

## **A Christian Church Should Believe And Teach These (They're Non-Negotiable)**

1. *About Salvation - Every person desperately needs to be saved from their sin. The wages of sin is spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God. We need our sins to be forgiven by God because God alone has the power to save and declare us forgiven. This salvation and forgiveness only comes through faith in Jesus and by God's grace. We must trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus for salvation and turn from our sins as proof of true faith. There is no other way for a person to receive an eternal friendship with God. Salvation isn't a reward but a free gift. It isn't earned by good works, but it is validated and proven by good works. We are saved through faith, by grace, and in Jesus Christ ALONE.*
2. *About God - There is One True Living God: The Lord. The Lord alone is The Creator, Judge, true King, and rightful owner of the universe. There is no other God besides the Lord. All other gods are merely idols. We believe God alone is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, omnipresent, immutable, self-sufficient, uncreated, sovereign, and perfect in every way. This God is three in one: three individual persons sharing the same divine essence and nature to make up one divine being.*
3. *About The Trinity - God is three separate persons, yet one divine being. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. These three individuals are not each other, but are distinct persons. These distinct persons are each equally, fully, God. Each of these persons is not one third God but are each fully, eternally and completely God. These three persons compose the divine being. They share the same divine nature, and essence. The three persons in this trinitarian God exist in perfect harmony, agreement, unity, and love as one divine being. Though each person of the trinity has different, unique roles or positions, neither one is more or less God. God alone*
4. *About The Father - God the Father is the first person in the Godhead (trinity). He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, yet they are both equally God alongside the Spirit. God is a loving Father to all who are adopted into His family through the work of Jesus Christ. The Father desires all people to come to Him by faith in the Lord Jesus.*
5. *About The Son (Jesus) - Jesus is the second person in the Godhead (trinity). He is God the Son, and the only-begotten Son of the Father. He is fully God and fully man. Jesus did not set aside His deity when He was born into our world as a man. He has always been God and can never stop being God. He is the only method of salvation and the only way to the Father. Jesus alone accomplished our salvation*

completely. He came to earth as an actual human being in the flesh, He was born of the virgin Mary, He lived a perfect, sinless life, He met the Law we could not, He paid our sin-debt on the cross, He endured the wrath and consequences of the world's sins, He was crucified in our place, He took our death, and raised back to life three days later in power. He actually rose to life bodily and conquered death through His resurrection.

6. *About The Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead (trinity). He is God the Spirit. He applies the work of salvation to the believer and delivers to us the blessings of God that come through faith in Christ. His presence assures us of our relationship with Christ. He guides believers into all truth and exalts Jesus. He is our helper. He convicts people of their sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Christ. Evidence of the Holy Spirit is seen in the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.*
7. *About Man - Humanity is made in the image of God. From the beginning, God intended humanity to rule the earth alongside Him and under His divine authority. But, humanity sinned and violated their perfect relationship with God. Through sinful disobedience, humanity was spiritually separated from God. Every human is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect. But, every human has also sinned. Because of our sin, we fall short of the glorious perfection of God, but through Christ we can be restored to God.*
8. *About Sin - Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden. Sin has corrupted this world. Sin is simply missing the mark. It is falling short of God's perfect standard of righteousness in any way. All we need to do is commit one sin to become incapable of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. One sin makes us miss the entire Law of God and sin must be paid for. Death comes through sin. There is a penalty for sin and it is death. This spiritual death is eternal separation from our loving God. And, all sin has been paid for by the infinite and perfect Lord Jesus Christ. But, if we refuse to accept His gift of salvation, we will pay for our sin by being punished eternally.*
9. *About The Church - Jesus Christ has a body which is composed of every single Christian across time. This is His church. Every Christian plays a necessary part in accomplishing God's perfect plan alongside the rest of His church. We are gifted by Christ to play our part in His body, because He moves through His church to accomplish things. Christ's church is His bride. We will be presented as spotless and blameless to Christ in His glorious Kingdom. Every Christian is a part of a local*

*community of believers unified through faith in Christ. The Church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. We don't simply go to church. We are the church.*

- 10. About Creation - God created the universe and everything in it, by the power of His word. God alone is credited with the creation of all things. Creation was deemed good by God, but through Adam and Eve, sin plagued and corrupted God's good creation. Our universe is not an accident, nor is humanity the product of evolution. God intentionally created this universe and everything in it with unique purpose. Creation will be made brand new when Jesus comes back to establish His Kingdom. Jesus will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. He will unite Heaven and Earth under His reign. Creation might be broken now, but it will be restored at the second coming of our King.*
- 11. About Scripture - The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it was inspired by God, the Bible is truth without any mixture of error and is completely relevant to our daily lives.*
- 12. About The Law - We believe that the entire Law of God has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. God's general law has been written into the conscience of every person and His specific law has been revealed in His word. The Law is good but cannot save us. It can only point out our sin and point us to Jesus. Jesus met the Law perfectly on our behalf. We obey God's moral law out of love, and not to be saved.*
- 13. About Baptism - We believe in water baptism as a sign of true repentance and genuine faith in Jesus Christ. Water baptism doesn't aid us in obtaining salvation. It is the first act of obedience to Christ as His disciple. Jesus commands His disciples to be baptized as a sign of their conversion to the world. It is a witness and testimony to what Jesus has done.*
- 14. About Repentance - We believe that a true Christian will turn forsake their old, sinful way of life when they come to Jesus in faith. This doesn't mean they live perfectly but they are progressively transforming into Christ's image. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of life. We turn from sin and turn to Christ for salvation. Repentance is not a meritorial work that helps us obtain salvation. It is proof of true conversion.*
- 15. About Communion - We believe in partaking of the Lord's supper. Jesus tells His disciples to share a communion meal in remembrance of His finished work on the*

*cross. The bread represents His broken body and the wine represents His spilled blood for our sins. We believe it is honorable to the Lord and helps us to continually remember all He has done for us.*

*16. Exclusivity of Christ - Jesus is exclusive. He is the only possible way for us to be saved from our sins and restored back to friendship with God. There is only one way back to the Father and it is through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Not all roads lead to Heaven. There is only one way, because only one person has fulfilled the law, paid our debt, suffered our death and resurrected from the dead. His name alone grants forgiveness of sins.*

*17. Sufficiency of Christ - Jesus Christ fully satisfied the wrath of God against the sins of humanity. He has provided full payment for all sin across all time. As Christians, there is no debt left for us to pay. There's no punishment left for us to experience. Jesus took every ounce of punishment and every last drop of God's wrath against sin. His sacrifice was completely sufficient for us to be made perfect in the sight of God. We just receive His work through faith by trusting in God's grace. Jesus' atonement is more than sufficient.*

### **These Are Necessary Marks of A Christian Church That You Should Look For**

High Value/Love Of Scripture | 1 Timothy 4:16. John 17:17 Romans 10:17

Preaching The True Gospel Message Of Jesus | Scripture Galatians 1:8

Genuine Spiritual Conversion To New Life In The Spirit | John 3:3

Discipleship And Sanctification | Matthew 28:18-20

Church Discipline | Matthew 18:15-20. Luke 17:13

Church Leadership Through Appointed Elders | Hebrews 13:17

Godly Love For One Another | 1 John 4:16. John 13:34-35. Matthew 22:37-40

Promoting Spiritual Growth | Hebrews 5:12. Ephesians 4:15. 1 Peter 2:2-3

Missions Work & Support | Matthew 28:18-20. 2 Corinthians 11:8. Matthew 9:38

Gathering For Prayer | Philippians 4:6. Colossians 4:2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Acts 2:42

Remembering Jesus And His Work Through Communion | Luke 22:19-20

Godly Fellowship | 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Hebrews 10:25

Fear of The Lord | Ecclesiastes 12:13. Proverbs 1:7. Deuteronomy 10:12

Believers Serving With Their Spiritual Gifts | 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. Galatians 5:13

Water Baptism For New Believers | Matthew 28:19-20

Evangelism | 2 Corinthians 5:20 and Romans 10:14

***\*Christ-Centered Theology In Preaching And Worship Music (Not Self-Centered)\****

### **Characteristics The Church Body Should Be Aiming For**

Integrity | 2 Timothy 2:15. 1 Corinthians 10:31. 1 John 1:7

Pursuing Godly Unity | Philippians 2:2-4

Expressing Generosity | Acts 20:35. 2 Corinthians 9:7. John 3:16

Aiming For Selflessness | Philippians 2:2-4

Desire For Accountability | James 5:16. Galatians 6:1-5. Proverbs 27:17. Luke 17:13

Seeking To Live Pure | James 1:27. 1 Timothy 4:12. Matthew 5:8

Gratefulness And Thankfulness