

# Doctrinal Commitments

The following doctrinal commitments do not comprise all that we believe or teach at Riverview Church. We hold to particular positions on a sundry of matters related to Christian faith and practice, such as the use of spiritual gifts, the roles of men and women, and literal six-day creation. However, the following commitments are what unifies us doctrinally as a local congregation and maintains consistency with orthodox Christianity.

## **About the Bible**

We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is verbally inspired in every word, and absolutely inerrant in the original documents. We affirm the infallibility, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture, and we believe that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20–21)

## **About God**

We believe that there is one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect and holy in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existent in three Persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each of Whom equally deserves worship and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

## **About Jesus Christ**

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death on the Cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the Father's right hand, and His personal return to Earth in power and glory. (Luke 1:26–33; John 1:3; Philippians 2:5–8; Colossians 1:15–17, 2:9)

## **About the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Spirit-filled life. The Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers for service, and seals every believer unto the day of redemption. (John 16:7–15; Romans 8:9–11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13–14, 4:30)

## **About Man**

We believe that mankind is created in the image of God, but because of Adam's sin all are by nature radically depraved. We believe there is nothing about man that remains untouched by sin. Therefore, he is utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God. Apart from divine grace, man is hopelessly lost. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:10–12, 23, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1–3)

## **About Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of sinful man is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God when the repentant sinner—enabled by the Holy Spirit—responds in faith. Salvation is not based on any human merit or work, but is wholly the result of God's grace through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. All the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 1:12–13; Romans 3:28, 8:28–30, 10:9–10; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:4–7)

## **About the Church**

We believe that all who are justified by faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church, of which Christ is the Head. All believers are to come together in local assemblies and submit themselves to the shepherding of elders who are appointed by the Holy Spirit to oversee the flock. Two ordinances have been committed to the local church: the baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper, which commemorates and proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, 12:12–14; Hebrews 13:17)

## **About Last Things**

We believe in Christ's imminent return to Earth, the rapture of the church, the millennial reign of Christ, and the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved—the saved unto eternal life and the unsaved unto eternal damnation. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 20)

## **About Angels**

We believe that angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. We believe that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator. Satan is the open and declared enemy of both God and man, but he has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Christ. He will be eternally condemned. (Ezekiel 28:11–19; Matthew 4:1–11; Hebrews 1:6–7; Revelation 20:10)

## **About the Christian Life**

We believe that true faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin to Christ in obedience to Him. It is not enough to merely believe certain facts about Christ; true saving faith responds in obedience and bears the fruit of the Spirit. We believe that though we will be tempted to sin in this world, we do not have to sin. God will always give us a way of escape if we seek Him and submit to His Word. (Luke 13:3,5; Romans 6:11–14; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 5:22–23; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 2:3–6)