

# **New Life Community Church**

## **Doctrinal Statement**

### ***Our Beliefs***

#### **The Bible**

We believe Scripture, composed of the 66 books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired work of God. Scripture thus speaks with the authority of God while reflecting the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of its human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts and, when correctly interpreted, are trustworthy and fully truthful in all they teach. They are the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice. (Deuteronomy 27:26 2 Kings 17:13; Psalm 19; Psalm 119; Matt. 5:18; John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

#### **God**

We believe in one living, true and holy God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. God is the creator and preserver of all things. Infinite in being and perfection. By His sovereign power He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes. (Genesis 1:1; 26; Deuteronomy 4:35; 6:4; Psalm 103:19; 104; Isaiah 6:3; 45:5; Matthew 28:19; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:4-14; 1 Peter 1:1-3)

#### **Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He is the eternal second person of the Trinity who was united forever with a true human nature by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to God the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all people by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and securing salvation for all who would trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though now glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended into heaven where He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord of all creation. He will come again to earth, personally and visibly to consummate His sovereign rule and the eternal plan of God. (Isaiah 7:14, 53:5-6; Matthew 1:18-25, 20:28; Luke 24:36-43; John 1:1, 1:14, 3:17, 8:46; Rom. 3:23-26, 5:8, 9:5; Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 Timothy 2:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-16, 13:8; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 1:7, 19:11-18, 22:16)

#### **Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin and regenerate those that would believe. He indwells and illuminates believers while encouraging and equipping them for ministry. His power and control are appropriated by faith leading to spiritual

maturity marked by Christ like character and selfless Christian service. (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 103:30; John 3:5, 14:16-17, 14:26; Acts 5:1-11; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 6:19, 12:13)

### **Humanity**

We believe that human beings (male and female) were created in the image of God in order to bring honor and glory to Him. But through rebellion against the Creator, humans fell from their sinless state into a condition of sin, death and alienation from God. Thus they are unable to please God. The entire race is born into this state of sin and death, sinful both by nature and choice, and, apart from God's saving grace, incapable of entering a relationship with God. Thus all stand in need of God's saving grace. (Genesis 1:26-28, 3:1-9; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 19:26; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18; 3:10, 19, 5:12, 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

### **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is payment for man's sins and new life in Jesus Christ. Because of man's sinful nature he cannot in whole or in part enter into a right relationship with God or earn forgiveness of sins by his own effort. Salvation is accomplished by Christ's efficacious and vicarious death on the cross. By the resurrection of Jesus Christ we have victory over the penalty and power of sin. We are free by the grace and mercy of God to receive salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. Only those who receive this gift are called children of God and receive eternal life in heaven. God's gift of salvation is eternal and cannot be lost. (Isaiah 53:6; Mark 10:45; John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 6:28-29, 10:27-30; Acts 4:12, 16:30, 31; Romans 1:16, 3:21-31, 4:4-5, 6:23, 8:6-8, 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:3, 2:8-10; Colossians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 John 5:13; Revelation 21:3-4)

### **Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification is the process of spiritual growth which begins at the point of salvation. While the standing of the Christian in Christ is perfect, his present state is no more perfect than his experience in daily life. There is therefore a spiritual growth wherein the Christian is conformed daily by the Holy Spirit to the image of Jesus Christ as he grows in love for God and obedience to the Scriptures. Spiritual growth is increasingly demonstrated by the Fruit of the Spirit and by obedience to the will of God due to a love for Him and others. Believers who walk in the Spirit in obedience to Him will receive eternal rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God disciplines believers who disobey Him with temporal consequences and the loss of eternal rewards. (Isaiah 53:4-9; John 1:9-13, 3:16-21, 6:26-65; 11:25-26; Ephesians 2:1-10, 3:16-19; Romans 6:1-22, 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Hebrews 12:4-13)

## **Church**

The church is a spiritual fellowship, created by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, with the risen Christ as Lord. There is one true universal church comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word of God, observance of baptism and communion as the ordinances established by Jesus Christ, fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world. Whenever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command they are the local expression of the universal church. (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:26, 12:13; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:4, 5:25-32, Colossians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Hebrews 10:25)

## **Future Things**

We believe in the personal, premillennial and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the dead will be raised bodily, the believer to eternal life in heaven with God and the unbeliever to eternal punishment apart from God. (Mark 9:43-48; John 5:28-29; 14:2-3; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 15:50-53; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Titus 2:11-13; Revelation 4:10, 11, 20:11-15, 21:1-4, 22:5, 11)

## **Faith and Practice**

Scripture correctly interpreted is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We recognize that the church cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent or unclear. We expect each individual to seek to be obedient to the Spirit's guidance in those areas, for we believe that each Christian is ultimately responsible to and will be held accountable by the Lord himself.

## **Doctrine on which we agree to disagree**

For those doctrines not explicitly outlined above, we allow freedom of belief and the freedom to disagree. However, in keeping with Jesus' desire for His disciples and the pervasive teaching of the New Testament, we greatly prize unity in the church and insist that members do not vigorously promote doctrines not listed above such that they cause dissension and division within the body.