

Foundations for Core: Building Blocks

#1 What do we believe about the Bible?

We believe that the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT

#2 Who is God?

God is personal, eternal Spirit, Creator of the universe, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father.

Lord, through all the generations, you have been our home! Before the mountains were created, before you made the earth and the world, you are God, without beginning or end. Psalm 90: 1-2, NLT

#3 What is God's relationship to the world?

God created the world by his Word, sustains it by his power, and entrusts it to the care of human beings.

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created. Revelation 4:11, NLT

#4 What does it mean to be a human being?

To be a human being means to be created by God in his likeness, free and responsible in relation to God, the world, neighbor, and self.

Then God said, Let us make people in our image, to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life-the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the livestock, wild animals, and small animals. Genesis 1:26, NLT

#5 What is sin?

Sin is all in thought, word, and deed that is contrary to the will of God. *Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.* James 4:17, NRSV

#6 What are the results of sin?

The results of sin are broken relationships, a weakening of ability to obey God, and finally, eternal separation from him.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2a, NIV

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For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

#7 What is meant by a covenant between God and his people?

A covenant between God and his people is an agreement in which God promises his care and faithfulness as his people respond in faithful obedience.

Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and constantly loves those who love him and obey his commands. Deuteronomy 7:9, NLT

#8 What is meant by God's faithfulness?

God's faithfulness means God loves and cares for us throughout all our lives, both in good times and bad times.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV

#9 Who are the prophets?

The prophets are chosen by God to show nations and individuals their sin, to call them to obedience, and to present the hope of the Messiah.

Then the Lord said to me . . . "I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will tell that prophet what to say, and he will tell the people everything I command him. I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf." Deuteronomy 18:17-19, NLT

#10 Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, the promised Messiah who came into the world to redeem people from sin and establish his kingdom on earth.

"Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16, NLT

#11 What is the sacrament of baptism?

Baptism is the sacred use of water, commanded by Jesus Christ, to signify God's cleansing of our sins and our welcome into the family of God.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20, NLT

#12 What is the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is the rule of God breaking into history through Jesus Christ, working in the world and expressed in the hearts and lives of his people.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Mark 1:15, NRSV

#13 What did Jesus teach us concerning life in the kingdom of God?

Jesus taught us that life in the kingdom of God means we are to live in a loving relationship with God and others.

... And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.
Mark 12:30-31, NLT

#14 What is the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is the sacred use of the bread and the cup as commanded by Jesus Christ. At the Lord's Table, believers recognize his presence, remember his suffering, proclaim his death until he comes, and partake of him in faith.

For this is what the Lord himself said, and I pass it on to you just as I received it. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and you, sealed by the shedding of my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, NLT

#15 What is salvation?

Salvation is the work of God through Christ by which God forgives us our sin, frees us from guilt, and restores us to a right relationship with him.

I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. John 5:24, NLT

#16 What was accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God conquered sin, death, and the devil, offering forgiveness for sin and assuring eternal life for those who follow Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16, NLT

#17 How does one become a Christian?

A person becomes a Christian by trusting in what God has done through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. This is God's gift received through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13, NRSV

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#18 What is the Christian hope?

The Christian hope is the confident expectation of Christ's triumphant return when he will reign forever with

his Church.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, NLT

#19 What does it mean to believe in the Trinity?

To believe in the Trinity is to confess that God is one, and that he continually and personally makes himself known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14 RSV

#20 What is the source of the Church's life?

The life of the Church has its source in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is created and renewed by the Spirit and Word, the holy sacraments and prayer.

Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen. Ephesians

3:20-21, NLT

#21 What is the Christian Church?

The Christian Church is all who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who are united in one body with Christ as head.

Instead we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:15-16, NLT

#22 What is the purpose of the Church?

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God, celebrate new life in Christ, build up one another in faith and love, proclaim and teach the gospel everywhere, and care for the needs of the world.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9, NRSV

#23 What does the Bible teach about the final judgment?

The Bible teaches, concerning the final judgment, that Christ the king and judge shall separate the righteous from the unrighteous. The righteous will live forever with God and his people, and the unrighteous will be separated forever from the presence of God.

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. John 5:28-29, NIV

#24 What is meant by atonement?

Atonement means the work of God in Jesus Christ by which we, being guilty, are justified; being enslaved to sin, are redeemed; being alienated from God are reconciled; and being unholy, are sanctified.

. . . yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. Colossians 1:22, NLT

#25 Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, everywhere present and powerful, working in us, in the church, and in the world.

But I will send you the Counselor—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will tell you all about me. John 15:26, NLT

#26 What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a visible and outward sign of an invisible and spiritual grace. The sacraments commanded by Jesus Christ are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:41-42, NRSV

#27 How do we grow as Christians?

We grow as Christians as we devote ourselves to the spiritual disciplines of corporate worship, participation in the sacraments, prayer, Bible study, service, stewardship, and Christian fellowship.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7, NIV