

New Life Bible Fellowship | What We Believe

Who is God?

We believe that there is one God who is Triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:1-4; 17:3, 1 Peter 1:2

There is **one God** who eternally exists in perfect unity as **three Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**. Each has distinct and complementary roles in creation and redemption. Each person of the Trinity has the same nature, attributes, and being. As such, each is worthy of the same glory, honor, and obedience.

We believe that the Father is God.

Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3

God the Father upholds all things by the Word of His power and grace. He exercises sovereign headship over all creation and redemption. He created all things through the Son in **six days** and **rested on the seventh day**. Everything exists for His glory and according to His will.

We believe that the Son is God.

John 1:1, 14, 18; 1 Timothy 3:16

God the Son, moved by the very love and will of the Father, **became human; Jesus Christ**. Conceived by the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary. He is **fully and truly God and fully and truly human**. He accomplished redemption for all who place their faith in Him by surrendering His sinless life to **death on the cross**. Three days later, He **rose visibly and bodily** from among the dead. He **ascended into heaven**. At the Father's right hand, He reigns as the Head of His Body, the Church, and intercedes for her. **He is the only Savior and Mediator between God and mankind. He will return** to earth in power and glory to consummate His redemptive mission.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God.

John 16:8; 13:15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:22; 4:11-12; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:4-5, 11-13, 19; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12

God the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, **glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ** during this age. He **convicts** the world of sin and righteousness. He **draws** the unredeemed to repentance and faith. At salvation, He **permanently indwells** the believer. This brings the new believer into union with Christ and His body, the Church. In the Church, the Spirit **fills, sanctifies, and empowers**. He **guides, instructs, and comforts**. He **equips** the Church to carry out the very mission of Christ on the earth by **bestowing Spiritual gifts**.

How do we know God's identity, character, and works?

We believe that the Bible is God's complete and authoritative written revelation.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 22:29-33

The **sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments** are God's written self-disclosure to mankind: the **Holy Spirit-inspired** Scripture. This means that human authors wrote God's very words, **without any error in the original texts**. The **Holy Spirit illuminates** Scripture. This means that believers who study Scripture can understand it. Scripture is God's **final, sufficient**, and **authoritative** revelation for His glory and for our lives.

How does God describe our human identity and condition?

We believe that mankind is created in God's image, and we are all sinners in need of His salvation.

Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18, 32, 3:10-26

God created mankind — male and female — in His own image and likeness, free of sin. He created us **to glorify Himself and enjoy** His fellowship. Tempted by Satan, and in the sovereign plan of God, **mankind freely chose to disobey God**. This brought sin, death, and condemnation to all of mankind and to the rest of creation. Apart from Jesus Christ, all human beings are **sinful by nature and by choice**. This means that we are alienated from God without excuse and subject to God's righteous wrath. We are in desperate need of the Savior.

How has God saved us from our sin?

We believe that God saves through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:37-39; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world according to the Scriptures. He served as the **substitutionary atonement** in our place while we were still sinners. Sinners are **justified** in their standing before God **in Jesus Christ and His work alone**. Before creation, **God chose us** for adoption in Christ. This unearned grace was based entirely on His sovereign good pleasure. **Christ's death on the cross was the sole and complete payment for sins**. His death fully satisfied God's righteous wrath toward each one who turns from sin and trusts Christ alone. At salvation, the believer is a **new creation** by the power of the Holy Spirit. **God declares the believer righteous** before Him as His **adopted** child forever. **Genuine faith perseveres** in increasing sanctification, obedience to Jesus, and love for Him and His people forever.

How should we respond to God's provision of Jesus Christ?

We believe that all who confess and believe in Jesus Christ as the risen Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:9-10; John 3:16, 36; Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

At a sinner's **genuine confession** that Jesus Christ is Lord and wholehearted belief that God raised Him from the dead, they will be **justified**, that is, made right in their standing before God through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The ultimate result of this right standing will be an eternity with God in Heaven. Everyone who is not justified through Christ will be separated from Him forever in Hell.

We believe that all who are justified by Jesus receive the Holy Spirit at conversion and are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:22-32; 5:1-21; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9; Colossians 3:5-17

At a sinner's **justification**, the new believer is **a saint** and **has all of the Holy Spirit**. This means he or she is **indwelt by the Holy Spirit** and **sealed for an inheritance of eternal life** in Jesus. From that moment forward, the new believer is **called to live a life where the Holy Spirit has all of the believer**. Practically, being filled with the Holy Spirit results in having a **heart of obedience** that **glorifies God** by **putting on godliness** and **putting off sin**.

We believe that the Church is to worship and obey God, making disciples through the ministry of local churches.

Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:22-33; 4:16; Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Timothy 2:8-3:13

At a sinner's justification, the new believer is part of **the Body of Christ across history and the world**, which is the Church. The New Testament portrays believers gathering in **local expressions of His Body in particular times and places**, which are local churches. We **worship, pray, and proclaim God's Word**. We commit ourselves to **fellowship** and to the ordinances of **baptism** and **communion**. We **serve** the local body through **talents** and **spiritual gifts**. We **are sent out** to the people around us to **make new disciples**. A church's members are to **work together in love and unity**. We are **committed** to the ultimate purpose of **making much of Christ among ourselves and to the world**. We believe that Scripture describes a local church as God's people who are committed to gathering and following Jesus together under the shepherding of qualified elders. We believe Scripture describes men and women as having distinct and complementary roles in the home and the local church, and encourage qualified men and women to lead in any role that Scripture does not forbid.

We believe that we are received by Christ in salvation. As a picture of this reality, believers are baptized.

Romans 6:3-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 2:11-12

Baptism is the public expression of the believer's **union with Christ** and His body, the Church. While **not part of a believer's justification**, baptism is a **sanctifying expression** that conforms both witnessing and participating believers to the image of Christ. Baptism is a visible proclamation of the Gospel, in which believers identify with Christ in His **death, burial, and resurrection**. For this reason, we **baptize believers** one time by **complete immersion in water**.

We believe that we receive Christ in salvation. As a picture of this reality, believers receive communion.

Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:20-29

Communion is the community expression of the believers' **union with Christ** and His body, the Church. Since Christ is near to and united with His church by the indwelling of the very same Holy Spirit that dwells in Him, the bread and the cup are **not imparted by Christ's presence nor transformed into His substance. Communion should only be received by believers after careful heart examination.** By this expression, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes as He waits to drink the cup with us again in His Kingdom.

What are the things to come?

We believe that Jesus will return for reunion with His people and judgment of the living and the dead.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:3, 9; Hebrews 7:25-26

We expectantly await the **visible** and **personal return** of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has a vital bearing on the life, service, and mission of the Church. Both the saved and the lost will experience **bodily resurrection. The lost will be raised to judgment** and experience eternal wrath in Hell. **The saved will be raised to eternal joy** in the new heaven and new earth in the manifest presence of God.

Note: This Belief Statement does not exhaust the extent of New Life Bible Fellowship's beliefs. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. All printed material, curriculum, and lessons taught by New Life Bible Fellowship shall be in complete agreement with this Belief Statement.