



## What We Believe

Calvary Chapel has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our supreme desire is to know Christ and be conformed to His image by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not a denominational church, nor are we opposed to denominations as such, only to their over-emphasis of the doctrinal differences that have led to the division of the Body of Christ.

We believe that the Bible (commonly called the Old and New Testaments) is the inerrant and authoritative standard for life, faith and practice. ([Psalm 119:160](#), [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#), [John 17:17](#))

We believe that there is one living and true GOD, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory. We believe that the Trinity created all, upholds all, and governs all things ([Genesis 1:1](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Isaiah 44:8](#) and [48:16](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#); [John 10:30](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#)).

We believe in the person of God the Father—an infinite, eternal, personal Spirit—perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all those who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ ([Deuteronomy 33:27](#); [Psalms 90:2](#); [Psalms 102:27](#); [John 3:16](#) and [4:24](#); [1 Timothy 1:17](#); [Titus 1:3](#)).

We believe in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, teachings, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth ([Isaiah 7:14](#); [Micah 5:2](#); [Matthew 1:23](#); [Mark 16:19](#); [Luke 1:34-35](#); [John 1:1-2](#), [8:58](#) and [11:25](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [Hebrews 1:8](#); [1 John 1:2](#); [Revelation 1:8](#)).

We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit—that He proceeds forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He does regenerate, sanctify, and empower for ministry all who believe the biblical gospel ([Acts 1:8](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18](#); [John 16:8-11](#); [Romans 8:26](#) and [15:13,16](#); [Hebrews 9:14](#)).

We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and functions as their abiding helper, teacher, and guide ([John 16:13](#), [14:16-17](#) and [16:8-11](#); [Romans 8:26](#)). We believe the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate experience to that of regeneration, occurring either subsequent to, or simultaneous with the experience of the new birth. We believe the baptism with the Holy Spirit is evidenced in the Christian's life as a dynamic enablement to be a bold and more effective witness for the gospel. We believe that the supreme evidence of the Spirit-filled life is the fruit of the Spirit, and love ([Galatians 5:22-23](#); [1 Corinthians 13](#)). We believe in and advocate the present-day ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church regarding the exercise of all biblical gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to the instructions outlined in [1 Corinthians 12-14](#).

We believe in the universal church—the living and organic spiritual body of people—of which Christ is the Head and all who are born-again through faith in the biblical gospel are a part ([Matthew 16:18](#), [1 Corinthians 12:12-13](#); [Ephesians 4:15-16](#)).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for the church: (a) full immersion water baptism of believers in the gospel, and (b) the Lord's Supper (or communion) ([Matthew 28:19](#); [Luke 22:19-20](#); [Acts 2:38](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)).

We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell. All those who place their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord, while those who reject Jesus' free gift of salvation proclaimed in the gospel will spend eternity separated from God and His people in hell (Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:3, 5:22, 18:9 and 25:31-34; Mark 9:42-49; Luke 12:5; John 3:18; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 14:10-11 and 20:11-15).

We believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church through which all believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and be taken out of the world prior to the Tribulation that will then come upon the earth (Isaiah 26:20; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:36; Romans 1:18, 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-16 and 5:9; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Revelation 3:10, 5:7-10 and 7:13-14).

We believe the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be a personal, visible return to earth. The Second Coming will coincide with the establishment of His millennial kingdom, the resurrection, final judgment, eternal blessing of the righteous, and eternal condemnation of the wicked (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:11-15).