

What Our Church Believes:

The statements that follow form the essence of the beliefs of the people of God who meet together at Mayfair Church of Christ. They reflect our essential beliefs in the nature of our God and His relationship with His people and His creation. These beliefs shape us as we seek to follow Jesus into the world for the glory of God and the redemption of His people. This is not an exhaustive list but represents the core principles upon which our faith and lives are built. We believe these things because the Word of God holds them to be true.

We believe in the one Creator God, eternally existing in community in three distinct persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving and unchanging. He is the creator of all things in heaven and on earth. We were created to bear the image of God and to love Him with all our heart, mind, and spirit.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God - fully God and fully human. He was with God in the beginning and continues to be with him through eternity. He took human form and was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, was crucified for our sins, was raised from the dead on the third day, appeared to His disciples, ascended to heaven, and will return again in all power and for His glory. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and salvation can be found in no other name.

We believe the Holy Spirit dwells within every disciple of Jesus in order to counsel, equip, empower, guide, and transform each believer into the likeness of

Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives the people of God spiritual gifts to build up the church for its participation in the mission of God in the world.

We believe that salvation is the gift of God that demonstrates His incredible grace and mercy toward humanity. All creation is broken and marred by the effects of sin and in need of God's reconciling initiative. In response to God's saving work through Jesus Christ, we profess our belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, we repent, and we follow Jesus' command by being buried in the waters of baptism and raised as new, forgiven creations gifted with the Holy Spirit of God. In salvation, God frees us from the sins of our past, liberates us to participate in His mission in the present, and gives us hope for an eternal future. It is His desire that all people will believe in Him and that no one will be lost.

We believe the Word of God is authoritative for followers of Jesus. The living Word is mediated to us through the inspired and infallible words of the Bible, words that do not return to God empty but powerfully accomplish His divine purposes. In the Bible, which is the exclusive means of God's verbal communication to man, He reveals His will for humanity and shows us how to live in a holy and blameless manner before Him.

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ with Jesus as its head. The Church is a community of His followers, called by God in baptism, who have been uniquely empowered by the Spirit to embody God's mission of reconciliation and restoration for the world. The Church of Jesus Christ exists as a place of restoration.

We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to be His disciples. As His followers, God empowers us to live, in community with all who follow Jesus, a transformed life of holiness and compassion that reflects the love and life of Christ.

We believe that our God is a missional God and, as disciples of Jesus, we are called to be active participants in His purpose, which is the redemption and reconciliation of all mankind. We are sent into the world as Jesus was sent and by his command to announce and call others into the kingdom of God. We believe that by serving and loving our neighbor and by being a people of compassion we are able to actively participate in the mission of God. We purpose to use our gifts and talents in ways that bring God glory and further his mission in His world.

We believe that all human life bears the image of God and is therefore sacred and valued by God from the time of conception through natural death. We believe further in the intentional, God-created human forms of male and female. The Mayfair Church seeks to honor the pattern of male spiritual leadership as demonstrated in the Scriptures, while also affirming the essential and unique service and ministry of all member: male and female, young and old, of all races and backgrounds. The church therefore must be a place that loves and values all human life as God does.

We believe that by communing together weekly at the Table in the observation of the Lord's Supper we both remember and participate in the life-giving death of Jesus Christ and anticipate the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness at the end of time.

We believe that God is worthy of our individual and communal worship. The men of our church community lead the corporate worship in our assemblies. We worship God with a capella music. Foundational to our time together in worship is a period of teaching from God's word, congregational prayer, mutual encouragement, and an opportunity to participate in the work of the church by freely and gratefully offering of our resources and talents.

We believe that God calls leaders to prepare and equip the members of the body for spiritual maturity and service to Him. God has called men of the church to serve the body as shepherds to provide oversight, leadership, and pastoral care for the church. The Mayfair shepherds oversee our church on matters of faith, doctrine, and practice. Ministers, deacons, and teachers also serve and lead our church in various and important ways under the spiritual oversight of the elders of the congregation.

We believe that prayer draws us closer to God and to each other as it connects us to His will for our lives. Therefore, we seek to be a people of prayer.

We believe that marriage is a divine institution and was created by God as a life-long covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and God, and we recognize no other marriage relationships.

We believe the story of God's interaction with mankind ends in everlasting glory, imbues us with hope, and informs our every thought, word, and action. We are a people who choose to live daily in His story according to His will and by His grace.

1. *Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Luke 10: 21; John 10:30; 1 Peter 1:2*
2. *John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:1; Isa 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; Luke 24:6; Acts 1:9; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 15:13; 1 Peter 4:5*
3. *II Cor. 3:17, John 14, John 16, Acts 2:38, Romans 8, Galatians 5*
4. *Mark 16:16; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 8: 9-19, 10:9; John 1: 29-34, 3:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:1-12*
5. *John 8:32; Romans 12:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:23-25; Isaiah 55:10-11*
6. *1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Acts 2; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:27*
7. *James 2:18; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:11, 4:3; 2 Timothy 2:21*
8. *Psalms 139:13-18; Genesis 1:27*
9. *Matthew 26:25-27; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:14-20*
10. *John 4:19-24; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16*
11. *Ephesians 1:22, 4:11; Acts 14:23, 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:5-9; Philippians 4:4-7*
12. *Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24; Acts 5:29; Romans 1:18-27, 5:6-8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Colossians 3:5-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8*