

Pathways Church **BELIEFS**

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's authoritative means of communicating His truth to us. Its truths do not change in relation to a person's interpretation of them. Authors wrote 66 different books of the Bible as God inspired them, communication through different times, circumstances, cultures, personalities and literary genre with harmony and continuity. Only the Bible is 100% the Word of God.

WATER BAPTISM

Every believer after making the decision of faith should be baptized into water to restore themselves into a relationship with God. This symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and is a sign to the world that they have identified Christ as their substitute and only means of salvation. At Pathways Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. We do however practice "baby/child" dedication. This is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. Parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal confession of faith in Christ.

(MATTHEW 3:16 | ACTS 2:41 | ACTS 8:12-14 | ACTS 8:38-39)

HUMANITY & SIN

God created humankind to live forever and enjoy the creation with Him. However, humanity rebelled (we call any disobedience of God's standards "sin") and was, therefore, excluded from a relationship with God and destined to suffer eternal punishment in Hell after death. Because of that rebellion, absolutely no individual apart from Jesus is able to come to God; each is incapable of pleasing Him. Abraham's faith was counted as redemption since the Redeemer had not yet come.

SALVATION

The central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call people into fellowship with Him. Originally created to be in relationship with God, humans defied Him by going their own independent way, resulting in alienation from Him and the inability to please God. This fall took place at the beginning of human history; all people since have suffered these consequences and are in need of the saving grace of God. We believe man's only hope of salvation is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

(GENESIS 1:26-31 | GENESIS 3:1-7 | ROMANS 5:12 | ROMANS 3:10-18)

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THE CHURCH

All who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are united with Him as members of His body, the one true Church. Scripture commands believers to gather for worship, prayer, fellowship and the teaching of the Word; to observe Baptism and Communion as established by Jesus Christ; to offer service to the body through development and use of talents, gifts and outreach to the world. The local expression of the church is wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command. Cared for and led by leaders, church members are to work together in love and unity for the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.

FAITH & PRACTICE

In all matters of faith and practice, Scripture is the final authority. In matters where Scripture is silent, believers should conscientiously seek to be led by the Lord because it is to Him alone who are ultimately responsible.

MARRIAGE

Though the culture has evolving definitions of marriage, we believe that it is God alone who has the ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship. Because of this understanding, we will only recognize marriages that meet the biblical definition: a covenant relationship between one gender-normative man and one gender-normative woman, as defined by one's sex assignment at birth corresponding to their gender identity and expression. The pastors, ministers and staff of Pathways Church will only participate in wedding and officiate marriages that meet this definition, and the facilities and property of Pathways Church will only host marriage ceremonies that meet this definition.

(GENESIS 2:24 | MATTHEW 19:1-9 | MARK 10:1-12)



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