

## Radiant Church Written Doctrines/ Core Beliefs (est. Dec. 2013, updated Oct 24, 2021)

- God is spirit and those that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. God is good and His goodness is complete. His purposes for life and creation are stirred by who He is. Perfect love is understood in Him. Holiness is His to the very core. All power and authority is His. All other authorities and powers exist because He permits them to exist. Redemption is one of God's greatest desires. Even when He disciplines, it is so that He may restore. God carries within Him a father's heart for His children and delights in those who are His through Christ.
- Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Christ, and the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. In Jesus is found perfect theology. He is the exact and perfect expression of the nature of God. He is the only one who has ever perfectly and completely lived the Christian life. He existed with the Father before all things were created and in Him and for Him, all things were created. Jesus is the mediator between God the Father and mankind. Jesus purchased with His blood people from every tribe and nation on the earth. He paid the penalty for the sins of all mankind, once and for all, yet each person must access this grace by faith.
- The Holy Spirit is the gift to the church from the Father through Christ the Son. The Holy Spirit is the power source for the Christian life. He comes to indwell all believers and empowers believers as He rests upon them for service. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus in those who follow Christ. He brings conviction of sin to mankind. He brings new life. He, like Jesus, is in the Father and in the Son. The Father is in the Spirit and the Son. This is a mystery of the ages- the unity and ultimate Oneness of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible, which is God's Word, is a divine impartation to mankind. It is a revelation of God to man so that we have an accurate understanding of His will, His ways and His nature. His Word is truth. All knowledge that opposes the Word is error at its root or in its interpretation. God's Word is the expression of His heart and the record of His ways. His will is His Word and His Word is His will. Believers in Christ under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, only accomplish the correct interpretation and application of His Word. Fleshly attempts have resulted in error and harm throughout history. Jesus said the words that He speaks are spirit and are life. His word is truth and every part of it will ultimately be fulfilled.
- The Church is the body and bride of Christ Himself. There is only one Church made up of every nation, tribe, people and tongue. This Church is redeemed and blood bought and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Church has met in thousands of fellowships over the last two millenniums throughout the nations of the earth. The Church is one of the three primary forces in the earth by which the Father accomplishes His purposes on the earth: the Word, the Spirit, and the Church. The Church will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven and share in the inheritance bestowed upon Christ Jesus from His Father. The Church will share in the glory of Jesus Christ for all eternity. These will occur in fullness at the second coming of Christ. Until then, we have an ongoing progression of possession- from glory to glory to glory.
- The nation of Israel is unique among the nations of the earth. God has chosen the people of Israel and will fulfill His promises made to them in the Old Testament. The Church has not replaced Israel. God has a prophetic destiny for both- often linked but not necessarily the same. Israel's roots are found in Abraham and the nation was in his seed. The human lineage of Christ Jesus the Messiah is also found in Abraham. In the end of days, the Church and the redeemed from the nation of Israel will be one as Christ followers together. In Christ, the

scriptural and spiritual division between Jew and gentile was abolished and has caused us to be one in Him. The Apostle Paul wrote that the gentile believer has been grafted into the spiritual vine of Israel, which is another mystery of God. We pray for the salvation of Israel and the peace of Jerusalem.

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest force of transformation ever given to man. Individuals, families, cities and nations have been powerfully impacted. The Church has been given the assignment by Jesus Christ to “go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.” This is an intentional and purposeful mandate to which we must be committed. We hold firmly to this truth that Jesus is the only way to the Father and there is no other name given by which we must be saved. Discipleship begins with an individual coming to repentance and faith in the redemption that is in Christ Jesus for all mankind. This conversion aligns a person with God and positions them to access all the blessings, gifts and inheritance as adopted children of God. Some Christians have searched and even argued regarding the purpose of the Church. Sharing the Gospel with clarity and love has to be an uncompromised mandate of the church as commissioned by her founder Jesus Christ.
- The Kingdom of God is the culture of heaven. God rules and His glory are fully manifested in the Kingdom. Jesus came preaching and teaching the Kingdom of God- something His people knew little about. He taught that they should seek first the Kingdom and demonstrated with His life what it meant to live in alignment with the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught that the Kingdom is in our midst and that we should pray that His Kingdom come to the extent God’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven. This Kingdom expands as more people come into harmony with it in their lives. \*We cannot discern the Kingdom of God by looking at our culture because it is in such contradiction with the Kingdom of God in values, priorities, affections and perspectives. By looking into God's word and at the life of Jesus, by the Spirit we can begin to discern the Kingdom of God. What has become real to us in this process, we can shine forth into this world. What has been deposited of His Kingdom within, we can give away and make an impact within the lives of others. God is calling us to be Kingdom Christians who begin to reflect heavens reality upon the earth.

*\*Examples of the above: Our world proclaims about materialism - more, bigger, better. The Kingdom of God says that a man’s life does not consist of what he has obtained. Our world says “me first” where the Kingdom says God first. Our world says that servants are at the bottom of the pecking order yet the greatest in the Kingdom of God are the servants. Our world celebrates when revenge is obtained; the Kingdom celebrates mercy and forgiveness. Our world applauds rising to the status of independence where one has need of nothing, the Kingdom condemns such attitudes as foolish pride. The contrasts go on and on as found in the Beatitudes, parables and teachings of Christ. The Kingdom of God confronts our values, priorities, affections and perspectives and persuades us to repent and live from a higher place.*

- We view women in ministry as a wonderful blessing. Women and men maintain unique perspectives and express similar gifts in diverse ways. To have a fuller expression of the body of Christ in the earth, women must move into their calling as the daughters of God in the earth. The same could be said for sons. Each must take their place of ministry, not in competition with one another for the highest seat; but in mutual service to the Lord. We are told that in scripture that there is no longer male or female but we are all one in Christ. If this is the

perspective we are to take, then we must accept one another and honor one another as the Lord has called us to authority and service as part of His kingdom.

- We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage and that the Bible contains the final word of authority concerning marriage. God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female. Any other expression or definition of marriage is not acceptable for the people of God. We will hold to these scriptural standards.
- We hold Biblical standards concerning sexual purity and holiness for all who claim to follow Christ. Sexual sin is clearly defined in scripture (both in the OT & NT) and is pervasive in our world and must not be practiced, tolerated, accepted or promoted in the Church of Jesus Christ. We believe that the people of God are called to live according to the Biblical standards of sexual purity, not according to the sexual standards & practices set by, allowed by or promoted by the cultures of the world. Practices such as homosexuality (including LGBTQ+), adultery, fornication, etc are examples of sexual sin and must play no part in the life of a Christian, for we are called to be "holy" as God is holy. 1 Peter 1:15,16
- We believe that all people are created in God's image either biologically male or female. The Bible declares in Genesis 1:27 that "God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them." Thus, gender is not a choice or decision one makes, but is determined by God at the point of conception. Any emotion, feeling or alternative perspective is unbiblical and ungodly and is the result of the sinful nature in the heart of man.
- We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; and that we must have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of all mankind. This is why we stand against murder--the unjust killing of any human life, including that of abortion and euthanasia.