

What We Believe at River Community Church

This statement expresses our core beliefs on matters of Biblical Christian faith and practice. We seek UNITY in primary matters, GRACE in secondary matters, and LOVE in all things.

THE SCRIPTURE

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, authoritative Word of God. Therefore, our ministry emphasizes the exposition of God's Word from Genesis to Revelation, line upon line, precept upon precept. We believe the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be the full record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. Different men, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words, inerrant in the original writings. Therefore, those applying themselves to study its literal, historical-grammatical context can accurately understand God's Word. Scripture is fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

THE TRIUNE GOD

We believe in the one living and true God, eternally existing (*John 17:3*) in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19-20*). Each member of the Godhead, while executing distinct but complementary roles in redemptive history, has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honor and obedience. (*John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4*)

GOD THE FATHER

We believe God the Father created all things in six literal days for His glory according to His own will (*Revelation 4:11*), through His Son, Jesus Christ. He upholds all things by the Word of His power and grace, exercising sovereign headship over all creation, providence, and redemption (*Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3*).

GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, moved by love in accordance with the will of the Father, took on human flesh (*John 1:1, 14, 18*). Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary. He, being fully God and fully man (*John 14:8-9*), lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed His blood and died on the cross in our place accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in Him. He arose visibly and bodily from the dead three days later and ascended into Heaven, where, at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, and will return to earth in power and glory to consummate His redemptive mission (*1 Timothy 3:16*).

GOD THE SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ during this age. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the unredeemed to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new spiritual life to the believer, bringing that person into union with Christ and the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells at salvation, and bestows spiritual gifts to the believer for Christlike living and service. (*John 16:8; 13:15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:22; 4:11-12; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-5, 11-13, 19; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12*)

SALVATION

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as the substitutionary atonement in our place, and that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. Before Creation, God chose those who would be saved and granted this unearned grace solely based on His sovereign good pleasure. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was the sole and complete payment for sins, fully satisfying God's righteous wrath, for each person that turns from sin in repentance and places their faith in Christ alone by grace alone. At salvation each person is made a new creation by the Holy Spirit, declared righteous before God, and secured as an adopted child of God forever. Genuine faith continues in obedience and love for Jesus Christ with a life eager to glorify God and persevere to the end. (*Romans 8:37–39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Cor. 12:13*)

THE CHURCH

We believe that upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Scriptures command believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, the ordinances of baptism and communion, service to the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world to make disciples (*Ephesians 1:22–23; Acts 2:42–46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18–20*). Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the church under the watchful care of a plurality of elders. A church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. (*Ephesians 4:16*)

THINGS TO COME

We believe in and expectantly await the glorious, visible, personal, premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has vital bearing on the personal life, service, and mission of the believer (*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in Hell. The saved will be raised to eternal joy in the new Heaven and new earth in the manifested presence of God. (*Acts 1:3, 9; Hebrews 7:25–26*)

BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

We believe that Christian Baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water. Communion, The Lord's Supper, is the united commemoration by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should be preceded by a careful self-examination. (*Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3–6; 1 Corinthians 11:20–29*)

OUR PURPOSE AS PEOPLE

We believe that God created mankind—male and female—in His own image and likeness, free of sin, to glorify Himself and enjoy His fellowship. We believe it is the aim, duty, and privilege of every believer and local church fellowship to glorify God by responding as active participants in the Great Commission call of Jesus Christ to go and make disciples of all nations. (*Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:14–20*)

Regarding our beliefs, we are in agreement with The Baptist Faith & Message, The Apostle's Creed, and have adapted this statement of beliefs from Harvest Christian Fellowship, Riverside CA. Above all, we rely on God's Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit to Gather, Grow and Go in response to God's Love for us, as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.