



DISCIPLESCHURCH

Membership Class

Session 4

What We Believe - Part 3

Glorifying God Through Lives Transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ

SESSION 4: What We Believe - Part 3

I. Our Core Beliefs: Statement of Beliefs (continued, part 3)

Church

The universal Church is all the members of the body of Christ, made up of people from all times and all around the world. It is all who are called out of darkness, regenerated, and set apart by God's saving grace. It is all the genuine believers in Jesus. Christ Jesus commissions His Church to be discipled and make disciples among all nations.

The local church is a group of professing believers who have covenanted to unify together to worship and glorify God by fulfilling the commands and mission God has given to the body of Christ. The Bible distinctly instructs a local church to have qualified elders and committed members, of which some may be qualified deacons. The local church is to submit to the authority of the Bible, follow the leadership of qualified elders, regularly gather together, serve one another, practice higher levels of accountability, and live missional lives together.

Universal Church: 1 Peter 2:9-10; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25; John 10:16; Galatians 3:28; Matthew 1:21; John 3:29; Ephesians 4:15-16; Matthew 24:31

Make Disciples: Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:47; 1 John 1:7; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:3-5; Ephesians 4:25; Romans 15:14; 1 Peter 3:15; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 15:32

Local Church: Hebrews 10:23; 1 John 1:7; Romans 12:3-6 1 Corinthians 12:21-26; Ephesians 4:2; Romans 15:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Peter 1:22-23

Church Roles: 1 Peter 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:17; Romans 12:3-6; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Primary Local Church Duties: 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 13:17; Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 3:13; Philippians 2:3; Galatians 5:13; Romans 14:19

Ephesians 4:15-16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Galatians 3:26-29 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ephesians 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Church Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both serve as a physical testimony of the gospel and are to be celebrated and practiced by the redeemed until He returns.

Baptism is a holy, New Covenant ordinance from our Lord Jesus and in no way contributes to one's salvation. Baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection.

The Lord's Supper is a holy, New Covenant ordinance from our Lord Jesus, whereby professing and accountable believers gather together regularly to remember, celebrate, and testify of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ by consuming the elements which represent His body and blood.

Baptism: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:12; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:35-38; Romans 6:3-5

Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-31; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 10:21

2 Corinthians 5:17 ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Marriage and Singleness

Marriage is a covenant relationship whereby God joins together one man and one woman into a one flesh union designed to be faithful and last until the couple is separated by death.

According to Scripture, marriage is the sole context God has ordained for sexual intimacy and sexual engagement.

Men and women are equal in dignity and value; both are created in the image of God.

God has ordained the role of the husband to lovingly lead his wife and family. God has ordained the role of the wife to joyfully submit to her husband's leadership as his helper.

God has blessed some with the gift of singleness and some with the gift of marriage.

Both singleness and marriage are valued and used by God to accomplish His purposes.

Marriage and Purity: Genesis 1:27-28; Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:32; Romans 7:2-3; Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

Gender and Roles: Genesis 1:26-27; Galatians 5:14; Galatians 3:28; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 5:22-33; Genesis 2:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Timothy 3:4

Singleness: 1 Corinthians 7:7-9; 1 Corinthians 7:25-27; Matthew 19:12; Philippians 4:11

Mark 10:6-9 "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Genesis 1:27-28 ... God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it ..."

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

Genesis 1:27 ... God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Ephesians 5:22-28 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Christian Accountability

We believe all Christians are to joyfully submit to biblically-based accountability. This accountability is loving correction to someone who professes to be a Christian when he/she is out of step of core sound doctrine or practicing other sin. If he/she does not repent after biblical efforts are made, then God's instruction is dis-fellowship until he/she does. We practice Christian accountability because of our love for God and our love for one another. It glorifies God when we trust and obey His commanded will, and it is loving to others to treat them the way God has ordained.

Christian Accountability: Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; Hebrews 12:11; Matthew 18:15-17; 2 John 1:9-11; Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:8-9; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:2-3; Romans 15:1; Ephesians 5:11; Titus 3:10-11; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; Proverbs 15:32; Ecclesiastes 7:5; Proverbs 27:6; 1 John 5:3; Galatians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 5:5

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NASB) We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Last Things: Resurrection, Final Judgment, and Eternity

We believe that beyond this one life, there are no additional chances to repent and trust in Jesus alone.

God has appointed a day on which He will righteously judge the world by Jesus Christ, in Whom is all power and judgment. On that day, the fallen angels and all people who were conceived to life will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of all their thoughts, words, and deeds—whether good or evil.

God's purpose for this day is for the manifestation of the glory, both of His merciful grace in the eternal salvation of believers in Christ Jesus and of His justice in the eternal damnation of the unbelieving.

The souls of people who did not have saving faith in Christ Jesus will be united forever with their bodies, and upon their final judgment, they will be thrown into hell and punished by God's wrath forever because of their guilt.

Hell is the place of eternal death with dreadful and endless torment. The worst part of hell is not getting to enjoy the blessed presence of and reconciliation to God. In hell, God is rightly punishing both humans who did not repent and trust in Jesus and fallen angels.

The souls of people who had saving faith in Christ Jesus will be united forever with their bodies, now finally glorified. Upon their final judgment, these people will go into everlasting life and receive fullness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards in the blessed presence of the Lord.

Eternal life in the new heaven and new earth will be a more intimate communion with God, and we will be free from sin, evil, sickness, suffering, and death. We will be in the Lord's presence and glorifying Him for all eternity. It is better than we can even imagine.

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After Death: Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Luke 16:22-23

Final Judgment: Acts 17:31; John 5:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-32; Romans 9:22-24; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 14:10-12; Matthew 12:36; Jude 6; Revelation 20:15

Unsaved at Final Judgment: Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; Matthew 25:46; Luke 12:5; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 2:8; John 3:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:12

Hell: 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 14:10-11; Matthew 8:12; Revelation 20:10; Mark 9:43; Mark 9:47-48

Christians at Final Judgment: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Acts 24:15; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 21:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:21; Matthew 25:34; Matthew 25:46

Final Glorification: 1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 John 3:2

Eternal Life in New Heaven and New Earth: Matthew 25:34; Matthew 25:46; Revelation 21:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18; Revelation 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 4:8

Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Matthew 25:31-32 "... [Jesus] will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

Romans 9:22-24 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 2:8 ... for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

2 Thessalonians 2:12 ... all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Matthew 25:46 (NASB) "These [all unbelievers] will go away into eternal punishment ..."

1 Corinthians 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NASB) Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal [body] must put on immortality.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison

Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”