

Foundational Statements for The Bible Church of Cabot

The Bible Church of Cabot is...

A Place for Worshiping

First and foremost, the Bible Church is a *worshiping church*. We believe that God has created us with a purpose, and that purpose is to glorify Him. One way we can glorify Him is by living a *lifestyle* of worship. We seek to cultivate that worship lifestyle in what we teach and practice at our church so that it begins to become a natural thing to praise Him not only on Sundays but also through the week (week) days in the routine of our lives.

A Place for Learning

The Bible Church is a *teaching church* whose textbook is the Bible. We meet together on Sunday mornings in small groups to discuss a passage of Scripture which we studied and about which we answered questions prepared by our Teaching Pastor the week prior. Then in our Worship Celebration he digs deeper into that same passage, giving us principles for application in our lives. So we get, in essence, a "triple dose" of each passage of Scripture as we study a book of the Bible.

A Place for Relationships

The Bible Church is a *caring church*. When someone decides to become a part of our church, he or she becomes a part of our *family*. We care about the relationships in our family. Of course, our main concern is that of our relationship with Christ, but we are also constantly working on our relationships with one another. This is done in the context of working together in various small group settings such as discussion groups, home group meetings, Ladies' Fellowship, Men's Fellowship and Youth Fellowship times, and in larger group opportunities such as church family events. And just as one's relationship with Christ is deepened by regular one-on-One communication, so are our relationships with one another in our fellowship; and we encourage the accountability that emerges from that type of relationship in our Body.

A Place for Growing

The Bible Church is like a garden. We try to maintain an atmosphere where a Christian can grow to greater maturity. And everything that we do is done with a single purpose in mind: At the Bible Church **our purpose is to glorify God by developing disciples who live lifestyles as worshipers of God, ministers of His love, and ambassadors into His world.**

Statement of Faith

The Bible Church considers Bible Doctrine to be the foundation of its ministry. The following is a *summary* of our doctrinal commitment. A detailed description of our position is found below in our Confession of Faith.

We Believe

- the Scriptures to be the authoritative, inerrant, infallible revelation from God to man.
- there is only one living and true God Who eternally exists in three equal but distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- that Jesus is the image of the invisible God; that He is fully God and fully man; that having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, He lived a sinless life, died as a substitute for our sins, rose bodily from the grave, and ascended into heaven where He now is interceding for us as our High Priest; that all judgment has been given to Him Who will come again in great power and glory.
- that man was created in the image and likeness of God; that in Adam all mankind were made sinners with the result that all men are born spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins; that every man is under condemnation and separated from God so that salvation can come only from God.
- that the only way of salvation is through repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that the basis of our salvation is the shed blood of Christ Who died in our place; that salvation is wholly by the grace of God Who draws men to Himself, causes them to be born again, and protects them so that they will never perish; that God's free gift of eternal life is available to whosoever will believe in Christ.
- that our ultimate goal is to glorify God by loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and by loving our neighbor as ourselves; that our love for God is made evident by our obedience to His written Word.

The Confession of Faith for The Bible Church of Cabot

- **Doctrine of Inerrancy:** We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired revelation of God, inerrant in the original writings, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Since the Bible is God's truth and the only revelation of His will, it is our ultimate authority in every area of life; and we seek to be subject to it in all things. (I Pet. 1:10-12; Eph. 3:4-5; II Pet. 3:2; II Pet. 1:21; Mt. 5:18; II Tim. 3:16-17; John 17:17; I Thes. 2:13)
- **Doctrine of the Trinity:** We believe there is only one living and true God who eternally exists in three equal but distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that God is the Creator of all and Sovereign over all, worthy of our worship and obedience. (Deut. 6:4; Mt. 28:19; I Cor. 8:6; I Chron. 29:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17)
- **Doctrine of Christ:** We believe that Jesus is the image of the invisible God; that He is fully God and fully man; that having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, He lived a sinless life, died as a substitute for our sins, rose bodily from the grave, and ascended into Heaven where He now is interceding for us as our High Priest; that all judgment has been given to Him who will come again in great power and glory. (Col. 1:15; 2:9; I Tim. 2:5; Luke 1:34-35; I Pet. 3:18; Acts 10:40-41; Heb. 4:14; 7 :25; John 5:22; Mark 13:26)
- **Doctrine of Man and Sin:** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; that man's created purpose is to glorify God and enjoy fellowship with Him; that in Adam all mankind was made sinners with the result that all men are born spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins, blinded by their father, the Devil, and enslaved to sin; that every man is under condemnation and separated from God so that salvation can come only from God. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 11:36; 5:12-19; Eph. 2:1-5; II Cor. 4:3-4; John 8:34-47; John 3:18; Isa. 59:2; Rev. 19:1)
- **Doctrine of Salvation:** We believe that the only way of salvation is through repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that the basis of our salvation is the shed blood of Christ who died in our place; that salvation is wholly by the grace of God who draws men to Himself, causes them to be born again, and protects them so that they will never perish; that God's free gift of eternal life is available to whosoever will believe in Christ. (Acts 4:12; 20:21; Heb. 9:22; Rom. 5:6; Eph. 2:8-9; I Pet. 1:3-5; John 6:44; 10:28; Rom. 5:23; John 3:16)
- **Doctrine of Man's Purpose:** We believe that our ultimate goal is to glorify God by loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and by loving our neighbor as ourselves; that our love for God is made evident by our obedience to His written Word. (I Cor. 10:31; Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Rom. 13:8-10; John 14:21)

- **Doctrine of the Holy Spirit:** We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ; that at Pentecost the Spirit was poured out and uniquely gifted the early Church as the apostles and prophets laid the foundation of the Church; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that every believer has been regenerated by Him, indwelt with Him, baptized with Him into one Body, sealed with Him for the day of redemption, and gifted by Him for service; that as the Spirit of truth, He teaches and guides us in the truth of God's Word and is the source of all power for godly living and acceptable worship and service. (John 16:14; Acts 2:4, 16-17; Heb. 2:3-4; Eph. 2:20; John 16:8-11; Titus 3:5; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:30; I Pet. 4:10; John 16:13; 17:17; Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:18 ff; Gal. 5:22-23)
- **Doctrine of the Church:** We believe in one true Church composed of all who have believed in Jesus Christ; that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of this spiritual body; that Christ's Church is to assemble as various local churches which should operate according to the teaching of the New Testament; that all those and only those who are members of the true church shall be eligible for membership in the local church; that every local church under Christ is to decide and govern its own affairs under the leadership and authority of its elders; that the Lord has given to His Church the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's supper both of which are to be observed by every believer; that each local church is to purpose to worship the Lord, instruct in the Word, encourage holy living and endeavor to propagate the Gospel throughout the world. (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 14:23; II Tim. 3:16-17; Acts 2:47; Heb. 13:17; Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11-16; II Tim. 4:2-8; Acts 8:4)
- **Doctrine of Christ's Return:** We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth personally, bodily, and visibly; that He will raise His sleeping saints both to share in the likeness of his glorious immortality and also to be rewarded according to their works; that He will reign until He has put all of His enemies under his feet, including the last enemy, death, and will deliver up the kingdom in righteousness and peace to God the Father; that He will raise the wicked and judge them according to their works so that they will receive their just and eternal punishment along with Satan and his angels in the lake of fire; that God will dwell eternally with his people; we shall be His people and He shall be our God. (Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:13-17; I Cor. 15:51-53; Philippians 3:20-21; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 15:24-25; Rev. 20:10-15; Rev. 21:3)

Ministry Perspective of the Bible Church of Cabot

The objective is that we might become a people of praise to our God, of care for one another, and of impact where God has placed us...

A local church is a group of people who have joined their gifts together in an understanding that together they are a team working to further the cause of Christ; that each one makes a significant contribution; and that each one is to be valued, cared for, and respected. Christianity is relational; and we are to encourage one another to abide in our relationship with Christ, to love in our relationships with one another, and to bear witness in our relationships with the world. This is achieved as individuals are involved in a large group gathering for celebration of what our Lord has done and for the proclamation of His Word, as well as in a small group of believers for the development of caring and transparent relationships where intimacy and accountability can flourish. This discipleship process is accomplished as a church develops a strategy which evangelizes the curious, establishes the convinced, equips the committed, and encourages the commissioned. The objective is that we might become a people of praise to our God, a people of care for one another, and a people of impact where God has placed us.

Core Values
What Makes Us Distinctive

Foundational

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is our only Head. The church exists to know Him and to make Him known, doing whatever He desires as He builds the church in His wisdom and power.
2. The Bible is the only infallible blueprint for church life. It tells us accurately what we need to believe and how we can follow Christ's directions.
3. The Lord's goals for the church involve the *exaltation* of God, the *edification* of believers and the *evangelization* of the world. As these are kept in balance, God makes Himself known through the church in truth, holiness and love.

Church Activity

4. We must distinguish between *Biblical absolutes* and *human traditions*. We must not treat human traditions as if they were changeless. Where the Bible is silent, the church is to remain flexible and prayerful, evaluating its actions by the goals which God has laid down for the church and by the specific leading of the Holy Spirit for our time and place.
5. The essential activities of the church when gathered are teaching, encouragement, and worship through the Lord's Supper, singing and prayer.
6. The meetings of the church should be characterized by the participation of many prompted by the Holy Spirit. This will result in the church being built up, harmoniously and effectively.
7. The focus of church life will be on smaller rather than larger groups.
8. Church meetings and other activities will be kept at a needed minimum to give time for families, personal growth and personal ministries.

Ministry

9. All believers are ministers (servants and priests) who have been gifted by God so that they may lovingly build up their spiritual brothers and sisters.
10. Evangelism is the daily task of all the believers as God enables them to reach out compassionately to meet the needs of people outside of Christ.
11. The basis of any ministry is faith. It is "by faith" that God's work is accomplished – not by planning, by organization, or by self-effort. Planning and organization have their place, but we must be flexible and easily led by the Holy Spirit.

Ministry (continued)

12. The strongest ministries are team ministries that utilize the principles of discipleship. These principles include life-related Biblical instruction, modeling, personal involvement and multiplication.
13. In order to make disciples and multiply churches, the church is responsible (under the Lord) to superintend the training, recognition and sending (with support, if needed) of whatever Christian workers the Holy Spirit separates for such service from the church.

Leadership

14. As God supplies Biblically qualified leaders, the church will have two or more men who function as pastors (also called elders or overseers). These men will lead the church by unanimous agreement as they discern the will of Christ through study, mutual exhortation and prayer. Other Biblically qualified men may be selected to serve the church as deacons, handling practical responsibilities delegated to them by the elders.
15. The pastoral leaders are to shepherd (feed, care, and lead) the church as well as equip believers for their various God-appointed ministries. They are to function as "player-coaches" who have as their aim the training and engagement in ministry of individual believers.
16. Preaching and teaching responsibilities will not be restricted to any one man, but will be shared by all gifted in these areas. Those elders who rule well, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching, shall be considered worthy of financial support. Such support, if given, will not imply inequality among the elders.

Finances

17. We recognize that the church and its members are stewards (managers) of God's resources. In financial matters, the church is to emphasize the use of resources for the needs of people and the spread of God's work, keeping the orientation away from land and buildings.

Family

18. We recognize that to build a strong church we must build strong families. Growing family relationships are encouraged, with the primary responsibility for spiritual nurturing falling to the family heads. The church should not replace home responsibilities or compete with the home for time and prominence.

Unity and Purity

19. Participation in the membership of the church is by those who give evidence of personal faith in Christ, obedience in baptism and the leadership of the Holy Spirit to this particular church body.
20. The church must have a oneness of mind, heart, spirit and purpose in essential matters of belief and practice. In all major decisions the elders will seek the consensus of the whole church regarding the will of Christ. Serious attention will be given to making sure that the church remains united and pure, with the prayerful application of Scriptural standards concerning church discipline.

Church Membership Covenant

We want to include as a member of us all who have professed faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior, identified with Christ's community through water baptism, and chosen to fellowship with us. By "fellowship with" we mean a recognition that the Christian life is to be lived out in relationships with other believers. Being a member of a church is sharing life with those whom God brings together. The following are some expectations that should be the mindset, the intention of, and the goals pursued by those who are members of The Bible Church of Cabot.

Support of the Christian Lifestyle

- To strive for growth in one's Christian life
- To conduct oneself in daily living so as to honor Christ, walking uprightly in the world as a Christian example and seeking to share the Gospel with others

Support of the People of God

- To cultivate a fellowship of Christian unity, being slow to take offense and quick to seek reconciliation
- To uphold one another in prayer and aid each other during sickness and distress

Support of the Church's Ministry

- To regularly attend the Sunday services of the church and to participate actively in a small group
- To participate cheerfully and regularly in the financial support of the ministry
- To actively engage in ministry service

Support of the Church's Leadership

- To submit to those who have oversight and to the discipline of the church