

# Northside Christian

## What We Believe

### God

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and therefore, are one God.

[Genesis 1:1](#), [Genesis 1:26-27](#); [Psalm 90:2](#); [John 1:1-3](#); [John 1:14](#); [Acts 5:3-4](#)

### Jesus

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, yet He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and one day will return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

[John 1:1-5](#); [Matthew 16:16-17](#); [John 3:16](#); [Acts 1:10-11](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#)

### The Holy Spirit

We believe that those who receive Christ also receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit: He marks them as the possession of God, manifests the fruit of righteousness in their character, and endows them with spiritual gifts for ministry. [2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#), [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [1](#)

[Corinthians 12:4-6](#) We believe that a spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and thereby build up the Body of Christ. [1 Peter 4:10](#), [Romans 12:6-8](#), [1 Corinthians 12:7-11](#)

- A. We believe that through the Holy Spirit God supernaturally intervenes in life by healing and other miraculous intervention.
- B. Regarding the miraculous gifts of speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, and the spiritual gift of healing by one's own will: We believe that in New Testament churches which lacked direct apostolic leadership, these specific miraculous gifts were not present because in the New Testament they are only given by the laying on of the Apostles' hands. Therefore, we do not expect to see spiritual gifts such as speech in tongues and healing by one's own will as a normative gift in the church today. [Acts 8:5-8, 14-17](#); [Acts 19:1-7](#)
- C. Since we do not believe these specific "miraculous" gifts are normative in the church today, we ask that those who seek to exercise these specific spiritual gifts (e.g. speaking in tongues) not practice them within our worship services nor promote the exercise of them among our members. [1 Corinthians 13:8-10](#)

## The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content and without any error in its teaching and is “living and active” ever speaking to our present circumstances.

[Hebrews 4:12](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#); [Psalm 119:160](#)

## Humanity

People are the supreme object of God’s creation, created in His image to have a loving relationship with Him. However, we have all chosen to disobey God, rebel against Him and go our own way. The Bible calls this sin. The result of this sin is that we are alienated from God. The effects of this fall from our intended relationship with God can be reversed through faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

[Romans 3:23](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [John 3:16](#)

## Sin and Salvation

We believe that all people are guilty of sin because all people are born with a sinful nature which leads all people to sin. [Jeremiah 17:9](#) and [Romans 3:23](#) We believe the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross is the sole basis of atonement for the sins of mankind. [Isaiah 53:3-6](#), [2 Corinthians 5:21](#) and [Romans 5:8](#) We believe that the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are promised to those who trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. [John 3:16](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) We believe the Bible teaches that the pattern to follow to receive Jesus as Savior is to believe in Jesus as God’s Son and Savior of the world, to repent of personal sin, to confess Jesus as Lord, and to be immersed in baptism. [Mark 16:16](#); [Acts 2:38-39](#), [Romans 6:3-4](#); [Romans 10:9](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#) We believe in the assignment of all people to heaven or to hell at their time of death or at the time of Christ’s return. [Hebrews 9:27](#), [2 Thessalonians 1:8-9](#), [Revelation 20:1](#), [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#)

## Free Will and God’s Sovereignty

We believe that when a person puts his faith in Jesus and is saved, it is through a cooperation of that person’s free choice responding to the work of God upon him. God gives indispensable help in moving a person’s heart to receive Christ, but that does not eliminate God’s sovereign decree that man should be free to exercise moral choice. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe but does not interfere with man’s freedom. Each sinner possesses a free will, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God’s Spirit and be regenerated or reject God’s grace and perish. We believe that a saving relationship with Jesus is based on faith in Jesus apart from any “works” of righteousness or meritorious acts.

[Matthew 23:37-38](#); [John 3:16-20](#); [Romans 1:16-17](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Revelation 22:17](#)

## **Baptism**

The New Testament teaches that when a person puts his faith in Jesus, that process is culminated by immersion in water as a public testimony of that decision. The act of baptism alone cannot save a person, however, it is an essential part of a process. In other words, God intended baptism to be part of how a person puts his faith in Jesus. We aren't making a theological argument about the exact moment that a person is saved. Instead, we teach that after the resurrection of Jesus, there is no concept in the New Testament of an unbaptized believer. We understand that there are people from other traditions who have confessed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, but were baptized as an infant, before they had faith. There are also other believers who confessed their faith in Jesus but were simply never taught the New Testament teaching of baptism. In these cases, we teach people to fulfill the teaching of the New Testament by being baptized (immersed) as a believing adult. We also require all un-baptized believers to be baptized before becoming a member of Northside Christian Church.

[Romans 5:1-2](#), [Luke 24:45-47](#), [Acts 3:19](#), [17:30](#), [2 Peter 3:9](#), [Matthew 10:32](#), [Romans 10:9](#), [Philippians 2:11](#), [1 John 4:15](#), [Acts 2:38](#), [Romans 6:1-7](#), [Galatians 3:27](#), [Colossians 2:12](#) and [1 Peter 3:21](#)

## **Sanctity of Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

[Psalm 139:13-16](#); [Jeremiah 1:5](#); [Isaiah 4:2,24](#)

## **Sanctity of Marriage**

We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union between one man and one woman, and that sexual intimacy is to occur exclusively within that union.

[Genesis 2:24](#), [Jeremiah 29:6](#), [Isaiah 62:5](#), [Leviticus 18:22](#), [Leviticus 20:13](#); [Matthew 19:4-6](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)

## **Gender**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that gender is assigned by God at birth and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual from altering their sexual identity physically or otherwise.

[Genesis 1:27](#), [Deuteronomy 23:1](#)

## The Local Church

We believe that all believers should seek unity with the Church in matters essential to the universal Christian faith and contend for liberty in all matters wherein the Lord has not spoken through His Word. [Ephesians 4:2-6](#) We believe the local church is an autonomous body which cooperates with many Christian agencies but is regulated or dominated by none. [Ephesians 5:23b](#) We believe love is to be shown to all people as the central trait of the Christian faith. [John 13:35](#), [1 Peter 4:8](#) We believe the mission of the church is to reach the spiritually lost for Christ, to teach with the goal of “forming Christ in them” and to mobilize believers to accomplish God’s purposes in the world. [Matthew 28:18-20](#). We believe that the pattern of the New Testament was to observe the Lord’s Supper each week. [Acts 2:42](#) We believe that each believer should give a generous, intentional, regular, proportional gift of his or her income to God, through the local church, as a spiritual discipline. [Malachi 3:10](#), [1 Corinthians 16:2](#), [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)

## Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Northside Christian Church’s faith, doctrine, policy, and discipline, our Pastoral Leadership Team and Elders are Northside Christian Church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application. [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [Ephesians 5:23](#); [Colossians 1:18](#)