



**CANOE CREEK
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

THEOLOGICALLY ESSENTIAL

These are doctrinal beliefs that we will not negotiate. We believe they are essential to knowing God and Jesus which is linked with eternal life according to John 17:3.

THE BIBLE: The Bible is the living Word of God, written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate source of truth, infallible, inerrant, and complete. Where it speaks, we listen and obey, trusting God's wisdom above our own. Through His Word, we come to know Him and align our lives with His purpose and truth. (Psalm 12:6; 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Romans 10:17)

GOD (The Father): From the beginning God says let "us". We go on to learn that God is The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit—three distinct persons, yet one perfect and coequal God who is the Creator and Ruler of all. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

JESUS: Jesus Christ is the only Son of God, coequal with the Father. Born of a virgin, He lived a sinless life and became the perfect sacrifice for our sins through His death on the cross. He was resurrected, triumphing over sin and death, and ascended to Heaven. Through His Spirit, He promises to be with us, as we eagerly await His return to bring His people to eternal glory. (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15; Colossians 2:9)

THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is a personal and powerful presence, coequal with the Father and the Son. He moves in the world through the Word, opening our hearts to the reality of sin and our need for salvation. Within every believer, He dwells to guide, comfort, convict, and affirm the promise of eternal life. As Christians, we seek to live each day fully surrendered to His transforming power and leading. (John 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18)

HUMANITY: People are created in God's image, designed to reflect His character and fulfill great potential for good. While sin and disobedience have affected humanity, God offers redemption through Jesus Christ. As we strive for holiness, we rely on His grace to overcome our inevitable shortcomings. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23)

SALVATION: Sin has separated us from God, but through faith in Jesus and turning from our self-focused lives, we can be saved. Salvation is a gift of grace, received through faith in the gospel revealed in God's Word. (Romans 10:17). This faith transforms us and is evident in our desire to be identified with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is seen in our desire for repentance, confession, baptism

by immersion, and a life fully committed to serving Him. (John 1:12; 14:6; Romans 5:1; 6:3,4-6, 12-13, 23; Colossians 1:13, 23; 2:6-12; 3:1-4; Galatians 2:20; 3:26; 5:1,24,25; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

DISCIPLESHIP: To be "in Christ" is to live like Christ—this is essential. A Christian is a disciple, intentionally spending time with Jesus to be restored, transformed, and equipped for His mission. This growth, called "Sanctification," is vital to each disciples growth . We are all called to nurture the presence of God's Spirit, steward generously all he has given to us, produce spiritual "fruit", grow in faith, and support one another. (Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 6:1-8; Matthew 3:8; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Matthew 5:13-16.)

THEOLOGICALLY & CULTURALLY IMPORTANT

The following items are not intended as a test of fellowship. We prioritize unity in essential matters and grant freedom in areas of personal conviction, choosing harmony over division. We don't have to be identical twins to be brothers or sisters in Christ.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: God has designed the local church as a living body with Christ as its head, and empowers each believer to be salt and light in the world. Spiritual gifts are given to glorify God and advance the mission of the church to make disciples and impact the world with God's truth and grace. (1 Corinthians 12:17-30;14, Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:6-8)

THE RETURN OF JESUS (The End Times): We believe in the literal return of Christ, a time when all will give an account for their lives before Him. While the timing and details are known only to God, we trust in His perfect plan. His truth unites us, and should inspire hope, not division, within the church. (Matthew 12:36; John 5:22; 16:8; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:7)

ETERNITY: People have the choice to experience eternal life with God through forgiveness and salvation, or to be separated from Him by sin. Eternal life in Heaven is a promise of joy and peace with God, while separation in Hell is the result of rejecting a relationship with Him. Heaven and Hell are real, eternal destinations, and through Christ, we are offered the gift of eternal life. (John 3:16, Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelation 20:15)

THE LEADERSHIP MODEL OF THE CHURCH: Canoe Creek Christian Church is an independent, non-denominational congregation. While we value cooperation with other Christian groups, we believe the local church should be led by elders appointed according to Scripture, with others serving under their guidance and authority. (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 5:17).

COMMUNION: Communion is a sacred event for those who have a vital, biblical relationship with Jesus. We take communion every week in our services encouraging disciples who desire an intimate relationship with Jesus to participate. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

STEWARDSHIP: From the beginning God gave stewardship to men and women. We are called to make an account for all the things we are entrusted with. The gospel has show us and is teaching us a way of generosity. For God so loved the world that He gave. If the love of God is growing in us we are people taking good care of what we have received as we learn to generously give it away. (Matthew 23:23, John 3:16, Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 9:7)

QUICK GLANCE

Theologically Essential

THE BIBLE: The Bible is God’s living and authoritative Word, guiding us in truth and obedience.

GOD (The Father): God is the Creator and Ruler of all, existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God in three persons.

JESUS: Jesus, God’s Son, lived sinlessly, died for our sins, rose again, and will return for His people.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit convicts, guides, comforts, and empowers believers to live for Christ.

HUMANITY: Created in God’s image, we are separated by sin but redeemed through Jesus Christ.

SALVATION: Salvation is God’s gift of grace, received through faith, repentance, and a transformed life in Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP: Following Christ means growing in faith, living in holiness, and reflecting His love daily.

Theologically and Culturally Important

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: God equips every believer with gifts to serve the church and glorify Him in unity.

THE RETURN OF JESUS: Jesus will return to judge the world, bringing hope and fulfillment of God’s plan.

ETERNITY: Eternal life with God or separation from Him depends on our response to Christ’s salvation.

LEADERSHIP MODEL: CCCC is an independent church led by biblically qualified elders.

COMMUNION: We take weekly communion to remember Christ’s sacrifice and deepen our relationship with Him.

STEWARDSHIP: God calls us to wisely manage His gifts and live generously, reflecting His love.

The section below is to be used by those serving in vital teaching and leadership roles.

I _____ acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to uphold these doctrinal statements as they have been written. I will do all in my power to protect the unity of the Spirit at Canoe Creek Christian Church by following the restoration motto of having unity in essential biblical truths, allowing liberty in matters of scriptural opinion, and show love in the discussion of all things.

Sign _____ Date _____