



CALVARY CHAPEL MOUNTAIN VIEW

Family Ministry DNA



WELCOME!

At Calvary Chapel Mountain View, we long to see people connect with Jesus. We want them to gain the hope of heaven, know His glory, and experience His preeminence in their lives. We want every man and woman to personally become enraptured by His grace, His forgiveness, and His love. When individual souls come to appreciate the magnitude of Christ, His cross, and His gospel, then communities are transformed. When people are intimately connected to Christ, personally and then collectively, our motivations change, our lives are bettered, and our disappointments diminish. When Jesus is first, everything changes and He becomes our passion, because His love is better than life.

Our church is a place where all are invited in to discover who God is and the purpose He has for all of us in His story. We think church should be one of the most engaging and exciting places on the planet—a place where people of any and all backgrounds can experience a God who is real and relevant in their lives today. And that’s exactly what we want to help you do!

If you’ve been following God your entire life, you’re welcome here. If you’re new to faith, you’re welcome here. If you’re not really sure you believe in God at all, you’re welcome here. No matter where you are on the road to faith, we want to walk alongside you. Our hope is that as you join us on the journey, you’ll discover a God who is active, alive, and at work in your life.

Worship from the Heart

We want our lives to overflow with worship of Jesus! As we gather together each week, we celebrate and give praise to the Lord through singing as we enter into His presence and have our hearts prepared to be taught by Him. He alone is worthy of our worship and adoration.

Teaching from the Scriptures

We believe that practical, relevant teaching is the catalyst for transformation in an individual’s life. Scripture is inspired by God, completely accurate and our authority regarding Christian beliefs and the guide for Christian living.

OUR MISSION

The Book of Acts tells the story of a handful of men and women who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, did not leave their world the same way they found it. They “turned the world upside down!” (Acts 17:6) They were ordinary people whom God enabled to do extraordinary things. It was the beginning of a movement that continues to this very day, and the mission of that movement is simple. . . .

Engage

We hope to Engage people in a vibrant and victorious walk of Faith in Jesus so they can live abundantly.

Equip

We seek to Equip people, through the teaching of the Word of God, for the work of the ministry to serve Jesus.

Extend

We want to Extend our reach with the life-giving Gospel of Jesus to our community and beyond.

OUR BACKGROUND

Calvary Chapel Mountain View was established in 2000, and is affiliated with a world-wide network of over 1800 like-minded Calvary Chapel churches who are in fellowship and united in our goal to know Jesus and make Him known.

In 1965 Pastor Chuck Smith began his ministry at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa. Only 25 people had attended. What began as a small chapel grew into a church that seats over 2000 and is filled almost nightly. From the beginning, Pastor Chuck welcomed all - young and old - without judgement, placing his emphasis on the teaching of the Word of God.

God graciously used Pastor Chuck to reach a generation of hippies and surfers; generating a movement of the Holy Spirit that spread from the west coast to the east, bringing thousands of young people to Jesus Christ.

Pastor Chuck went home to be with the Lord on October 3, 2013. Yet, the work that the Holy Spirit started with Pastor Chuck did not end that day; but, continues forth in this generation and the next as people continue to seek Christ, teach His Word, and avail themselves to the direction and leading of the Holy Spirit.

OUR BELIEFS *(from ccmv.org)*

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Worship of God should be spiritual

We remain flexible and yielded to the Holy Spirit to direct our worship.

Worship of God should be fruitful

We look for His Love in our lives as the supreme manifestation that we have truly been worshiping Him.

Worship of God should be thoughtful

Our services are designed with great emphasis upon teaching of the Word of God that He might instruct us how He should be worshiped.

- We Believe in all the fundamental doctrines of orthodox evangelical Christianity.
- We Believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, that the Bible, Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, infalible Word of God.
- We Believe in one God Who is eternally existent in three separate persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We Believe that God the Father is the personal, transcendent, and sovereign Creator of all things.
- We Believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human, that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, provided for the atonement of our sins by His vicarious death on the cross, was bodily resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit, ascended back to the right hand of God the Father, and ever lives to make intercession for us.
- We Believe that all people are by nature separated from God and responsible for their own sin, but that salvation, redemption, and forgiveness are freely offered to all by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When a person repents of sin and accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, trusting Him to save, that person is immediately born again and sealed by the Holy Spirit, all his/her sins are forgiven, and that person becomes a child of God, destined to spend eternity with the Lord.

WHAT MAKES A CALVARY CHAPEL UNIQUE?

Taken from Calvary Distinctives by Chuck Smith

What is it that makes Calvary Chapel different from other Bible-believing, evangelical churches? It's always good to have a grasp of the unique work that God has done in our fellowship. If Calvary Chapel is exactly like the church across the street it would be better to simply merge the two. But, if there are distinctives that make us different, then we have a unique and special place in the plan of God. Certainly there are churches that share many of our beliefs and practices. We're not renegades. But God has done a wonderful work of balance in the Calvary Chapel movement that does make us different in many areas.

There are many who believe in the gifts and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but they don't have a strong emphasis on Biblical teaching, nor do they look to the Word to guide their experiences with the Holy Spirit. There are many who have a strong emphasis on teaching the Word of God, but they don't share the view that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available and valid today. In Calvary Chapel we find the teaching of the Word, and an open heart to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is this balance that makes Calvary Chapel a distinct and uniquely blessed movement of God. And so it's important to understand the Biblical principles that make up the picture of why God has allowed us to exist and grow.

This is not to say that all Calvary Chapels are identical. I'm always amazed at how God can take simple basic elements and create such variety out of them. Basically, all of us have two eyes, a nose, a mouth, and two ears, and yet how different we all look from each other! People also have different emotional make-ups. Now, God loves everyone. He loves the highly emotional and He loves the dull and unemotional. In the same way, wanting all men to be able to relate to Him, God created a wide variety of churches. Some churches appeal to those who are very emotional in their nature while others appeal to a more staid and formal personality. God, desiring to reach and bless all kinds of people, seems to enjoy having a wide variety of churches so that everybody's needs might be met, from the highly emotional to the very formal, and all those in between. Each of us has a part to play in God's plan, but we all need to know where we fit in this wide spectrum. That is why it's crucial for us to grasp what we call the Calvary Chapel Distinctives. As we see what makes our fellowship unique, we will also come to better understand our position in the body of Christ.

The Grace Of God

Excerpts Taken from Calvary Distinctives by Chuck Smith

"For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace. . ." Hebrews 13:9

Calvary Chapel has a distinctive position on the subject of God's grace. We realize that without the grace of God none of us would have a chance. We need the grace of God in our lives. We need it daily. We experience it, and we're saved by it personally. But we also stand in grace. We believe in the love and grace that seeks to restore the fallen. There are some churches that are severely lacking in the grace of God. There's often a very harsh, inflexible, and severe form of legalism that allows no room for repentance and restoration. We believe that having been forgiven, we need to be forgiving. Having received mercy, we must show mercy. Having received grace, we must be graceful.

We seek to minister to the hurting people. Our desire is to see them restored, back on their feet, functioning again. John tells us that the Law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. If I am to be a minister of Jesus Christ, then I must be ministering grace. As we look at churches, and as we look at ministry, we see many who are principally ministers of Moses. They are very harsh and legalistic. The Law has been broken, and they will tell you exactly what the Law says. And, yet, we find Jesus saying, *"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first . . . Neither do I condemn you"* (John 8:7,11).

The Priority of the Word

Taken from *Calvary Distinctives* by Chuck Smith

"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." I Timothy 4:13

A primary distinctive of Calvary Chapel is our endeavor to declare to people the whole counsel of God. We see this principle illustrated when Paul met with the Ephesian elders in Acts 20. As they were on the shore of the Aegean at Miletus, around the coastal area of Ephesus, Paul said that he was innocent of the blood of all men, *"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."* (Acts 20:27).

Now, how is it possible for a person to claim to have declared, "the whole counsel of God?" The only way a person could make that claim to his congregation would be if he taught through the whole Word of God with them, from Genesis to Revelation. Once you've taken your congregation through the Bible, then you can say to them, "I have not shunned to declare unto you the whole counsel of God."

This can't be done with topical sermons. Topical sermons are good, and they have their place, but when you're preaching topically, you're prone by nature to preach only those topics that you like. And there are topics in the Bible that aren't very inspiring. They don't excite the people, but they are necessary issues that have to be dealt with. The human tendency, however, is to avoid these. If you're only preaching topically, you may also tend to avoid controversial or difficult topics, and the people won't gain a well-balanced view of God's truth. So the value of going straight through the Bible is that you can say, "I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God."

Now, I believe that I can say to the people at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, "I have declared unto you the whole counsel of God," because we have taken them from Genesis to Revelation seven times. We're currently beginning the eighth round. We don't skip anything. And that's why in the majority of the Calvary Chapels, and the most successful ones, you'll find the systematic teaching of the entire Word of God, going through the Bible from cover to cover.

For the most part, the teaching ministry of Calvary Chapel is expositional in style. It doesn't mean that on occasion we don't address a particular topic or give topical messages. We're not saying that topical messages are wrong or evil. They have their place. We don't want to fall into strict legalism where we analyze every sermon to see if it was homiletically correct and expositively presented. But, for the most part, we seek to follow the example of Isaiah who said, *"But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;"* (Isaiah 28:13). These verses are describing the people's reaction to Isaiah's style of teaching.

They were making fun of his method, but it was an effective method. They were complaining about him, mockingly saying that he ought go back and teach the kindergartners because his teaching was "precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." They said these words in derision. Yet, it's so important to take the people through the Word, line upon line, precept by precept. When we do, we are delivering to them the whole counsel of God.

Another advantage of teaching the whole counsel of God is that when you come to difficult issues that deal with problems in an individual's life or within the Church body, you can address them straightforwardly. We need not worry about people thinking, "Oh, he's aiming at me today." People in the congregation know that it's simply the passage of Scripture being studied that day. So it can't be, "Oh man, he's really picking on me," because they realize that you're going straight through the Book, and you're not jumping from topic to topic. We're just going straight through the entire Word of God.

In Nehemiah chapter 8 verse 8, when the children of Israel had returned from captivity and were rebuilding the city, the leadership gathered the people together and constructed a little platform. They began in the early morning to read the Word of God to the people. Nehemiah 8:8 declares, "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

I believe this is a worthy definition of expositional preaching – to read the Word, give the sense, and cause the people to understand the meaning.

It is important to remember that we don't generally see immediate or spectacular overnight results in a Calvary Chapel. It takes time to whet and develop the appetite of the people for the Word of God. It takes time for them to grow. For most Calvary Chapels that are planted in a new area, it takes a couple of years to lay the foundation, prepare the ground, plow the hardened soil, work the soil, and plant the seed in the fertile soil. Then you have to wait. The seed doesn't bear fruit overnight. The seed has to grow and to develop. But, eventually, it begins to bear fruit.

As a general rule, it's in the third year that you begin to see fruit as a result of planting the Word of God in the hearts of the people. "The seed that falls on good soil will bring forth fruit, some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred fold," (Matthew 13:8). But it doesn't happen overnight.

This can be rather discouraging when there are those who come in with a flash and a fire, and seem to generate an immediate crowd. People are thronging to see the miracles, to watch the fireworks, and here you are just plodding along. You can't see much development or growth, and these other guys seem to have instant success. But as the Lord said to Daniel, *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."* (Daniel 12:3).

On the Fourth of July it's fun to watch the fireworks, the sky rockets, the blazes of glory, and all the color filling the sky. Everybody is "oohing and aahing," but it only lasts for a short time. Before you know it, it's just ashes. It's a big flash and then it's over. You have to determine which sky you want to shine in. Do you want to shine as a star forever and ever? Or do you want to be like a sky rocket with a sudden flash, coming on the scene dramatically, but with no staying power?

Biblical Exposition

by Skip Heitzig

We place great emphasis on the exposition of Scripture and teaching the entire Bible chapter-by-chapter and verse-by-verse. We believe that the Spirit of God works through the Word of God in the hearts of the people of God. Exposition is more than merely speaking about the Bible or from the Bible; it is the proclamation of the Bible itself. The work of the expositor is to determine what God has said in Scripture and then to convey it to God's people so that God's own voice is heard.

We believe that Bible exposition is inductive: directing the listener to the Bible's own truth without preconceived ideas. We believe that Bible exposition is exegetical: demanding that the pastor critically examine the text with accuracy and basing his message upon observable principles of interpretation.

Christ Centered Worship

by Don McClure

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." -Revelation 4:11

When the Lord created man in His image (Gen 1:26) we were created with the glorious capacity to be a reflection of the Lord Himself. We were created to literally share His life, His nature, His character, His love and joy and peace. Thus man at his highest identity is found as he shares his life with the Lord and the Lord shares His life with us.

Thus, we were made to worship the Lord as He is so worthy to receive glory and honor and power as we have been made to bring him pleasure. And nothing brings more pleasure to man than when man is pleasing God.

In Calvary Chapel, we love offering ourselves to the Lord and worshiping and praising and rejoicing and resting in Jesus for all He has accomplished for us. We worship Him for what He has done in taking our sin on Himself and giving His life for us. And we worship Him forever living at the right hand of the Majesty on high making intercession for us and presenting us faultless. And we worship the Father and the Son and the Spirit for all they mean to us for the rest of eternity. Yes, worship is the precious gift God has given us.

Evangelism

by Don McClure

The word evangelism simply means “the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ by personal witness or public preaching.” Or “a zealous advocacy of a cause.” Calvary Chapel was born in revival. It’s very birth and growth was because Jesus Christ gave himself for us on the cross, that He might give Himself to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that He might live His life through us sharing the good news. We believe in and love sharing the good news of Jesus and do it with zeal. Jesus said *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15).*

Jesus also said *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

And Jesus said *“you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).*

Thus, our Lord Jesus gave to the Body of Christ the incredible privilege and blessing and responsibility and call to go into all the world and share the glorious news that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners and to make disciples.

A foundational aspect of Calvary Chapel ministries is the teaching of the Word of God. After His resurrection, Jesus emphasized the teaching of the Word to Peter when He asked him “Do you love me” which Peter affirmed, and then Jesus told him “then feed My sheep.” And the result of good teaching is evangelism. As Pastor Chuck Smith often said “Healthy sheep beget sheep.” And that is evangelism to us.

Evangelism first reveals itself primarily through the Christian’s life. Paul says that Christians are *“living epistles, known and read by all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2).* Thus, the great majority of Christians through history have come through the personal witness of Christians.

Calvary Chapels as churches love all manner of public preaching of the gospel, desiring to reach all we can with the good news of Jesus saving us. Thus, there are also many varied methods of preaching Christ; in public open air evangelistic meetings, missionary outreaches around the world and through many media forms. Our desire is “to know Him and make Him known.”

Baptism of the Holy Spirit / Gifts

by Malcolm Wild

The task of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ is an impossible one. Impossible, that is, without the equipping and enabling of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that to live for and serve the Lord we need the dynamic that the Lord Jesus imparts through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. He has called us, commissioned us, and promised to equip us (Acts 1:8). The promise of this power (Dunamis) is a gift for every believer (Acts 2:39) subsequent to the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration and to be received by faith as a separate and distinct work of grace to that of salvation. The Lord has also promised to equip His servants with spiritual gifts for the work of the ministry (I Corinthians 12:4-11). These gifts are for all believers to experience as the Lord wills and did not cease to be manifest at the end of the apostolic age.

Servant Leadership

by Damian Kyle

One of the things the Lord has been pleased to bless in Calvary Chapel is its emphasis upon servant leadership. This is the conviction among its pastors that the churches we pastor do not exist to serve us, but that we are called to serve and lay our lives down for them.

Jesus taught that we are not to be like the rulers of the Gentiles who lord their power and authority over others, but rather that the way to greatness in the kingdom of God comes by being a servant. He declared Himself to be our example in this, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28).

Pastors who consider themselves to be too important to do anything needed in order to serve the flock entrusted to them reveal that they have come to think of themselves as more self-important than our Lord. As pastors, we cannot represent our "Servant" Lord without being servants ourselves. Pride, harshness, a sense of self-importance, or a dictatorial spirit is inconsistent with Jesus' example.

There are wonderful promises in God's Word for those who choose to live a life of servant leadership, including I Peter 5:5, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Eschatology

by Jack Hibbs

Calvary Chapel holds to the Pretribulational Premillennial interpretation of Biblical Eschatology. This view anticipates a literal fulfillment of yet unfulfilled prophecies just as previously fulfilled prophecies have been literally fulfilled (Matthew 5:17-18).

The Pretribulational Premillennial understanding encourages the most obvious and literal interpretation of the scriptures and has proven to be the most reliable and historically accurate form of interpretation of prophetic events (Matthew 24:25, John 14:29).

Pretribulational Premillennial teaches that before the establishment of the one thousand year reign of Christ known as the millennium (Revelation 20:6), Jesus Christ will first remove His church, the bride of Christ, from earth prior to the advent of the Antichrist and the tribulation period of the end times (John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:7-8; Titus 2:13).

The Pretribulational Premillennial view espouses the Doctrine of Imminency which delineates between the sudden and joyous rapture of the church (Luke 21:36; I Corinthians 15:50-58; Revelation 3:10) from the global and predictable Second Coming of Christ with the church in judgment (Revelation 19:11-16).

Male Leadership in the Pulpit

by Sandy Adams

Gender matters to God. Masculinity and femininity are not just social constructs. When God created mankind He did so male and female. And God uses gender to teach important spiritual truths about His relationship with His people. The Bible reveals God as masculine, and His people as feminine. This is why in the Church and in the home, God wants our relationships between the sexes to mirror His relationship with His people. Like Christ, men should lovingly lead – and like the Church, women should willingly follow.

I Timothy 1-3 sets out four qualifications for elders and pastors: moral character, giftedness to teach, divine calling, and male gender. God uses women in strategic ways, but pastoral authority and the teaching of doctrine in the church is reserved for qualified men.

In Calvary Chapel, we have been blessed with a wonderful example of male leadership. Pastor Chuck has been a spiritual father to thousands of young people. He has been a model of biblical masculinity – strong yet gracious. A high priority in the Calvary Chapel philosophy is to help all our men be the servant leader God desires and their family deserves.

Equipping the Saints

The Bible says that not only has God given the Church the privilege of the Great Commission, and the power to carry it out through the ministry His Holy Spirit, but that He has also provided the church with individuals to help to prepare His people for that work. Paul explains that Jesus “. . . *Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Inherent in our Calvary Chapel Distinctives is the understanding that God’s people do the real work of ministry, while leaders in the church have the first responsibility to equip those people to serve and to guide and facilitate their service as God leads. Pastor Chuck wrote that “The primary purpose of the Church isn’t to convert sinners to Christianity, but to perfect (complete and mature) the saints for the ministry and edification of the Body.” Most primarily, this happens through the ministry of building people up in the Word of God so that they can then take the Word of God and pass it on to others.

We believe that as we equip the saints for the ministry that the Spirit will help to divinely direct that ministry, working in the hearts of His people to lead them into specific areas of service. Much ministry within a Calvary Chapel happens from the “bottom-up,” as opposed to the “top-down.” One believer feels called by the Lord to step out into a certain area of ministry, while another has a burden for a different type of service; and the role of the leadership of the local church becomes one of encouraging, offering support, Scriptural counsel and direction, and facilitating ministries which the Lord confirms.

With this Biblical model, based on Ephesians 4:12, the overall work, effectiveness, and reach of the ministry increases exponentially as the saints are edified, equipped, encouraged, and released as the Spirit leads.

Informal / Relaxed Style

From Calvary Distinctives by Chuck Smith

Another distinctive characteristic of Calvary Chapel is our relaxed casual style. We don't get involved in a lot of spiritual hype. We don't try to motivate people carnally, and we aren't apt to shout at the congregation. I believe this stems from our belief and trust in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit. We are of the belief that if the Lord doesn't build the house, they labor in vain who build it, so all of our hype and pressure aren't really going to do the job. We simply trust in the work of the Holy Spirit, and of Jesus Christ who is building His church as He said He would. If we have complete confidence that it's His church, that He's going to build it, and that He's going to do His job, then all I have to do is be faithful. I simply need to watch His work, and then the pressure isn't on me. I don't get all hyped or pressured because the work of God isn't my responsibility. It's not my church. It's His church. I believe that it's very important to remember this, because if you try to carry the load and bear the burden, you'll find that it's too great for you. You'll find yourself under pressure to create schemes and hypes, and then you begin to push and manipulate people. That isn't the Calvary Chapel style.

Calvary Chapels are minus the hype. We're not into the carnal pursuit of new programs or spiritual hype to try to appeal to people. It's the Word of God that we trust in, that we teach, that we rely on. It's the foundation upon which we are built. It's inexhaustible. There's no burnout with it. It just keeps going on and on and on.

For this reason, we have a relaxed, casual style that's reflected in our ministry. It's His church so we don't have to sweat it. We're not really into seminars on how to build a church, how to create a user-friendly church, or how to develop a five-year plan. Who knows if we'll even be here five years from now! Let's minister for today!



