

CALVARY CHAPEL CAMARILLO

STATEMENT OF FAITH (WHAT WE BELIEVE)

1. CHARACTER

- (A) This Calvary Chapel church has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our supreme desire is to know Christ and to be conformed into His image by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- (B) We are not a denominational church, nor are we opposed to denominations as such, only their over-emphasis of the doctrinal differences that have led to the division of the Body of Christ. We are an un-denominational church.
- (C) We believe that the only true basis of Christian fellowship is His (Agape) love, which is greater than any differences we possess and without which we have no right to claim ourselves as Christians.

In our services we focus on a "personal relationship" with God through song, worship, prayer and the clear teaching of the Word of God. We teach both expository and topical studies. We do not allow speaking loudly in tongues or the interruption of our services with prophesy if there is a Bible study in progress. It is not that we do not hold to the using of these gifts, but we believe that everything should be done decently and in order. We believe that God will not interrupt Himself. We have specific "believers meetings" that do allow the exercise of spiritual gifts.

WE BELIEVE: Worship of God should be Spiritual.

Therefore: We remain flexible and yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our worship.

WE BELIEVE: Worship of God should be Inspirational.

Therefore: We give a great place to music in our worship.

WE BELIEVE: Worship of God should be Intelligent.

Therefore: Our services are designed with great emphasis upon the teaching of the Word of God that He might instruct us how He would be worshipped.

WE BELIEVE: Worship of God is Fruitful.

Therefore: We look for His love in our lives as the supreme manifestation that we have truly been worshipping Him.

2. BELIEFS

In order to identify the church as conservative in theology, and evangelical in spirit, we set forth this general statement of fundamental beliefs:

- (A) We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as being verbally and completely inerrant in the original writings and of supreme and final authority in faith and life. We believe that God has not added to, deleted from, or altered the canon of the Bible with subsequent writings and revelations.
- (B) We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each distinct from the Other, and Each are fully God, yet They are perfectly harmonized in Their Triune Being.
- (C) We believe in the deity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His future return to this earth in power and glory, and His present life for us as High Priest and Advocate.
- (D) We believe that the lost and sinful man must be saved, and that man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are redeemed and justified on the grounds of His shed blood.
- (E) We believe that salvation is by grace, through faith, and is a free gift from God. It is not attained by our own works. Therefore it cannot be earned by good works apart from faith. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.
- (F) We believe in the threefold work of the Holy Spirit: that He seeks out and brings the lost to salvation; that He sanctifies the believer; and that He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ, giving spiritual gifts to the Christian for service. We believe the continuance of gifts as found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.
- (G) We believe that God utilizes ALL the spiritual gifts as given in Scripture, in accordance with His perfect will. We believe each Christian is endowed with both general gifts and specific gifts. Each believe is unique unto the Lord, and each is uniquely gifted. It is our job as believers to discover our gifts and use them in our service both to God and to each other. We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. We believe that the filling of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of power and is given to all believers who ask for it. The primary, initial characteristic of the filling of the Holy Spirit is a release of LOVE in and through the life of the believer. Other signs may accompany this, but Love is

the essential one.

- (H) We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust; the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost along with Satan and his fallen angels.
- (I) We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (J) We believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible, taking exception only for the obvious metaphors and similes that God has not yet shed His light upon. We act on this belief by putting forth the entire word of God before the body in a book by book fashion, giving His people the entire counsel of His revealed Word to us.
- (K) We believe in the blessed hope, which is the rapture of the church at Christ's coming in the air. We believe that we will go to Him before the Tribulation (pre-trib) and that Christ will return to the earth physically to set up His kingdom before the millennium begins (pre-mil).
- (L) We believe that man was created in the image of God; that man sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death (separation from God) and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.
- (M) We believe that the Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Teacher and guarantee of our inheritance.
- (N) We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer, **yet only in accordance with God's perfect will.**
- (O) We believe in a literal devil and his host of fallen angels, and that he is at work in the world today. We believe that Satan is a created being, and as such he is limited in presence and power.
- (P) We believe that we should walk in the victory that was afforded us by Jesus Christ on the cross. We believe that Satan has no power over true believers. He can affect his confusion on Christians only as permitted by God, **through which we are to be tested and found true, and by which we are to grow in faith and wisdom,** to the praise and glory of our LORD.
- (Q) We believe that God is worthy of all praise, reverence, and love; and that the highest calling of a Christian is to worship Him.
- (R) We believe that our supreme desire is to know Christ and to be conformed into His image by the power of His Holy Spirit.
- (S) WE REJECT:
 - 1. ...the teaching of "positive confession".

1. ...the belief that Christians can be possessed by demons.
2. ..."dominion theology" or "kingdom theology".
3. ...a fatalistic Calvinist view, which allows no room for free will.
4. ...prophesy that overrides or supersedes Biblical Scripture.
5. ...the incorporation of humanistic psychology or philosophy into Biblical teaching.
6. ..."charis-MANIA" (the over-emphasis upon spiritual gifts, experiential signs and wonders, etc.).

(T) Concerning evangelism, we participate and support evangelistic outreach ministries in communities all over the world. We collectively work together every year hosting evangelistic "crusades" throughout the United States. Thousands upon thousands have received Christ at these yearly events.

However, our main belief concerning evangelism is that "sheep beget sheep". We are convinced that as we continue to feed the flock of God by teaching them the Word of God, they will "naturally" lead others to Christ.

(U) Marriage: Marriage has been ordained by God. This church defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in these Articles.

(V) Human Sexuality: Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia") including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness.

3. ORDINANCES

The church will observe regularly the two New Testament ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances are observed in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, as acts of love and devotion, and are not considered to be necessary for our salvation.