



---

## Agape Christian Church Statement of Beliefs

*Below is a statement of our core beliefs and values at Agape Christian Church. These beliefs and values are based on our understanding of Scripture, and this is what we hold to and teach at Agape Christian Church. We also recognize, respect, and welcome those that may have differing views. It is our desire to extend the love of God regardless of differences.*

### God

We believe in one God who exists as three separate persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*Genesis 1:26, Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, John 14:9-20*)

### God the Father

We believe in God the Father, the almighty creator and sustainer of all things visible and invisible. He is sovereign, holy, infinite, eternal, just, and loving. (*Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-3, 1:18, 14:6, Acts 17:24-28, Colossians 1:16, Revelation 4:11*)

### Jesus the Son

We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. He is the incarnation of God. He is both fully human and fully divine. Jesus lived a perfect life, yet he bore all the sin of mankind on the cross, past, present, and future. Three days later he rose from the dead, conquering both sin and death. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father, where He acts as the intercessor and mediator between us and God. One day Jesus will return and those who believe in him will live with him for eternity. (*Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 10:45, Luke 1:34-35, John 1:1-14, 3:16-18, 19-20, Acts 1:9-11, Romans 5:6-8, 1 Corinthians 15, Philippians 2:5-8, Ephesians 1:19-20, Hebrews 4:14-16, Revelation 22:12*)

### The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who dwells within every Christian who professes belief in Jesus. He teaches, sanctifies, equips, and guides the followers of Jesus, and He strengthens believers and gives them spiritual gifts to serve others and further his Kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts the world of sin and calls both believers and unbelievers to himself. (*Acts 1:8, 2:38, John 14:26, 15:26, 16:5-15, 16:8-11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:11, 12:4-11, Titus 3:4-7*)

## **The Bible**

We believe the Bible was written down by men but inspired by the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who wrote it. The Bible is God's revelation about Himself to mankind and the primary means by which God speaks into the lives of his followers. The Bible is living, active, and relevant and every part of it is useful for teaching, correcting, and for training in righteousness. The Bible is the absolute truth of God and is the standard by which all truth should be measured. The Bible alone is the final authority on all matters of faith, truth, and life. (*Proverbs 30:5, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:21*)

## **Mankind**

We believe humanity was created in the likeness and image of God as eternal beings. Each human being is uniquely created by God, who knew us before we were born. Starting with the sin of Adam and Eve, humanity has fallen from a state of righteousness and holiness to a state of sinfulness. We are fallen creatures because of our sin, deserving of God's wrath. All sin separates us from God, regardless of the nature of our sin. We all need redemption and salvation to be brought back into right standing with God. (*Genesis 1:26-30, 5:1-2, Psalm 139:13-14, Isaiah 53:6, Jeremiah 1:5, Mark 16:16, John 3:18, Romans 3:23, 5:12, 6:23*)

## **Salvation**

Because we need salvation and because of his great love for us, God sent his Son Jesus to be sacrificed on the cross and to pay the penalty for our sin and give us eternal life. We believe salvation comes only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, but we must choose to accept the free gift of grace. When we accept the grace of Jesus and put our faith in him, we are seen as righteous in God's sight and by his grace we are given the gift of eternal life. As a response the Bible teaches that we should turn away from our sin to follow Jesus, confess our faith in Jesus as the Son of the living God, and be baptized. The Bible makes it clear that nothing can separate us from the love of God once we have accepted his grace, but it also warns us to guard our faith and endure or stand firm in our faith. Just as a believer must make the choice to accept the grace of Jesus, they also must choose to remain in him and continue to love him. Following Jesus is a lifelong process of striving to grow closer to him. (*Matthew 16:16, 26:28, John 3:18, Acts 2:38, Romans 3:23, 5:1-2, 5:6-11, 6:10, 6:23, 8:10-11, 10:9, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Hebrews 4:15, 9:12, 10:12-14, John 8:31, 10:27-29, 15:1-8, Romans 8:38-39, 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Galatians 5:2-6, Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-27, 1 Timothy 1:18-20*)

## **Baptism**

We believe the grace of Jesus alone is what saves us, but baptism is a vital symbolic act of obedience and faith. The biblical word used to talk about baptism means to immerse in water. We are commanded to be baptized, and Jesus himself was baptized. Baptism connects us with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. When we rise out of the waters of baptism, we are raised to a new life in Jesus as a new creation. Anyone who has professed faith in Jesus Christ should be baptized at his or her conversion or soon after. (*Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:8-9, Colossians 2:12, 3:10, 1 Peter 3:21, 2 Peter 3:9*)

## **The Church**

We believe the Church is the body of Christ on earth. The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus from all people. Christians are called to take part in a local church and to use their spiritual gifts and natural abilities to encourage and build up their fellow Christians, and to participate in the mission of the church. God has called qualified men to serve as elders to shepherd his church. (*Malachi 3:10, Matthew 20:26-28, 28:18-20, John 13:34-35, 17:22-23, Acts 2:14-47, Romans 14:19, 1 Corinthians 12:7-14, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23, Colossians 3:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 5:11, Hebrews 10:24-25, 13:17, 2 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, 2:11-14, 1 Peter 1:15, 5:1-3, 4:10, 2:9, 1 John 4:7, 6, 7*)

## **Communion**

Communion is the Lord's Supper, instituted the night before Jesus was crucified when Jesus shared his last Passover meal with his disciples. Each time we gather to worship, believers in Jesus participate in Communion to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. The elements represent the broken body and spilled blood of Jesus. When believers in Jesus participate in Communion, it is an act of unity, a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice, a proclamation of the death of Jesus, a celebration of his Resurrection and future return, and a time of self-examination and prayer. (*Matthew 26:17-29, 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-29*)

## **Sanctity of Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred because every human being is created in the image and the likeness of God and given life with the breath of God himself. The Bible is clear that all human life is valuable, from conception through death, regardless of their status or any challenges they might face. As Christians, we are called to value and protect all human life just as our Creator does. Because of the value of every human life, all forms of abuse, dehumanization, oppression, or prejudice against any human being is an affront to the image of God that all people bear. (*Genesis 1:27, 2:4-24, Psalm 139*)

## **Biblical Marriage and Sexuality**

We believe the Bible teaches that God established the covenant of marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman. When we follow God's plan for marriage, it is meant to reveal His nature through the life of the family. We believe that God's design for sexual intimacy is meant to be expressed exclusively within the biblical covenant of marriage. (*Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18-25, Matthew 19:3-6, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4*)

***Our purpose in stating these beliefs and values is to be clear about what we believe and teach at Agape Christian Church according to our understanding of Scripture. Some of these doctrines are essential to belief in the Gospel of Jesus. Others are simply what you can expect to experience when you visit or participate in worship at Agape. Our ultimate goal is not to divide, but to share the message of the Gospel and introduce as many as possible to Jesus Christ so they can know His love, grace, and redemption.***