

## **Our Statement of Faith**

We realize we can't tell you everything we believe in a few paragraphs, but these are our basic beliefs. Our core values flow from these basic faith convictions. We recognize that spiritual growth is a process for everyone; seekers; new believers as well as those who have followed Christ for years.

### **1. The Bible is God's Word.**

We believe the Bible is the inspired, revealed Word of God. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit without error in the original copies. The Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalms 119; John 17:17

### **2. God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe.**

We believe there is one true God who exists in three persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These are equal and are one God. God created all things out of nothing by speaking them into existence. God is Lord over all creation and sustains it by His power. Genesis 1:1, Psalms 89:11, Genesis 1:26-27, 3:22, Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:22-25; Ephesians 1:13-15

### **3. Jesus Christ is the one and only Son of God**

We believe Jesus Christ was miraculously born of a virgin (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35) and became fully human (John 1:1-16; 29-34) without ceasing to be God. He lived a sinless life and performed many miracles to confirm his divinity. He died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice, paying the debt for our sins Mark 10:45.

On the third day after his death he arose from the dead showing his victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). He appeared to his disciples and then ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God serving as our mediator. He will return to earth someday and reign as Lord of Lords and King of Kings over the new heaven and earth. 2 Peter 3:1-13; Luke 1:26-35, John 20:30-31, Hebrews 4:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 John 2:2, 4:10, Acts 1:9-11, Titus 2:13, 1 Timothy 6:14-15, Revelation 19:16; Revelation 20:20

### **4. The Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and Jesus the Son.**

We believe the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son. He makes people aware of their need for Christ (John 16:8-11, 2 Corinthians 6:11). The Holy Spirit comes to live within every Christian at conversion. (Acts 2:38) He provides Christians with the power for living, the understanding of spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right. (1 John 4:13; Galatians. 5:16-26). His presence in our life is a seal and guarantee that we are God's children (2 Corinthians 1: 21-22). The Holy Spirit gives believers spiritual gifts (talents or abilities) (1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:4-8) to be used to help others. John 16:7-13, Acts 2:38, Ephesians 1:13-14, 3:16, 5:18, Galatians 5:22-23, Acts 9:31

### **5. Men and Women were created in the spiritual image of God but marred by sin.**

We believe every person has worth as a creation of God. People are the supreme objects of God's creation. Although people have a tremendous potential for good, they are marred by an attitude of disobedience and rebellion toward God called "sin." This separates us from God corrupting our natures with a tendency to sin. That in turn causes many of the problems in life. Everyone who has ever lived, except Jesus Christ, has sinned against God and is in need of eternal forgiveness. Genesis 1:27, Psalms 8:3-6, Isaiah 53:6a, Romans 3:23

### **6. Salvation is God's free gift available to all who put their faith and trust in Jesus.**

We believe God lovingly offers salvation to every person. All people have sinned but all can be saved. God's forgiveness is not gained by self-improvement, doing good works, or being "religious." Salvation is a free gift available to any who trust in Christ as Lord and Savior. What we could not do for ourselves (reconcile our relationship with God), Jesus did for us through His death on the cross. Those accepting Christ should repent of their sin, confess their faith and pledge their lives by being baptized into Him. Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

## **7. People will live eternally.**

We believe in life after death. Every person who has ever lived will one day stand before God in judgment. Those who have rejected God and His offer of grace through Christ will be eternally separated from God in condemnation. Those who embrace Christ will enjoy eternal communion with God. Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

## **8. The Church is the Body of Christ on Earth.**

We believe the church is the body of Christ on earth, consisting of all who have placed their trust in Christ to provide forgiveness of sin. The church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the task of reaching those who are not yet Christ followers and helping them become mature Christians. Christ is the head of the Church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of we teach the self-governance of each local congregation.

Membership at Camarillo Christian Church is extended to all who have turned to Christ and trusted Him as Savior and Lord and who have confessed their faith by being immersed (baptized). Under the watchful care and guidance of our Shepherds (Elders) and other supportive leaders, CCC members work together in love and unity to extend the Kingdom of God on earth. Matthew 16: 13-18; Acts 2:14-27, Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 1:18. 1 Corinthians 12:12-17; Ephesians 4:1-16.

## **9. Baptism and Communion (Lord's Supper) are for those who believe in and follow Christ**

We believe and teach two ordinances or practices have been committed to the local church: Baptism of believers and communion (the Lord's Supper).

Baptism (full immersion in water) follows after one's acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism is commanded by Jesus as part of His commission for making disciples of all nations. Baptism symbolizes our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is the pledge of one's life to Christ. It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the Church. Baptism is not a "work" to earn God's favor rather it is part of our faith response to Christ as Lord. CCC does not practice water or baptismal regeneration. Romans 6:3-8; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2: 10-13; Acts 2:38, Galatians 3:27; Matthew 28:18-20.

The Lord's Supper is a commemoration and proclamation of the death of Jesus Christ. While the bread and the juice are only representative of the body and blood of Christ, the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ, who is present in a spiritual way. We offer the Lord's Supper weekly. Believers use this time to remember Christ and his death; examine their lives and ask God for forgiveness. Communion is a time to recommit our lives in service to Christ. Communion at CCC is available to all followers of Jesus. Church Membership is not required to participate in Communion. Matthew 26: 26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:24-26; Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42

## **10. All Christians are to continue growing into spiritual maturity.**

We believe all Christians are to continue growing to spiritual maturity. The result of a saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life that is being transformed to be like Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to live within every Christian at conversion. God's presence is to empower this transformation process. Daily dependence on God's Word and God's Spirit helps us become more and more like our Savior. Galatians 5:22-25; 1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 1:28-29; James 1:22; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25; Revelation 3:26.

**(07/14/10)**