

Repentance and Forgiveness

We believe God created us to be in relationship with Himself. However, because of our sin, we were eternally separated from Him and condemned to death and hell. But God loved us and redeemed us through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. When we come to the end of our own effort to save ourselves and we realize our brokenness and need, then we can enter into relationship with God. We enter this relationship by receiving the gift of His forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Deliverance and Cleansing

We believe the devil and his demons exist and our sinful choices give them access to our lives. Entering into the new life of Christ means we choose to forsake and renounce the sinful, evil, and idolatrous life patterns in which we have engaged. God, through the blood of Christ, delivers us and cleanses us from sin and evil, both inside and out. We must daily choose to walk in the life and pattern of Christ rather than in our own strength and desires.

Baptism

We believe baptism is an important and vital step in the formation of Christ in us. Jesus was baptized and commanded all who believe in Him to be baptized. Baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ, practiced by individuals who are fully devoted followers. In the New Testament, when a person believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he or she was baptized.

It is a public profession of our faith that signifies our union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and our fellowship with His church. "So through baptism, we are buried with Him in death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, so we too should live an entirely new life" (Romans 6:4).

Communion

We believe God is present with us in the celebration of communion which we partake in of obedience to the command of Jesus. We believe the elements of bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Christ who is the final and complete sacrifice for our sins. In some mysterious way, God's life is received by us when we receive communion in faith and God's life is shared among us as we partake together. We invite all people who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to share in this Table with us. We believe communion is more than a cognitive remembering of what is symbolized; we believe by receiving the symbols in faith, we are entering into the realities the symbols represent.

Infilling by the Holy Spirit

We believe God comes to live in us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. In this way God is present with us individually, and, even more powerfully, when we gather together. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit and we continually ask Him to fill (immerse or baptize) us with His fullness, His power, and His love. Through the Holy Spirit we receive healing, power, comfort and all we need to live Christ-like in this world. As we cooperate with His work in our lives, we are continually transformed from the inside out into the image of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to each of us as he determines for the purpose of helping one another and introducing the lost to Christ. When we minister to each other, we anoint one another with oil as a symbol of the work and power of the Holy Spirit.

Inspired Word

We believe we grow in our relationship with God through dialogue with Him. God speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible. We take the preaching and teaching of God's Word very seriously because through them we experience His presence and hear His voice. We have found that as we receive and respond to God's voice in the preaching and teaching of God's Word, the realities that are being preached and taught are recreated in us individually and corporately. We believe prayerful study and meditation on the Word of God are necessary for spiritual growth. Though our interpretation of God's Word is subject to error, the Bible remains our most clear and objective means of hearing the voice of God.

Spirit-Led Worship

We believe we have been created to worship God and enjoy Him forever. Worship is our response to God's initiating love. It is a means of embracing the presence of God and expressing our gratitude for His love, our awe of His beauty and faithfulness, and our desire to know Him more. Through worship we touch God and are touched by Him. Forgetting ourselves and looking only at Him, we are filled with His love.

Listening Prayer

We believe God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways: sometimes through prayer, inner prompting, dreams, visions, or words; sometimes through other believers; sometimes through the orchestration of circumstance; sometimes through nature. All of these things can be used by God to speak to us, but they are subject to the influences of human desire and supernatural evil. Therefore, we believe that as we listen for the voice of God, we must test what we hear; it must be confirmed by the Word of God and the community of faith.

Spiritual Disciplines

We believe the spiritual disciplines (such as giving, fasting, fellowship, silence, and solitude) facilitate our ability to hear and respond to God's voice. They are not means of salvation or of earning God's love. When we respond to His love for us in worship, prayer, repentance, and grateful obedience, we are changed from the inside out and we come to love him more deeply.

Christian Character

We believe that a believer in Jesus Christ, who perseveres in following the will of God and engages in the Spiritual Disciplines, will develop Christian Character and the fruits of the Spirit. As we live our lives in holy community we will remain mindful that all are in process and have different journeys. We value authenticity and brokenness above performance, but acknowledge the exercise of the will is necessary for growth.

A Holy Grace-Filled Community

We believe loving relationships with other believers are necessary for spiritual wholeness and maturity. As children of God, we are called to model Christ, not only as individuals, but also as a community of believers. We desire to create a community where God's grace is pervasive and preserve it by holy living. We make every effort to extend compassion and acceptance without tolerance of sin. Women and men, in the partnership of mutual submission, are called to model the full nature and character of God in the leadership of their families and the church community. We expect every believer to live his or her life in spiritual, sexual and emotional purity. We encourage and expect open, honest, loving, and direct communication.

We Are Called and Gifted

We believe, as members of the community of faith, every family and every person is called, gifted, and equipped by God to serve. We acknowledge God's total ownership of our money, time, and gifts. Our calling is to partner with God through the stewardship of these resources for the purpose of building His kingdom.

We Are Not Alone

We believe Church of the Open Door is a local expression of the larger community of Christian faith. Just as individuals need the church community, so Open Door needs the gifts, correction, and wisdom of the larger community. We believe God is working through other congregations of believers, and He has and will continue to minister to us through them. We are called by God, as individuals and as a church community, to minister to and provide resources for others outside of our own congregation.

We Can Change the World

We believe we are called as a church, and as members of the Body of Christ, to bring the message of grace and demonstrate the love of Christ to those around the world who don't know Him personally. Following the example of Christ, we seek to minister to the evident needs of the individual as a means of reaching the whole person for Christ.