

Special Issues

*...they received the word
with all eagerness,
examining the Scriptures
daily to see if these things
were so.*

- Acts 17:11

(ESV)



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Special Issues

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Thank you for your interest in this special issues brochure.

This brochure was developed to help answer in a concise way questions you may have about our church's position on some specific issues not specifically addressed by our doctrinal statement or constitution.

This is not an exhaustive list but intends helps to help both you and the church understand what the Bible teaches on specific issues.

Our desire as a church is to be like the Bereans of scripture that daily studies what the word says so that we can honor the Lord with all that we do.

We would invite all to study, reflect on and examine scripture to confirm that these positions are biblical and faithful to the scope of the Creation / Fall / Redemption / Consummation narrative of the Bible.

Although we understand personal and other faith traditions may speak forcefully in opposition to something stated here, our conscience is held captive to the authority of God's word.

We have not included scriptural references for the sake of brevity, but would invite you to contact the pastor or any of the elders to help provide additional clarification on any questions that you may have.

We would also direct you to the following websites that for the most part are in alignment with our positions on the essentials. These websites serve as great resources for personal study.



www.carm.org



www.gotquestions.org



www.9marks.org

Abortion

We affirm the sanctity of human life. We also understand the sensitivity of this issue and seek to be filled with Christian love and compassion for women who have had abortions. Still, we are unashamedly pro-life.

Baptism

We affirm freedom in baptism; including infant baptism, adult baptism, sprinkling and immersion.

Christian

All true Christians display the fruits of the Spirit through conversion and humbly align their lives through faith and repentance. True Christians recognize the authority of scripture over all of life. We encourage discernment when interacting with those who claim to be Christians by examining their beliefs and practices.

Church Planting

The Scripture is clear that we are to go and make disciples.

Church Polity

Congregational.

Confirmation

We affirm the historical importance of this tradition while acknowledging that some churches/persons have not inherited the history of this practice.

Cross of Jesus and Blood Atonement of Christ

Necessary for salvation and taught with reverence, respect, and grateful hearts.

Doctrinal Identity

Strong Biblical Statement of Faith in the Reformed Tradition.

Euthanasia and Suicide

Viewed as sinful.

Growth

Growing steadily in sanctification is the fruit of justification.

Inclusive Language

Biblical language clearly uses the masculine references to God (Father, Lord, He).

Hierarchy

Christ is the head of the church.

Homosexual Behavior/Practice

Viewed as sinful acts.

We reject the open acceptance of any sin.

Infallibility and Authority of Scripture

We believe that all Scripture is 'God-breathed.' Therefore, Scripture is Holy, infallible, and our authority for life and faith.

Local Autonomy

Our church is independent and self-governing but is a part of the One, Holy, Universal Christian Church.

Lord's Supper

We invite all who profess belief in Christ to examine themselves and repent of all known sin before partaking.

Marriage

Is ordained by God to unite one man with one woman in an exclusive heterosexual relationship. We reject any attempts to re-define marriage to include those outside of clear biblical guidelines.

Sign Gifts and Wonders

Ceased with the completion of the biblical canon. At best those who embrace such "gifts" are in error. At worst such practices are demonically initiated.

Missions

We strongly encourage each person to be involved locally and globally.

Non-Christian Religions

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world. Other belief systems blind and harden one to the true gospel. Non-Christian religions do not save.

Sacraments

Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Separatism

Unity is pursued with wisdom for the purposes of evangelism and displaying the body of Christ.

Theology

We are reformed, evangelical, conservative, classical and historic Christians as affirmed in the Apostle's Creed and other traditional creeds.

Tolerance

Is too often cited to excuse sin. God's word stands in judgment of people, not the other way around.