

New City Fellowship

Leadership Statement of Faith



In addition to New City Fellowship's *Statement of Faith*, the elders and deacons also agree with the following statements. The leadership affirms that these beliefs and practices are established by Scripture, and, therefore, that they are good for God's people, and that they glorify God's name.

- I. ***The Five Solas of the Reformation.*** God makes us righteous before himself by his grace alone (*Sola Gratia*), in union with Christ alone (*Solus Christus*), through the means of faith alone (*Sola Fide*), and ultimately for the glory of God alone (*Soli Deo Gloria*); as revealed with uncontested authority in Scripture alone (*Sola Scriptura*).
- II. ***The Doctrines of Grace.*** Left to ourselves, we are desperately sinful (Ephesians 2:1–3). But God, who is rich in mercy, elects to save his people—not by going against our will, but by bringing us to life (Ephesians 2:4–10). Jesus Christ came to save his people, and his mission was perfectly successful (John 6:37; Revelation 5:9). His grace is irresistible (John 11:43–44a). And he will make sure that none of us are lost (John 6:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24)
- III. ***Credobaptism.*** Christian baptism is an ordinance instituted by Jesus Christ to signify the believer's entrance into eternal life and into fellowship with a local church. As such, baptism is to be reserved for professing believers, and it should be celebrated with the utmost enthusiasm. (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:36–41)
- IV. ***Expository Preaching.*** The job of the preacher is to expose the meaning of Scripture—not impose his meaning on the text. God's word is to be unsheathed and wielded to do the work that it alone can do (Jeremiah 23:28; Hebrews 4:12). Even topical sermons must be expository—they must make clear the meaning of the text of Scripture.
- V. ***Biblical Counseling.*** “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). The entirety of God's Word directs us to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and as such the Bible is the ultimate authority for our self-understanding; to diagnose our souls' problems; and to find healing and hope (Psalm 119:25, 130; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:12). Therefore, we are committed to biblical counseling as it is described by the *Association of Biblical Counselors* (www.biblicalcounseling.com).
- VI. ***Complementarity of Male and Female.*** God demonstrated his wisdom and love by creating man as male and female (Genesis 1:27; 2:18–25). Not only is marriage defined as the covenantal union between one man and one woman, but also each of these partners has a distinct role which complements the other. This has ramifications for the family, the church, and the new city. Therefore, wives joyfully submit, and husband lead in love; men lead the church in teaching, preaching, and the eldership; and the Lord Jesus Christ will serve and enjoy his Bride, the church, for eternity (1 Timothy 2:12–14; Ephesians 5:25–33; Revelation 19:6–9).
- VII. ***The Centrality of the Local Church.*** The redemption that Christ accomplished is cosmic in scope (Colossians 1:15–20; Ephesians 3:10), and it is local in its application (Colossians 1:21–22). Jesus paid for the church with his own blood, and he pays attention to the local church with a careful eye (Acts 20:28; Revelation 2–3). God accomplishes his work in and through the local church, which exists as a covenant community committed to the commands of Christ.