

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## i. A Summarized Statement of What We Believe

1. We believe there is one eternal God who created all things who exists in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Trinity.
2. We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is our authority and is applicable to our everyday lives.
3. We believe humankind is separated from relationship with God because of sin and we need to be rescued and reconciled..
4. We believe Jesus is God the Son and is truly God and truly human. We believe in his virgin birth, sinless life, his miracles, his atoning death as our substitute, his physical, historical resurrection, ascension to the right hand of God the Father, and his personal return in power and glory as Lord. We believe Jesus reveals who God is, displaying his love and power.
5. We believe that salvation and receiving forgiveness and new life only occurs through faith in Jesus and his substitutionary work. This is the beauty of the gospel and each person is invited to recognize our lack, repent of our sin, receive new life and forgiveness through faith in Jesus, and respond in serving his purpose with our lives.
6. We believe God wants to empower us to lead healthy and fruitful lives and that we are to be baptized in water and be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
7. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells us and gives us spiritual gifts just as he did in the early church including prophecy, speaking in tongues, and healing. We are a people of Word and Spirit.
8. We believe Christians are a part of God's family, the church, and are to meet regularly to learn, pray, serve, celebrate, and receive communion. Being a part of a spiritual family is significant and every Jesus-follower is empowered to build-up the church and to make Jesus known in everyday life.
9. We believe humans are made in the image of God, equal and distinct, male and female. Marriage is designed to be between one man and one woman and sex is designed to be an act of covenant renewal occurring within a marriage relationship. In a nuclear family, men become fathers and women become mothers.
  - a. In the church family, there are trustworthy men appointed as Overseers who, like spiritual fathers, protect and equip the church. There are also other leaders, women and men who serve and lead in a variety of ways including Deacons, some of which will operate as motherly figures in the church family mentoring others.<sup>1</sup> We believe that both men and women are empowered for ministry, mission, leadership, and service.
10. We believe the Church are the missionary people of God. CityLights embraces a missionary understanding of the local church and its role as the primary means by which God chooses to establish his kingdom on earth. The church has a clear biblical mandate to look beyond its own community to the neighbourhood, the nation, and the world as a whole; thus mission is not an optional program in the church but an essential element in the identity of the church.
11. We believe everyone will be resurrected to stand before Jesus and that our eternal destination of closeness to God in heaven or separation from God in hell is determined by our response of repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and what he has accomplished in our place. Jesus will return as he promised and in the end, he will have victory over sin, death, and satan and will make all things new.

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<sup>1</sup>Church Governance is not a primary matter of doctrine and there is flexibility on how churches structure themselves and their leadership. We are doing our best to be biblical, loving, and practical.

## **ii. Apostles Creed**

The Apostle's Creed is an early statement of Christian belief.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
The third day He arose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

*For a more in-depth statement of beliefs or further explanation please engage in a conversation and/or see the [PAOC's statement of essential truths](#).*