

What We Believe

1. IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS – WE HAVE UNITY.

"There is one Body and one Spirit there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one god and Father of us all. . . ."
Ephesians. 4:4-6

2. IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEF – WE HAVE LIBERTY.

"Do not pass judgment on disputable matters Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. . . . so then each of us will give an account of himself to God. . . . So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God."
Romans 14:1,4,12,22

3. IN ALL OUR BELIEFS – WE SHOW CHARITY.

". . . . If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains – but have no love, I amount to nothing at all." **1 Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)**

The Essentials

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matt. 28:19;
1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

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 a 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 earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Matt. 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15;
1 Cor. 15:3,4; Rom. 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Tim. 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

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, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Cor. 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:12; 3:16;
Eph. 1:13; Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:18

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Tim. 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6;
Proverbs 30:5

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. 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.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Rom. 3:23, Isaiah 59:1,2

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9; Jn. 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Gal. 3:16, Rom. 5:1

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us security.

Jn. 10:29; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

8. ABOUT 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 and resurrection from the dead. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. The New Heavens and the New Earth are real and available to all. Hell is also real and is the destination of those who choose it.

Jn. 3:16; Jn. 14:17; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 8:17-18; Rev. 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

Seven Practices

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

1. THE BIBLE IS OUR AUTHORITY.

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right."

2 Tim. 3:15

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

2. JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

"Christ is the head of his Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life. . . ." **Col. 1:18 (GN)**

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we are also self-governing and independent from most denominational control.

3. EVERY MEMBER IS A MINISTER.

"Christ loves us, and by his death he has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God. . . ." **Rev. 1:6 (GN)**

"You are the King's [priests God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.]" **1 Pet. 2:9 (GN)**

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 Bible reading.

4. TITHING.

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." **Lev. 26:30**

At New London we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving.

5. SPIRIT-LED LIVING.

"(Jesus said) 'I am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.'" **John 15:5**

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

Phil. 2:13; Eph. 5:18)

6. TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST.

*"Always **be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* **1 Peter 3:15**

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact. With. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

7. BIBLICAL MORALITY

Including the Sanctity of Life and the goodness of sexual bonding within the covenant of a marriage between a man and a woman.

*"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Oh, that you would choose life**, that you and your descendants might live!"* **Deut. 30:19 [NLT]**

"There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, 'The two become one.' Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never 'become one.' There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for 'becoming one' with another. Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body". **1 Cor. 6:16-20 [Msg]**

Expectations for Leaders

God is a Life-Giver.

Therefore we expect leaders to model a life-giving lifestyle. We seek leaders who pursue a life of giving monetarily, of serving within and beyond their area of giftedness, of telling others about Christ, of being led by the Holy Spirit, of following the teachings of the bible in their day to day lives and of submitting to Jesus Christ as Head of the Church and leader of their lives.

We further seek leaders who affirm the value of each human life at all its stages and all its circumstances from conception to when God decides life's end. We also affirm Biblical morality as our foundation for day to day living, particularly as that morality is amplified by the teachings of Jesus. This foundation includes not only the goodness of human sexuality when expressed within its intended structure of heterosexual marriage, but also the necessity to live honestly, generously, life-affirmingly, non-covetously, sacrificially and with a heart to see the justice of the Kingdom of God spread to the ends of the earth.

In short, leaders strive to live the entirety of their lives to the glory of God.

*"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live!**"*

Deut. 30:19 [NLT]