

New Life Church Statement of Beliefs

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of New Life Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Elders is New Life Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The Book:

1. The Bible – We believe in the inspiration and final authority of the Bible.¹

The Main Characters:

1. The Trinity – We believe the One Living True God² exists eternally in three coequal persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.³ As such, God is by nature a relational being within Himself and with us.⁴ God is the eternal King of Kings.⁵ He is infinite Spirit,⁶ perfect in love,⁷ holiness,⁸ wisdom,⁹ goodness,¹⁰ justice¹¹ and power.¹² Out of the love of the Trinity and for God's own glory, He created all that is created.¹³ His love and power are revealed through creation, redemption, and the promised future consummation of the world.¹⁴
2. The Son, Jesus the Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ was/is the Word of God incarnate, fully human and fully God.¹⁵ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.¹⁶ Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit,¹⁷ inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth,¹⁸ overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation,¹⁹ preaching the Good News of salvation,²⁰ healing the

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; Romans 16:26.

² Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Psalm 84:2; Romans 16:27.

³ Note that "person" here does not connote the modern idea of "one who is separate from" but rather "one who relates." John 1:18; John 10:30; John 14:9, 16-17, 26; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

⁴ Genesis 1:26.

⁵ Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20.

⁶ Psalm 147:5; Job 11:7-9; John 4:24.

⁷ 1 John 4:8-10.

⁸ Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16.

⁹ Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29.

¹⁰ Psalm 31:19; Psalm 73:1.

¹¹ Isaiah 30:18; Psalm 33:5; Psalm 89:14.

¹² Isaiah 40, especially verse 10.

¹³ Genesis 1:26; Colossians 1:16.

¹⁴ Romans 1:19-20; Romans 5:8.

¹⁵ John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4.

¹⁶ Luke 1-2.

¹⁷ Luke 3:21-22; 4:16-21; Acts 10:38.

¹⁸ Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; 17:20-21.

¹⁹ 1 John 3:8b. Luke 4:1-13.

²⁰ Luke 4:43.

sick, casting out demons and raising the dead.²¹ He suffered under Pontius Pilate. He was crucified, died and was buried.²² He arose bodily from the dead and was seen by many witnesses.²³ He ascended into heaven where He sits at the Father's right hand. At the end, He will be the judge of all humanity.²⁴

3. The Holy Spirit – We believe in the current work of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ²⁵ as our Helper, Teacher, and Guide.²⁶ The Holy Spirit empowers us for the building up the Body of Christ and evangelism of the World through the Gifts of the Spirit.²⁷ We believe also in the filling or baptism of the Holy Spirit, most often a conscious, second experience of grace, by which the believer is empowered for ministry.²⁸
4. Humanity – We believe that humanity – male and female – was made in the image of God.²⁹ Thus, humanity is by nature relational and longs for relationship with God and each other. Though originally created good and for relationship with God, humanity is now fallen and separated from Him.³⁰
5. Satan - We believe that Satan and the demonic actually exist and have established a counter-kingdom of darkness in conflict with God and the Kingdom of light.³¹
6. The Church - We believe that, although it has many diverse expressions, there is one universal Church made up of all who receive the Good News of Jesus Christ and are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.³² Jesus Christ is the head of this living body which transcends the barriers of race, culture, gender, economics, and even time.³³ The Church has two ordinances that were established by the Lord Jesus Himself: baptism³⁴ and communion.³⁵ Both of these are available to all believers.

²¹ Matthew 4:23; Luke 4:40-41; 7:14-17.

²² Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42.

²³ Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-8; Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

²⁴ Hebrews 1:3; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31.

²⁵ Romans 8:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3.

²⁶ John 16:7, 13-15; Romans 8:14; John 14:26.

²⁷ 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:3-13.

²⁸ Acts 1:8; 4:31; Luke 24:49; Acts 8:18-19; 19:1-2; Ephesians 5:18

²⁹ Genesis 1:27.

³⁰ Ephesians 2; Romans 5:12-14.

³¹ 2 Corinthians 11:14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 6:12; Mark 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 John 5:19.

³² 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Titus 3:4-7.

³³ Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9-10.

³⁴ Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38. Baptism represents our identification with the death of Christ and our resurrection to new life in Him. Romans 6:3-4, 11.

³⁵ Or, The Lord's Supper. Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. Though ultimately it is a mystery, we believe that communion is more than merely a memorial and remembering the cross of Christ. It is an active participation now in the life of God, a literal communing. 1 Corinthians 10:14-17; John 6:48-58. Together with the Body of Christ in community, we remember what Jesus did, looking forward to the day when we will partake again with Him in the fullness of His Kingdom. Thus, past, present and future come together in one moment at communion.

The Plot:

1. Creation - The story of the Bible begins with creation. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”³⁶ God is thus the sole source of the entire created order, the originator of all the laws of physical nature and human nature. Every part of creation, in its original form, bears His fingerprints and reflects His character.³⁷ Creation, then, is good and no part of it is inherently evil.³⁸ Humanity was created in the image of God as relational beings with the purpose of being in relationship with Him, sharing in the love of the Trinity, and having dominion over the earth.³⁹
2. Fall – Though created good, humanity fell into sin and thus plunged all of creation into the fall. As a result of the fall, humanity is born blind to the truth and dead in sin.⁴⁰ Sin now literally darkens our understanding.⁴¹ As creation was universal in scope, including the entire cosmos, so too is the fall. Even the natural world has been terribly affected by human sin.⁴² Sin has the pervasive power to infect even our best and most noble efforts. As a result, we are incapable of saving ourselves.⁴³
3. New Creation (Redemption) – As Creation and the Fall were comprehensive, so too is God’s plan of Redemption. Through the self-substitutionary atoning work of Christ – that is, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins– God has provided a way of Salvation.⁴⁴ All who repent of their sins and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ will be saved.⁴⁵ They are translated from the kingdom of darkness to the God’s kingdom of light.⁴⁶ In the end, Jesus Christ will return and consummate His Kingdom which has already been inaugurated. This will include the resurrection of the dead and the final defeat of Satan.⁴⁷ There will be a new heaven and a new earth and He will reign forever.⁴⁸

³⁶ Genesis 1:1.

³⁷ Psalm 24:1; 119:91.

³⁸ Genesis 1:4,10, 12, et al. 1 Timothy 4:4.

³⁹ Genesis 1:27-31; 3:9.

⁴⁰ 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1.

⁴¹ Ephesians 4:18.

⁴² Genesis 3; Romans 8:19-25.

⁴³ Romans 3:23; 6:23.

⁴⁴ Acts 4:12; Romans 5:12-21; 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

⁴⁵ 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Ephesians 2:6-10; Titus 2:11-14.

⁴⁶ Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20.

⁴⁷ Revelation 20:10; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

⁴⁸ 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-5, 27.

New Life Church Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139.)

New Life Church Marriage Policy

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, New Life Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors, ministers, elders, and staff of New Life Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of New Life Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of New Life Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to New Life Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by New Life Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of New Life Church.