beliefs. These are the beliefs in which we have unity and on which we base our fundamental decisions.

God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26,27,3:22 Psalm 90:2 Matthew 28:19

1 Peter 1:2 2 Corinthians 13:14

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coequal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King.

Matthew 1:22,23 Isaiah 9:6 John 1:1-5,14:10-30 Hebrews 4:14-15

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Romans 1:3-4 Acts 1:9-11 1 Timothy 6:14-15 Titus 2:13

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

Acts 1:8 1 Corinthians 3:17 John 16:7-13,14:16-17 Galatians 5:25

1 Corinthians 2:12,3:16 Ephesians 1:13,5:18

About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs about living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error.

2 Timothy 3:16, 1:13 2 Peter 1:20-21 Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6

Proverbs 30:5

About Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". Sin separates us from God and causes many problems in our life.

Genesis 1:27 Psalm 8:3-6 Isaiah 53:6a

Romans 3:23 Isaiah 59:1-2

About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:8-9 John 14:6, 1:2

Titus 3:5 Galatians 3:26 Romans 5:1, 10:9-10

About Eternity

People were created to exist 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 union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, 14:17 Romans 6:23, 8:17-18

Revelation 20:15 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

In addition to Essential Beliefs, we uphold the following

In Non-Essential Beliefs, we have liberty. Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

In All our Beliefs, we show charity. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Romans 14:1,4,12,22 1 Corinthians 13:2

Baptism into Water

Every "believer" after a decision of faith should be baptized into water as an outward sign of an inward work. This symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and our commitment to follow Him in this way spiritually. **It is not a requirement to be saved**, often referred to as a "sacrament". It is an "ordinance" or a commandment by Jesus, not a suggestion.

Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:1-4; Colossians 2:12

We do not require you to be a formal member of our church, or group to participate. We all should make a public profession that we have accepted Christ. We practice immersion of adults or children who are old enough to make their own personal decision to do so. This is usually a one time event, however, if someone has strayed from their faith as an adult (prodigal), they may be rebaptized as a sign of a renewed commitment to Christ. You do not need to be baptized to show a commitment to membership in this local church. If you are a candidate for the next "Baptism Bash" or celebration, we will offer you a free dark t-shirt and a towel. You should arrive at least 15 minutes early for instructions. You will receive a certificate with a photo to commemorate this event, and a video published online to share with friends or family who may not be able to attend.

Communion

Any believer may participate in "open" communion at AnewChurch. Again, **this is not a requirement for salvation** (a sacrament), but it is an ordinance, or a commandment from Jesus to do this in remembrance of Him. The purpose of communion, or the Lord's Supper, is an outward sign of an inward work. The bread (or cracker) represents the broken body of Christ, and the wine (or grape juice) represent His blood that was shed for our sins. The believer also identifies themselves as a part of the universal church, the Body of Christ. We will endeavor to explain the public process in a fresh, relevant way without becoming a stale ritual by the format in which we partake of the elements. This will usually happen monthly.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 22:17-20