

PHILADELPHIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

The Foundations of the Faith

God

The Lord our God is one Lord. (Deut. 6:4). He is the only True and Living God. He is Eternal (Ps. 90:2), all powerful (Gen. 17:1), most wise (Rom. 16:27)(Is. 40:14), everywhere present (Ps. 139:7) & (Jer. 23:23) and Most Holy (Is. 6:3).

He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth, along with all that are therein (Gen. 1:1). He is Sovereign over all creation (Dan. 4:34 & 35) declaring the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10) and none can stay His hand.

He has chosen to reveal Himself in three distinct persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. All three persons are of one divine essence. All are equally God and all exclusively comprise what is known as "The Godhead," or "The Holy Trinity" (Is. 9:6, 7:14; Matt. 28:19; John 1:14, 8:58, 14:9; I John 5:7; Acts 5:34).

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father (John 1:14). He is the Eternal Son of God and Second Person of the Holy Trinity. He is very God and very man without conversion, composition, or confusion yet one Christ.

When the fulness of time was come, He was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35). He lived a sinless life fulfilling the law perfectly (Heb. 7:26, I Peter 2:22). He performed many miracles, having the Holy Spirit without measure (Acts 2:22, 10:38). He died on the cross for our sins; he (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21). He rose from the grave bodily (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4). He ascended into Heaven where He is seated at the right Hand of God the Father making intercession for the saints (Acts 1:9; Philp 2:9 - 11; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:34). He is coming back again to judge men and angels at the end of the world (Acts 1:11, 10:42; 17:31; Romans 14:9; II Peter 2:41).

Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and Man (I Tim. 2:5). He is the prophet, priest, and king of the church. No one can come to the Father but by Him (Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:5, 6; Ps 2:6; Luke 1:13; Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:22, 23).

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is God (Acts 5:3 & 4). The Holy Spirit gave us the Bible (II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:21) and He is the only means by which we can understand the Holy Scriptures (I Cor. 2:9 - 14).

The Holy Spirit applies salvation to man by sealing us after we believe the truth (Eph. 1:13) and by using the truth to sanctify us (John 17:17; Eph. 6:17; I Peter 1:2; II Thess. 2:13).

The Holy Spirit produces fruit in the Believer's life (Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9) along with supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body (I Cor. 12:8). These gifts being very much available for the Church today (Eph. 4:11-14) are to be used in accordance with scripture (I Cor. 12, 13, 14).

The Holy Spirit fills believers. When filled with the Holy Spirit, believers are both controlled and empowered by the Spirit (Eph. 5:18, Acts 1:8). When controlled, believers exhibit greater godliness (Eph. 5:18 - 6:5). When believers are empowered, spiritual gifts are often manifested (Joel 2:28; Luke 1:39; 1:67; Acts 2:1 - 4). Boldness is also an evidence of being filled with the Spirit (Acts 1:8; 4:8; 4:31-33).

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a continuous thing (Eph. 5:18; Greek = be ever filled; keep on being filled; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:8; Acts 4:31), whereby believers seek to live a Spirit filled life everyday. Scripture teaches various ways that a believer can be filled (Acts 4:31; Luke 11:9-13; Acts 9:17; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Acts 10:44).

Scripture

The Bible is the God breathed word of God (II Tim 3:16). It is comprised of the 66 books that make up the Old and New Testament, without any additions or subtractions. Though translated from its original language, Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament, the word of God has been preserved (Is. 40:8).

God is the author of all scripture and He determines the meaning of a text. No scripture is given for private interpretation (II Peter 1:19) meaning that we do not approach the scriptures with a 'what does it mean to you' mentality. We must study to show ourselves approved and must labor to rightly divide the word of truth (II Tim. 2:15).

One of the best rules for interpreting Scripture is Sola Scriptura 'scripture alone.' Difficult passages should be explained by using less difficult passages.

We are saved through the word of God (I Cor. 1:21; Romans 10:9-17; Eph. 1:13; James 1:18). The word of God maintains the Christian spiritual life (Matt. 4:4). It provides the Believer spiritual nourishment so that we may spiritually grow (I Peter 2:2). The Bible is sufficient to thoroughly equip the Christian for life (II Tim. 3:16).

The word of God sanctifies the Christian (John 17:17; Ps. 119:9 & 11). The word of God is the Christian's weapon against evil (Eph. 6:1; Heb. 4:12).

The Bible is the only infallible record of God's self-revelation to mankind. The Scriptures are authoritative and must rule and guide all Christian life, practice, and doctrine. They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superceded or changed by later tradition extra-biblical revelation or worldly wisdom.

Man

God created man in His own image. He created man, both male and female, that they might have fellowship with Him. Man, tempted by Satan, sinned against God breaking fellowship with Him. This sin, through the doctrine of original sin (Eph. 5:12), has made every human being born from an earthly father subject to the wrath of God (Rom. 6:23), inwardly depraved, and apart from a divine work of grace, incapable of returning to God (Rom. 3:10-19). This depravity is radical and pervasive. It corrupts the mind, will, and emotions. Unsaved men are under the dominion of sin, and Satan. They are at enmity with God (Rom. 8:7 & 8) and are lost without hope apart from Christ (Eph. 2:12).

Salvation

Salvation is by God's grace through faith (Eph. 2:8) in the life and work of Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Believers repent of their old ways of life (Acts 3:19) and turn to God believing in Christ alone for salvation (Eph. 2:8; Acts 4:12). At that moment our sins are pardoned and his righteous life is imputed unto to us (Rom 3:21-31).

This salvation will be witnessed by regeneration (a changed life II. Cor. 5:17). We will no longer walk in darkness (I John 1:6). We will begin to keep His commandments (I John 2:3-4). We will love the brethren (I John 2:9-11; 3:14-15). We will no longer love the world (I John 2:15 & 16). Our lives will no longer be characterized by sin (I John 5:18).

Other Doctrines

Election

Man, because of his depravity is unable to turn to God on His own (John 6:44; 6:65; Romans 3:10 & 11; Romans 8:7 & 8). God, in His good pleasure, before the foundation of the world, chose to save some through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:4; II Thess. 2:13; Acts 13:48).

The doctrine of election by no means decreases the responsibility of man to believe and seek Jesus. Nor does this doctrine water down any of the promises of God. Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved and all who flee to Jesus will find rest. Our Lord will never cast out a single sinner that goes to Him for salvation. "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out," (John 6:37) but nonetheless only the elect will come (John 3:19).

Gifts

Prophecy

I Corinthians 14

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1. There can only be two (2) or at the most three (3) prophetic words per service on the prophecy mic (:29).
2. There must be a judge, who will determine: 1. Whether the word is from the Lord; 2. Whether the word is for the church and 3. Whether the word is timely (:29).

3. Speakers must speak one at a time. (:31)
4. The speaker must at all times maintain control, for example: 1. Conducting himself in the proper church decorum and 2. Giving prophetic messages at the appointed time in the church service. "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." (:32)

Tongues

I Corinthians 14

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1. There can only be two (2) or at the most three (3) unknown tongues spoken publicly per service (:27).
2. There must be an interpreter (:27).
3. If there is no interpreter person should speak to themselves and God, so that no one else can hear. (:28).

Women

Women may share the gift of prophecy in other venues, but not in the Church. (:34) Other venues may include: prayer, small group meetings, and personal one on one sessions: (Acts 21:9, I Cor. 11:5). The below referenced scripture does not mean that women can't speak in the church at all. We must keep this text in context. Paul is referring specifically to women operating in the prophetic gifts while in church.

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. 36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Tithe

Christians are to support the work of the Lord by offerings made to the local church. Proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in scripture, beginning with the tithe (Mal. 3:8; Matt. 23:23; I Cor. 16:2).

The Mission of the Church

The mission of Philadelphia Church is to Worship God, Equip the Saints, Operate in Evangelism, Support Missions and Excel in Benevolence. (Col. 3:16-17; Eph. 4:11-14; Matt. 28:18-20; I Tim. 5:3; James 1:27).

Ordinances of the Church

Baptism

The Lord's Supper

The Vision of Philadelphia
Spirit & Truth

Revelations 3:7 (read :7 - 8)

I. Thou hast a little strength

That word strength in the Greek is the word dunamis.

It is the same word used in Acts 1:8, when Jesus tells the apostles that "ye shall receive power."

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Matthew 22:29

ye err not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Ephesians 4:11

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

II. Thou has kept my word

We want to be a church of the Truth.

II Tim 4:1:

4:1 I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine

Rev. 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience.

I Cor. 1:21

...foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

I Cor. 2:1-4

2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified . . .

4 And my speech and my preaching [was] not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

We will be a church that Preaches the Whole Counsel of God

Paul says in Acts 20:27 & 28 speaking to Pastors:

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,

Matt. 4:4

Mt 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God

III. Thou hast not denied my name

We are going to be a soul winning church. A church that's not ashamed of speaking up for the Lord. (A bold church)

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

IV. Love & Humility

Philadelphia = Brotherly Love

I Cor. 13 = gifts are nothing without love

Philadelphia Christian Church

Membership Forms

"He that winneth souls is wise." -- Proverbs 11:30

Date or Month of New Members Class Attended: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Marital Status: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Is your spouse a Member? _____

Place of Employment: _____

Children:

Name and Age

| | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

Ministry Areas:

Where would you like to serve in Philadelphia? Please check all that apply.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Armor Bearer | Intercessory | Hospitality | Single's Ministry | Men's Group |
| Counseling | Worship Team | Communion | Security | Nursery Team |
| Creative Arts | Maintenance | Audio/Sound | Kid's Ministry | Promotions |
| 1 st Responders | Youth | Titus Ministry | Arimathea | Wedding Team |
| Meals Ministry | Women's Ministry | Usher/Greeter | Tween's | 12 groups |

Signature: _____

Date: _____