

OUR BELIEFS AND VAULES

Tate Kandi

Every church is unique because of its heritage, spiritual belief system and focus. Even as the Children of Israel in biblical times were all one people of God and yet had distinct tribes, so it is with the Body of Christ today. In biological terms, the human race includes everyone. However, within mankind there are families of people who have a common genetic history and thus a certain biological compatibility. When someone joins our church, they join a spiritual family with a DNA code that is vital to its ability to fulfil the purpose of our church.

Why we need to know what we believe

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... (1 Peter 3:15b NIV)

'In the Bible, God gives us principles to live by that shine light on our daily walk. If we are following Christ, the lines we draw must be in harmony with these principles and these lines will govern our daily activities.' – *Dick Iverson*

- 1. Biblical mandates:** Clear commands from the Bible separate sinful behaviour from righteous behaviour in specific circumstances.
- 2. Personal convictions:** God deals sovereignly with each believer to establish personal disciplines in individual lives.
- 3. Community standards:** Desirable behaviour within groups is defined by community. Group leaders set the standards for the group's conduct. Standards establish a foundation for relationships between community members and enable a community to govern itself.

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. (Colossians 2:8 NLT)

Core beliefs

1. The Trinity: God exists eternally as Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit – three distinct persons in one.

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist... (1 Corinthians 8:6a ESV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV)

God is infinitely greater than we are; therefore, we should not expect to be able to fully understand Him. Our inability to understand, however, does not mean the doctrine of the Trinity is untrue or unbiblical.

2. The Bible: The Bible is God's fully inspired Word for us. It is true, accurate, applicable and the highest authority in our lives.

A collection of 66 books concerning the purposes of God for mankind. Written over 1500 years by 35 authors and split into 2 sections.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1 NIV)

The Bible claims to be God's Word throughout (2 Timothy 3:16). When we read of descriptions of times, events and people, we often find these same things in extra-biblical history. Believers can testify to the transforming power of the Word which is not limited to gender, ethnicity, geography or even time. There is a single, coherent theme throughout about the glory of God being paramount. Jesus believed the Bible was divinely inspired (Matt. 4:2), authoritative (John 10:34-36); powerful (John 17:17); historically accurate and about Him (Luke 24:25-27).

3. Sin: All people are born sinners and can't be made right with God through their own efforts.

Hamartánō (Greek): to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize), to do any act contrary to the will and law of God.

Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. (1 John 3:4 NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23 NLT)

4. Jesus: Jesus – fully God and fully human – (Col. 2:9) died for our sins, rose again and will return for His Church. We are saved only by grace through repentance and faith in Jesus.

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12 NLT)

The problem faced by humanity is sin and its consequences. The penalty of sin cannot be avoided, nor can it be removed, someone has to pay. On the cross, God is both the just and the justifier (Rom. 3:26).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 ESV)

5. Believers: Believers are called to live holy lives, set apart from the values of the world. They should be baptised in water by full immersion as an act of obedience.

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16 NLT)

So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16 NLT)

6. The Holy Spirit: Believers can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, who continues to give spiritual gifts (such as healing, prophecy and tongues) which are still active today.

He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. (1 Corinthians 12:10-12 NLT)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23 ESV)

7. Eternity: Eternity is real. Believers will live forever with God, while those who reject Him face eternal separation.

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. (John 5:24 NLT)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (Gal. 6:7-8 NIV)

Values

1. **Unity:** We value unity of purpose and spirit, working together with shared values. (Eph. 4:1-16, 1 Cor. 1:10)
2. **Integrity:** Integrity matters deeply to us, reflected in honesty, trustworthiness, and transparency. (2 Corinthians 8:21, Proverbs 10:9)
3. **Holiness:** Holiness is the result of heart transformation by the Holy Spirit, shown through godly character and conduct. (Hebrews 12:14, Leviticus 20:26)
4. **Excellence:** We strive to offer God our best, maintaining high standards in all areas of our lives. (Proverbs 22:29, Colossians 3:23)
5. **Culture:** We aim to influence every area of life with God's Kingdom values. (Matthew 6:33, Romans 14:17)
6. **Family:** We are committed to building and supporting strong families. (Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 22:6, 1 Peter 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 5:8)

Essentials

1. **Worship:** Honouring God with our lives and praise.
2. **Word:** Rooting ourselves in the truth of the Bible.
3. **Prayer:** Staying connected in conversation with God.
4. **Fellowship:** Walking in community with one another.
5. **Holy Spirit:** Living empowered and led by the Spirit.

Conclusion

'Christians hold a wide range of views on music, movies, dress, social drinking, gambling, dancing, money, child discipline, and education. Everyone in the church has a different opinion and some opinions are quite rigid. Left unchecked, controversy will kill unity in the church and will lead to severe conflict.' – Dick Iverson

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. (1 Cor. 1:10 NLT)

Bibliography:

Partnership Guide – Chip Kawalsingh
Why I Trust The Bible – William D. Mounce
Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words – William D. Mounce
Truths That Build – Dick Iverson
thegospelcoalition.org
gotquestions.org
logos.com