



Lakeside Fellowship Statement of Faith & Core Beliefs

Statement of Beliefs:

At Lakeside Fellowship, we believe sound teaching helps us know God, live faithfully, and share the gospel. Our Doctrinal Statement summarizes the timeless biblical truths Christians have agreed on for centuries. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and the final authority for everything we do. With humility, conviction, and a desire for unity, we joyfully affirm these truths from Scripture.

THE BIBLE

The Bible is the authoritative and trustworthy revelation of who God is, what He has done, and how He calls us to live. The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were written by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In their original writings, they are without error and remain God's primary means of communicating His truth to us today.

Deut. 4:1-2, 17:19; Ps. 19:7-10; Prov. 30:5; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:19-21

GOD

There is one true God, the Creator and sovereign ruler of all people and all creation. This one God eternally exists in three distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity is fully and equally God, and each has existed eternally.

Gen. 1:1-2; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 24:1; Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19; John 1:1-3; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11

HUMANITY

Every person is created in the image of God and possesses inherent value and dignity from conception. God created humanity to know and enjoy Him, to care for His creation, and to live according to His purposes, plans, and commands.

Gen. 1:26-27; Deut. 10:12-13; Ps. 16:11, 139:13; Isa. 43:7; Mic. 6:8; John 17:3

ETERNITY

Human beings were created for eternal existence. Those who are reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ will receive His undeserved grace and live with Him forever in the reality of heaven. Those who die separated from God will experience His just judgment and remain separated from Him forever in the reality of hell.

Job 19:25-27; Isa. 25:8; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-12; 1 John 2:25; Rev. 21-22

SALVATION

The gospel is the good news that God saves sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No one can earn salvation through personal goodness or human effort. Jesus lived the perfect life we could never live, died the death our sin deserved, and rose again to offer us new and eternal life.

Salvation is God's free gift, made possible through Jesus Christ and received personally through repentance and faith in Him alone as Savior and Lord. Through salvation, we are forgiven and rescued from the penalty of sin and brought into a restored relationship with God as His children. Every genuine believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and is called to grow continually in Christlikeness. Those who are truly saved can have confidence that they will never lose their salvation, because the same grace that saves us also transforms, strengthens, and sustains us.

John 1:12, 3:16, 10:28-29; Acts 3:19; Rom. 3:10-12, 8:1, 28-39; 1 Cor. 15:1-3, 9-10; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 2:13-14; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 1:3; Jude 24

SIN

Sin is humanity's greatest problem and the source of the brokenness we see throughout the world. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, humanity's relationship with Him was broken. Since then, every person has been sinful by nature and by choice. Because of sin, we are separated from God and stand in need of His forgiveness and salvation. Sin has brought brokenness not only into human lives but into the world itself.

Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Isa. 59:2; Matt. 12:36; Rom. 3:10-23, 5:12-21, 8:20-22; Eph. 2:1-3; Heb. 9:27

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who entered human history to accomplish God's plan of redemption. He is fully God and fully human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Through His sinless life, sacrificial death, and bodily resurrection, Jesus accomplished everything necessary to make salvation possible.

After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven, where He reigns as Lord. He will one day return physically, visibly, and victoriously to reign as King and will rule forever.

Matt. 1:18-23, 28:6; John 1:1-2, 14; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 4:25; Phil. 2:6-7; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 19-22

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and lives within every person who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus, gives new life, empowers believers for godly living and service, and works continually to make us more like Christ.

Every Christian receives the Holy Spirit at salvation. Believers are also called to continually yield themselves to the Spirit and be filled with His presence and power, enabling them to live distinctive and effective lives that point others to Jesus. The spiritual gifts described in Scripture are to be exercised faithfully, lovingly, and according to biblical instruction.

Ezek. 36:26-27; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:16, 12-14; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18; Titus 3:5

THE CHURCH

The Church is the people of God, set apart to participate in God's mission. It is made up of every genuine believer in Jesus Christ throughout all generations. Together, believers form the body and bride of Christ and share a unique relationship with God and a unique calling from God: to fulfill the Great Commission.

Every Christian should belong to and actively participate in a local church. A local church is an organized, visible expression of the worldwide community of believers, committed to worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and proclaiming the gospel.

Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 1:2, 12:12-13; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 10:24-25; Rev. 4

GENDER IDENTITY, MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

God established His design for gender, marriage, family, and human sexuality at creation and reaffirmed that design throughout Scripture. God created humanity as biologically male and female, distinct yet complementary, and designed man and woman for one another.

God created two distinct, God-given sexes—male and female—and these are reflected in the corresponding identities of men and women. Together, man and woman form the foundation of marriage and the family, which is foundational to society.

God designed marriage as a lifelong, public covenant between one biological man and one biological woman. Marriage serves God's purposes, provides the foundation for the family, and reflects the covenant relationship between Christ and His people. Therefore, sexual activity outside of this God-designed marriage covenant is contrary to God's plan for human sexuality. Sex is a gift from God, intended to be enjoyed exclusively within marriage as defined by Scripture.

Gen. 1:26-28, 2:18-24; Deut. 22:5; Mal. 2:13-16; Matt. 19:4-9; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 18; Eph. 5:21-33

BAPTISM & COMMUNION

God has given His Church two visible practices that point to His invisible work in the lives of believers: baptism and communion. Both proclaim and remind us of the gospel, strengthen our faith, and celebrate what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us and continues to do in us.

Baptism by immersion in water is a one-time act of obedience for those who have personally repented of their sin and placed their faith in Jesus Christ. It publicly identifies the believer with Christ and declares the believer's new life in Him.

Communion is a repeated practice observed with other believers in remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross. While Scripture does not prescribe a specific frequency for communion, it provides a meaningful opportunity for believers to remember Christ's sacrifice, celebrate the gospel, and fellowship with Him and with one another.

Matt. 3:13-17, 26:26-30; Acts 2:38-42, 16:30-33; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16, 11:23-30; Col. 2:12

THE LAST THINGS & JESUS' RETURN

God will bring history and creation to their appointed conclusion in His own time and according to His perfect plan. Jesus Christ will personally, visibly, and bodily return, and all things will ultimately be restored according to God's perfect purposes.

Jesus will raise the dead and judge all people. Those who belong to Him will receive everlasting life and reward, while those who reject Him will experience everlasting judgment. Scripture provides different perspectives concerning the precise order and timing of these events. While studying and discussing these matters has value, believers should avoid allowing speculation and disagreement about end-times details to overshadow the clear message of Scripture.

Instead, the promise of Christ's return should inspire us to:

1. **Live faithfully** — knowing that Christ could return at any time.
2. **Live with hope** — looking forward to an eternity with Jesus marked by ever-increasing and unending joy.
3. **Share the gospel urgently** — recognizing that those who remain separated from Christ face an eternity apart from Him.

Matt. 16:27, 24:1-51; Mark 13:10; Luke 14:12-24; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; 2 Thess. 1:7-12; Heb. 9:26-28; 2 Pet. 3:7-18; Rev. 20-22