## What We Believe

Christian Church is an Independent Christian Church that is part of the Restoration Movement. The heart of this movement is a call within the church pleading for the unity of all God's people by restoring the simple original terms of Christian Fellowship.

It is easy to see the heart and desire for unity by looking at some of the early sayings of the movement. Where the Bible Speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent. In essentials unity, in opinion diversity, in all things love. Christians only, but not the only Christians. No book but the Bible, no name but that of Christ.

"that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. (John 17:21-22)"

We believe the following essential core principles/statements:

**God** is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. Biblical References: Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to claim His own and take them to Heaven. Biblical References: Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22, 23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3,4; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; I Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14, 15

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. 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, guidance in doing what is right, and is our intercessor. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. Biblical References: John 14:16, 16:7-14, 17; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26-27; I Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:16-17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 5:18

**The Bible** is God's Word to us. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is God-inspired, it is the truth without any mixture or error. No book but the Bible, no name but that of Christ. Biblical References: Psalms 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:15-16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

The Priesthood of Every Believer: The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full-time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading. We believe people are called to witness and to minister. Biblical Reference: Revelation 1:6a; 1 Peter 2:9

**People** are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. Although 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 and causes many problems in life. Biblical References: Genesis 1:27; Psalms 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23

**Eternity:** People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. Biblical References: John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-; Revelation 20:15

## Our Mission

## Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

2 Commandments, 1 Commission: Jesus summed up the entire Law and Prophets in a two part commandment

"And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)

**Love God:** Jesus tells us to Love God with everything that we have. At Christian Church, we strive to help people fall more passionately in love with God. We try our best to teach the bible clearly and encourage people to spend time in the word of God and in prayer. In order to be more in love with someone, you must cultivate that relationship. The same is true with God.

**Love People:** Loving others should be a natural result of our understanding of God's love for us and evidence of our love for Him. If we don't go love others, we don't truly love God because He is love. The death burial and resurrection of Jesus is a clear demonstration of God's love for us.

Jesus gave His disciples a mission to accomplish.

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

**Make Disciples:** Disciples are simply people who follow Jesus and trust in Him for their salvation. Jesus tells ALL of His followers to go help people know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We are sent on a mission to share the good news of God's love and help people trust in Jesus for their salvation, to help people learn to love God and love people.