



# OP CHURCH

a Church of Christ

*Joining in the work of Jesus for the good of the world.*

## Core Beliefs

We believe the words of Jesus when he said that to love God and love our neighbor are the two greatest commands (Matthew 22:36-40)<sup>1</sup>. We believe that the command to love sums up all other commands and fulfills God's law (Galatians 5:14)<sup>2</sup>. We believe the words of Paul when he wrote that the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love (Galatians 5:6). We believe that love is the most excellent way (I Corinthians 13:1-8)<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, we will love first. We lead with love because of the importance Jesus placed on it, but we also fully recognize that living this is hard, and we want all to know we're not there yet, but want all to join us as we strive to live this together.

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

<sup>2</sup> <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> 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 do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

**God** is one, but eternally exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God created the world and sustains it by His power and love. His goal is eternal relationship with us, His created human beings (Matthew 28:19<sup>4</sup>; John 17:3, 21<sup>5</sup>; 2 Corinthians 13:14<sup>6</sup>).

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<sup>4</sup> <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>5</sup> <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent... <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

<sup>6</sup> <sup>14</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Jesus** is God's Son fully human, fully God. He came to earth to teach truth and offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins by dying on a cross. He was buried and raised from the dead, demonstrating His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return some day to judge the living and the dead, and reign forever (John 1:1-14<sup>7</sup>, 5:22<sup>8</sup>, 27-29<sup>9</sup>; Acts 10:37-43<sup>10</sup>; Romans 1:1-4<sup>11</sup>; Philippians 2:5-11<sup>12</sup>).

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<sup>7</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sup>[a]</sup> it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>8</sup> <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

<sup>9</sup> <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

<sup>10</sup> <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

<sup>11</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life<sup>[a]</sup> was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power<sup>[b]</sup> by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

<sup>12</sup> <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**The Holy Spirit** is one with the Father and Son and is God’s power for creating and transformation. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Christ. He also empowers, guides, and equips believers (John 16:8<sup>13</sup>, Romans 8:1-16<sup>14</sup>, 12:1-12<sup>15</sup>; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22<sup>16</sup>; Galatians 5:22-25<sup>17</sup>).

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<sup>13</sup> <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you <sup>[a]</sup> free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, <sup>[b]</sup> God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. <sup>[c]</sup> And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life <sup>[d]</sup> because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of <sup>[e]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. <sup>[f]</sup> And by him we cry, “*Abba*, <sup>[g]</sup> Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your <sup>[a]</sup> faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, <sup>[b]</sup> do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

<sup>16</sup> <sup>21</sup> Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup> set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

<sup>17</sup> <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

**Salvation** is a gift of God that allows believers to live eternally with God in heaven. Though humanity was created in the image of God for the purpose of living in intimate relationship with Him, the first man and woman sinned and broke that relationship with God. The cost of that sin was death, physical and spiritual. God, out of love, sent Jesus to rescue and deliver us from bondage to sin by dying on a cross. Salvation comes through obedient trust in Jesus expressed through confession, repentance and baptism by water immersion. The result of God's gift is forgiveness of sin and the presence of the Holy Spirit (John 3:16<sup>18</sup>; Romans 3:23<sup>19</sup>, 10:19; Acts 2:38<sup>20</sup>, Galatians 3:26-27<sup>21</sup>).

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<sup>18</sup> <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>19</sup> <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<sup>20</sup> <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> <sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**The Church** is God's spiritual family on earth, empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the task of reaching the lost and developing believers into fully devoted followers of Jesus. God not only wants to save us, He wants to transform us into the likeness of His Son Jesus. Transformation begins at salvation, is empowered through surrender to God's work in our lives, and is witnessed by others as God's testimony to hope and redemption (Matthew 5:14-16<sup>22</sup>; Romans 8:29<sup>23</sup>; Ephesians 2:19-22<sup>24</sup>, 4:1-16<sup>25</sup>).

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<sup>22</sup> <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

<sup>23</sup> <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

<sup>24</sup> <sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

<sup>25</sup> As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.<sup>8</sup> This is why it<sup>[a]</sup> says:

"When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions<sup>[c]</sup>? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**Eternity**-- unbelievers will live separated from God (hell), while believers will live in His presence (heaven) (2 Corinthians 4:13-18<sup>26</sup>, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18<sup>27</sup>; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9<sup>28</sup>; 1 John 3:2<sup>29</sup>).

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<sup>26</sup> <sup>13</sup> It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."<sup>[a]</sup> Since we have that same spirit of<sup>[b]</sup> faith, we also believe and therefore speak,<sup>14</sup> because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.<sup>15</sup> All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

<sup>27</sup> <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

<sup>28</sup> <sup>8</sup> He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might

<sup>29</sup> <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,<sup>[a]</sup> we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

**The Bible** is the inspired Word of God and the final source of truth for faith and life. It tells of God's character, power, and love, and records His involvement in humanity's story (2 Timothy 3:16-17<sup>30</sup>; 2 Peter 1:20-21<sup>31</sup>).

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<sup>30</sup> <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

<sup>31</sup> <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.