

# A Quick Guide to the Beliefs of Fairfax Community Church

## Stuff You Need to Believe in Order to Serve at Fairfax Community Church

### Authority of Scripture

We believe that all sixty-six books of the Bible are Holy Scripture. We believe that all scripture is inspired by God and is the authority for the Christian life. We further believe that the Bible is historically reliable, and that its message is faithfully preserved in the textual tradition.

Biblical Reference:

- **II Timothy 3:14-17** – *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...”*

### The Trinity

We believe in one God in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who created all things visible and invisible, and out of chaos created order. We believe that God is fully revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, who was born to the Virgin Mary through the agency of the Holy Spirit, and lived on earth as both fully human and fully divine. We believe that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, convicts us of sin, leads us to and incorporates us into Christ, and empowers us for Christian witness.

Biblical References:

- **Gen. 1** - *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”*
- **John 1:1-14** – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...”*
- **John 16:5-16** - *“Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you....”*

### Salvation Through Christ Alone

We believe that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We believe that through his life, death, and resurrection Jesus Christ is the only sufficient atonement for our sins. Therefore, it is only through Jesus Christ that we can experience eternal life.

Biblical References:

- **Romans 3:23** - *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*
- **John 14:6** - *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*
- **Romans 6:23** - *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- **Romans 5:8** - *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

## Grace and Faith

We believe that God’s work of salvation is all by grace and not by our merits. We believe we receive this salvation when by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit we respond in faith by repenting of our sin and believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Biblical References:

- **Ephes. 2:8-9** - *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...”*
- **Acts 2:36-39** - *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”*
- **Romans 10:9-10** - *“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

## Gift-Based Ministry

We believe that God calls every Christian to minister within the Body of Christ according to the spiritual gifts that God has given them. We believe that God distributes the gifts within the Body as He determines and that He does so without regard to race, social status, religious background or gender.

Biblical References:

- **1 Cor. 12** – *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines...In fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”*
- **Ephes. 4** - *“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*
- **1 Peter 4:10-11** - *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms...”*

## The Kingdom of God

We believe that the Kingdom of God is both a present reality as well as a future hope. We believe that Jesus lived and proclaimed the present Reign of God. We believe that God comes alongside the vulnerable and oppressed, and stands against every form of evil and calls us as citizens of His Kingdom to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. We anticipate the future consummation of the Reign of God, at the time of the one and only return of our Lord, who will carry out final judgment separating the righteous and the unrighteous.

#### Biblical Principles:

- **Luke 17:20-21** - "...*The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you.*"
- **Matthew 25:34-46** - "*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.'*"

### Holy Living

We believe that God calls us to present ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God for the sake of God's mission in the world. We believe that the life of holiness is not a legalistic list of "do's and don'ts, but rather a wholehearted love for God and neighbor. We believe that it is only through the power of God and the indwelling of His Holy Spirit that we can love God and neighbor in this way. We also believe that when we fail, God is always willing to forgive and restore us to wholeness.

#### Biblical References:

- Romans 12:1-2 – "*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship...*"
- Galatians 5:22-26 – "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law...*"

### The Return of Christ

We believe that Christ will come again at a time of God's appointing and that He will come in judgment. Those who are in Christ will dwell with God forever in Heaven, and those who are not in Christ will be separated from God forever in Hell.

#### Biblical References:

- **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** – "*...For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever...*"
- **Matthew 25:31-46** - "*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left...*"

# Stuff You Need to Understand and Submit to in Order to Serve at Fairfax Community Church

## Church Membership/Christian Unity

We believe God calls all people to respond in faith to the Gospel of Jesus Christ whereby they become members of the universal church of God. We believe that each local congregation is an expression of this universal church, and that it is God's will for each believer to be a committed member of a local congregation. Since it is our faith in Jesus Christ that places us in the church, FCC requires no other formalities for membership.

Biblical References:

- **Acts 2:47** – *“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*
- **John 17:20-23** – *“...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me...”*

## Believer's Baptism

We believe that baptism is for believers who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We baptize believers by immersion as a sign of death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ.

Biblical Reference:

- **Acts 16:25-34** – *“...What must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized...”*
- **Rom. 6** – *“...Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life...”*

## Communion

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as participation in and proclamation of the death and resurrection of our Lord until he comes. We believe that anyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ is invited to participate.

Biblical Reference:

**I Corinthians 11:23-29** – *"...When he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me..."*

## Footwashing

We wash each other's feet, following Jesus' example who assumed the role of servant by washing the feet of his disciples.

Biblical Reference:

- **John 13:1-17** - *"...When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet..."*

## Women in Ministry

We believe that the Bible places no limitations on women in ministry or leadership within the church.

Biblical References:

- **Galatians 3:28** - *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*
- **Romans 12:6-8** - *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."*
- **Acts 2:17** - *"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy..."*
- **1 Cor. 11:5-15** - *"And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head--it is just as though her head were shaved... but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory. For long hair is given to her as a covering."*

- **Acts 18:24-26** – *“Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus... When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.”*
- **Romans 16** – *“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea... Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them...”*

We believe that the restrictions that are placed on women in scripture in terms of ministry in the church are not timeless biblical principles, but responses to specific situations that were going on in the first century church. Examples of this are:

- **1 Cor. 14:33-36** - *“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak...”* (addressing an issue of order in the church service)
- **1 Tim. 2:11-12** - *“...I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent”* (addressing an issue of false teaching to which women were extremely vulnerable – 1 Tim. 3:6)
- **1 Tim. 6:1-2** - *“All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered...”* (addressing the issue of Christian witness)
- **1 Tim. 5:23** - *“Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.”* (addressing a current health crisis)
- **1 Tim. 2:9** *“I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes.”* (addressing issues of modesty and preoccupation with outward looks)

## **Predestination**

We believe that God loves the whole world and has predestined every single person to experience the saving grace of God. God has provided the way for salvation through the life, death and resurrection of His Son. God has even given every person the capacity to respond in faith. Sadly, many have chosen to reject God’s offer of salvation and will spend eternity separated from Him.

Biblical References:

- **Ephes. 1:3-6** *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...”*
- **John 3:16** - *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*
- **Romans 10:13** *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*
- **Matthew 22:14** *“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”*

## Eternal Security

We believe that as we continue to place our faith in the saving power of God through Christ we are secure in our salvation.

### Biblical References:

- **1 Cor. 15:1-2** – *“Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.”*
- **Col. 1:21-23** – *“But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.”*
- **John 15:4-8** – *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you...If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”*
- **Romans 11:13-14, 17-22** – *“You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.’ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.”*

## Speaking in Tongues

We believe that the gift of tongues is a recognized spiritual gift in the Bible and should not be prohibited from being exercised. We also believe that its use is discouraged and limited in a congregational setting (large group and small group) and is therefore most appropriately exercised in the context of personal prayer.

### Biblical References:

- **I Cor. 14:2** – *“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit”*
- **V. 4** – *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”*
- **V. 19** – *“In the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongues.”*
- **V. 27** – *“If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.”*

## **The Last Days**

We believe that the entire period between Christ's first coming and His second coming constitute the "last days". Therefore, we are living in the last days, just as the first Century Christians were. And just as they lived in the expectation of the imminent return of Christ, so should we.

Biblical References:

- **Hebrews 1:2** - *"But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe."*
- **1 Peter 1:20** - *"He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake."*