

AJCC statement of belief

1. The Bible

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible are God's revelation to people, written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that the Scriptures are without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is our complete and final authority for Christian faith and practice. We also believe that the Bible should be read and understood in terms of its plain meaning in context, taking note of literary, grammatical, historical and cultural features. We also believe it is important to apply what we have learned from the Bible to our lives. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Tim. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:15)

2. The Trinity

We believe in one God, existing eternally in three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are co-equal in deity and glory. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:18-19; 2 Cor. 13:14)

3. The Father

We believe that the Father is the Creator of the world. He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and all those who believe in Christ and who are adopted as His children. (Gen. 1:1-2:3; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 4:4-7)

4. Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, the only Son of God. He lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as the perfect and complete sacrifice for sin by dying on a cross. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended to heaven. We look forward to Him returning to reign. (Jn. 1:1-14; 8:58; 10:30; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-19; 2:9; Matt. 1:18-25; Heb. 10:12-14; Mk. 16:1-6; Heb. 4:14-15)

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God, co-equal in deity and personhood with God the Father and God the Son. He convicts people of their sin and need for Jesus Christ, and performs the miracle of the new birth at conversion. At that moment, He permanently indwells each new Christian. He provides us with power for godly living, progressively transforming us to become more like Jesus. (Acts 5:3-4; Jn. 16:7-11; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Rom. 8:9-17; Gal. 5:16-26; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 12:11-13)

6. Humanity

We believe that human is unique in creation, possessing a special dignity, being made in the image of God. However, Adam sinned and passed on that sinful nature to the human race, so that everyone is alienated from God and under His judgement. Apart from believing in Jesus for salvation, human beings are lost eternally. (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-7; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:9-20; Eph. 2:1-3)

7. Salvation

We believe that salvation is not achieved by human effort or good works, because there is nothing that sinners can do to get themselves right with God. Only by responding to His gracious call, through acknowledging our sin and trusting in Jesus Christ alone can we be forgiven for our sins and made right with God. Once a person has trusted in Christ as their sin-bearer, they can never lose their salvation because it is based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, rather than anything that person has done or will do (Eph.1:7-8; 2:4-9; Gal. 2:15-16; Rom. 3:21-26; 10:9; 8:1-39).

8. The Church

We believe that the Church is the family of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Spirit, and is made up of all those who have believed in Jesus Christ. Local churches are the visible expression of Christ' s Body here on earth and are led by elders who serve under the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. The Church exists to glorify God through worshipping Him, praying to Him, teaching His Word, serving and fellowshiping together, and sharing the gospel of salvation with the world. The Church celebrates the ordinances of baptism and communion until Christ returns. (1 Tim. 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5; Acts 20:17-35; 2:42; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)