

## **Doctrines of Journey Church of Lake Norman, Inc.**

Journey Church of Lake Norman, Inc. embraces the following statements concerning the truth. The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing; I Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

### **About God**

God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6

### **About Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people. 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 of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13

### **About the Holy Spirit**

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

II Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

### **About the Bible**

The Bible is God's word to us. It was written by people who were inspired by God. Because it is given to us by God, it is absolutely true, and it is the final authority for beliefs and living.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 140, 160; Proverbs 30:5.

### **About Mankind & Sin**

People are created in the spiritual image of God. People are the supreme object of God's love. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". Sin separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

### **About Marriage**

God created marriage (Gen. 2:22). It is a covenant made between a man and a woman that makes them one (Gen 2:24). The marriage covenant requires the married parties to be faithful, loving, and helpful to each other as long as they both shall live (Mark 10:3-10). Christians are called not to marry unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Those whom God has directed to be joined together shall, after counseling with the pastor concerning what God desires for them, be joined in Christian marriage

(Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:5-6,9; Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 7:10-11, 15; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:22-23).

This church observes the wedding ceremony as a religious ceremony before God. Any couple wishing to conduct their wedding ceremony in this church must first submit to pastoral counseling that is approved by this church. The couple must also live a lifestyle that is consistent with this church's doctrinal views.

## **About Sexual Sin**

We believe in a biblical sexuality that honors God with our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:18&19) All sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage is considered sexual immorality. We encourage everyone in our organization to understand that sexual immorality includes pre-marital sex, pornographic use, incestuous relationships, affairs, prostitution, and bestiality. This organization does hold that a homosexual lifestyle is contrary to God's Word and purpose for humanity (I Timothy 1:10). Moreover, this organization is instructed to love anyone living in any sexually sinful lifestyle, while abhorring their sin. 1 Cor. 6:9 says the following: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders." Partners (members) of our organization who choose to live a sexually sinful lifestyle will be continually confronted with their sin, and challenged to live a life that wholly honors God.

## **About Salvation**

Even though we are separated from God by sin, we can be reconnected and reconciled with God by choosing to believe and trust in Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to receive this eternal salvation. It cannot be earned by self-improvement or good works. It is God's free gift of grace to every person who accepts it.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

## **About Baptism**

There is the baptism whereby the repentant sinner, upon trusting Jesus Christ as his Savior, is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). There is water baptism by immersion for believers only. This we believe to be an ordinance of the church, whereby the believer experiences the reality of co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans

6:3-6). This baptism is an outward expression for the believer of the change that has happened internally, and is not a saving act.

### **About The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the covenant made with God through the blood of Christ. It is a continuation of the Passover Feast, which God commanded His covenant people to observe. Those who have made covenant with God through the blood of Christ and have been water baptized are instructed to participate. The church participates in the Lord's Supper as a body or family, with each covenant partner in fellowship adding to the blessedness of the experience (Exodus 11, 12; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26).

### **About Covenant of Grace (instead of Eternal Security)**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that covenant for eternity. If you have genuinely believed, you cannot "lose/revoke" God's covenant with you. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian.

John 10:29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; I Peter 1:3-5

### **About Eternity**

People were created to exist forever. We were created in perfection and in perfect relationship with God. Once sin entered the world that perfect relationship was severed and 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 connected with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 1:8, 2:44,

### **About Generosity**

Biblical giving is the giving of self and wealth to God and His work, and doing so voluntarily and out of love for God and His work.

Both the Old and New Testament Scriptures teach giving of tithes and offerings as God's financial plan for the support of His work. These are to be practiced continually by all believers and are outward expressions of the unity of the church, the Body of Christ, as it joins together in support of the work of the Lord. We believe that generosity should be at the core of our giving decisions.

(Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:2; Genesis 28:22; Matthew 23:23; Deuteronomy 26; 14:28-29; 15:7-11; Numbers 18:8-11; Ezekiel 44; Proverbs 14:21; 29:7; Luke 11:41; 12:33). Matthew 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 6:6-8; Philippians 4:10-19, 1 Timothy 5:8, 17-18; 3 John 5-8.

### **Ordination**

The Bible relates that those who are chosen by God to a specific work should be recognized by appointment and ordination to the work (Mark 3:13-15; I Chronicles 9:22; II Chronicles 11:15; 23:18; I Corinthians 7:17; Titus 1:5; I Timothy 2:7). Thus are those to be set in order in their function as Levites for the ministry of the work and so those in the church might know and receive those who have a position in the work of the ministry.