



CONNECT
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WHAT IS GLADEVILLE?

What we believe is central to who we are. As a church we hold the historically orthodox teachings of the Bible relative to the central truths of the Christian faith. We are not extreme in any doctrinal orientation and believe that individual followers of Christ have the freedom and capacity to read, understand and interpret the Bible under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, who inspired its writing.

In Essential Beliefs

we believe there should be unity. - Ephesians 4:4-6

In Non-Essentials

we believe there should be liberty. - Romans 14:1,4,12

In All Beliefs

we believe that we must maintain love. - I Corinthians 13:2



WHAT WE BELIEVE...

1. About God - There is one true God who is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities; the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. These are co-equal and are one God. He has progressively revealed Himself to humanity as such since the beginning of time. He is the God of the Old Testament, known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. His essential nature is love and goodness, and as His creation we are the objects of His special love.

Genesis 1:1,26, 27; Matthew 28:19; Psalms 90:2; John 1:3,4:24; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 3:16; I John 4:8,16

2. About Jesus Christ - Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. He was born of a virgin in fulfillment of the Old Testament's teaching, lived a sinless life and died on a cross giving Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all peoples. He rose from the dead after three days demonstrating God's power and His victory over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven, where He intercedes for those who, through personal trust, have received Him as the Savior and follow Him as Lord. He will return to earth to reign above all other earthly or spiritual powers.

Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-15; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; I Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

3. About the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God, Jesus. He was sent into the world as the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to His followers that they would never be alone. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He has given every believer one or more spiritual gifts through which we can serve God in and through the Body of Christ, the Church. As Christians, we seek to live under His control each day.

John 14:15-18, 26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

4. About the Bible - The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is absolutely true and the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20; 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalms 119:105; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. About Human Beings - Humanity began as a creative act of God. We are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creation and love. While every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God, causes many problems in life, and ultimately causes a person to be finally and completely separated from God forever.

Genesis 1:26-31; Romans 3:23-25; 5:12-18; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 43:6a; Isaiah 59:1,2

6. About Salvation -

Salvation is the experience and process through which we are brought into a right relationship with God which had been broken through our personal rebellion or sin. It is a free gift from God, given to anyone who accepts Jesus Christ, God's sacrifice for us. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ can anyone be saved from the penalty of sin.

When we turn from our self-ruled life, believing in Jesus Christ, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment we receive Christ into our lives. We are made right with God "justified," the moment we receive Christ.

Romans 6:23; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9, John 14:6; 1:12

Salvation begins the process through which we become like Christ. This is called "sanctification." Through this process of growth and spiritual development we are conformed to the image of Christ.

I John 3:1-2; Romans 12:1-2; 8:29

7. About Eternal Security -

Once we have received Christ, we belong to God. Because of that, we are secure in that relationship for eternity. A genuinely saved person cannot "lose" it. Our salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by our self-effort. It is the grace and power of God which protects our salvation.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; I Peter 1:3-5

8. About Eternity/ the Afterlife -

People were created to last forever. They are a special creation sharing in the "image" or qualities of their creator. We will exist in eternity either separated from God by sin; or with God through the forgiveness and salvation He Himself gives us through Jesus Christ. The two destinies for our existence are called Hell and Heaven. They are real places in which human beings will live out an eternal existence.

John 3:16-21; 14:17; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; I Corinthians 2:7-9

9. Baptism -

(spiritual) - Every person who receives Jesus Christ is baptized (immersed) in the Holy Spirit at the moment they believe. Through this spiritual baptism we are joined with all other believers of every age, race, time, and culture to form the universal, invisible body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:12)

(physical) - Every person who receives Jesus Christ is called up to be baptized (immersed) in water as a symbol of their death and burial to the old life they were living and the resurrection to the new life they would live in Christ. Through physical baptism a person publicly professes he is a believer in Christ and has been saved. Baptism does not bring salvation, but announces that a person has been saved.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:22-41; 8:36-40; 10:47-48; 18:8
Romans 6:3-4

10. The Lords Supper -

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic sharing of the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples. It is a time in which we are called upon to "remember" the sacrifice Jesus gave to make it possible for us to be forgiven for our sin and become children of God forever. It is symbolic only, and neither brings nor adds to our salvation.

Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:14-20; I Corinthians 1:23-32



OUR LIFESTYLE



What we Practice and Encourage in the Christian Life

BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY:

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:15

Because we believe in the authority of the Bible we follow its teachings. When faced with a church or personal decision we first ask, "What does the Bible say?" If there is no clear, specific Bible passage(s) on a particular subject, we seek to find in the Bible the principles, practices, and other relevant materials which address the subject. Because of the importance of the Bible for our church and personal lives, we teach the Bible, study the Bible, and learn the Bible. It is the basis for all we believe and do.

AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH:

"Christ is head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life..." Col. 1:18

Christ is the recognized and honored head of our church, not any one person, group, or other religious organization. While we are affiliated with other Southern Baptists and cooperate with other religious bodies, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any outside control.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER:

"Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God". Rev. 1:6

"You are...the King's priests...God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderfully acts of God." 1 Peter 2:9

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full-time" Christian service, regardless of his or her other life vocation. We practice this truth by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible study.



IMMERSION BAPTISM:

"...when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Acts 8:35-39; Romans 6:4-6; Colossians 2:12

We teach and practice baptism by immersion for everyone who is saved. This is the way Jesus was baptized, the way the New Testament Church baptized, and the way the Bible teaches it.

TITHING:

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord, it is holy to the Lord." Lev. 26:30; Matthew 23:23; Matthew 5:17

We practice and promote tithing as the beginning point for Christian giving. We believe it is the minimum recognition of God's ownership over our lives called for in the Bible. It is THE Biblical standard. We believe that the right answer to the question: "What should I give?" is not "How little is demanded," but "How much does love call for?" Through it we provide for the support and expansion of God's work through the church.

SPIRITUAL LIVING:

Jesus said: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is as a result of Christ's presence and power in our lives. So we practice and promote the daily presence of the Holy Spirit, Christ's presence in us, to do what is right. Phil. 2:13; Eph. 5:18

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS, WITNESSING:

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

We believe it is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to share their story of God's love to them, and to help other people come to a personal faith in Christ. We promote personal sharing and inviting other people to church to learn of Christ.

PERSONAL LIFESTYLE AND SOCIAL ISSUES STATEMENT



Marriage, Family:

"And God said, Let us make them in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over everything created... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and said, Be fruitful, and multiple, and fill the earth and subdue it; ...and God saw every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good..."
Genesis 1:26-28



We believe that marriage and the family are God's design for humanity. His creation of the complimentary sexes capable of fulfilling each other's needs and producing off-spring was declared "very good" in His eyes. We are uniquely and specifically made to carry out and complete His creative process. Confusion over this issue and practices different from God's "original design" are distortions of His creation by spiritual forces and human actions. They mis-shape and interfere with His plan. They fall outside of God's declaration of "very good." As such they become that which is not good, that which is sin.

Divorce - the legal dissolution of marriage:

"...He who made them (man and woman) in the beginning, made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife, so that which was two becomes one. What God joined together...should not be torn apart. But, because of the hardness of your heart, Moses permitted you to put away your wife...but from the beginning it was not so."



We believe it is God's design for a man and woman to be married for a lifetime. Though a human concession was made in God's law for a legal dissolution of the contract of marriage, the real nature of marriage as a covenant, is a different matter. We do not encourage divorce because we do not believe it is God's best plan for men and women and their children. But we do not view it as a sin different from any other by which persons break God's law, or violate His will. Divorce is a great

personal and family tragedy in which we find people, and through which we walk with them. We love and accept persons where they are, that's grace, and we love people in and through their pain, that's mercy, but we do not take lightly too quick or frequent divorces, that's permissiveness.

Abortion - the destruction of life:

"Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13

Abortion is more than a medical procedure, it is a moral and spiritual decision. We believe that abortion as a solution to unwanted pregnancy or as an exercise in selection of a child's characteristics etc. is an insult to the gift of life and to the Giver of life, God, who specifically required that "You shall not kill (murder)." Medically, the decision may include such considerations as the threat to the survival of the mother, or the viability of the infant to be brought to full term. But even then, the willingness to take the path of abortion may prove to be ill-advised in light of the longer term spiritual and emotional consequences in the mother's or family's life. We encourage positive choices for the life of the child including placement of a living child and its adoption rather than its destruction.

The past is the past:

"...put off the former life, which is corrupted and deceived... and be renewed in the way you think and the attitude you have, and put on the new man...which God created to be right and separated to Him.:Ephesians 4:20-24; I Corinthians 6:9-11

We believe what we were before we became Christians should be put behind us, taken off, like an old coat. What we were is not as important as what we are and will be. Dwelling on our or other's past ignores the transformation of our lives promised and possible through faith in Christ. Stepping back into it, thinking about it, much less living the way we used to live, is no longer an option.