

APPENDIX #1

OUR BELIEFS

This is what we believe the Bible teaches about our basic, fundamental doctrine:

1. GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14

2. JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again some day to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

II Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14, 16, 17; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25

4. THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 106, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People

are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

6. SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" your salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10-14; I Peter 1:3-5

8. ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation through Christ. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; I John 5:13-15; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15;
Matthew 16:24-28

APPENDIX #2

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENTS THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE AS BAPTISTS

These are the things we practice because beliefs don't really matter a whole lot unless they're actually translated into action.

B - BIBLE IS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16

At CrossPoint we have done our very best to make sure that the Bible is our final authority. Not a creed, not a denominational statement, not what Oprah says or Montel says. Who is our final authority, not only in our lives but in our churches? The Bible. And it can be trusted. Whenever there is a question about what to do, we know where to go to find the answer—the Bible; the word of God. It can be trusted as an authority in our lives.

A - AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Jesus Christ is the head of this church. Not Ryan, not the leaders, not the deacons. Jesus Christ is the head of this church, the recognized honored head of this church. Because of that, we are a body and we work together. He is the source of our life. There is value in associating with other Christians and other groups of Christians. This church makes its own decisions about its land and its property. No denominational control from outside can tell us what to do with our land or tell Ryan to move to another church. This church makes its own decisions about those kinds of things. We are autonomous.

P - PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:6

Nobody here wears special clothes, a special collar or a special robe. You and I are all priests before God. We don't need anybody to stand between us and God anymore. Jesus Christ did that by His death and resurrection. You don't need another human being to stand on your behalf in front of God. Because of that we all have equal access to God.

T - TITHING

The word tithing simply means "ten percent." It's the way we finance this church. We don't finance it through bingo or raffles or any kind of gimmicks like that. We finance this church through the members giving ten percent of what they earn back to the church. Nobody's ever going to come check up on you. Nobody's ever going to knock on your door, "You're about three months behind. Let's cough up some back pay!" Never! If we teach you what the Bible says, then it becomes something between you and God. It is the responsibility of the people who commit themselves to membership here to give and support the work of the church.

10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,...

Malachi 3:10

I - IMMERSION

12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

If you have never had the opportunity to watch the baptisms in the baptism pool, you've got to do it. You watch people make a public statement of their belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The picture of baptism is being buried under water just as Christ was buried in the tomb and raised into a new way of life. Baptism is simply a picture of what's happened on the inside.

S - SPIRIT LED LIVING.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

This is something we believe deeply. He is the source of our life not just for salvation but for everyday. Every day, when you get up, if you do not reconnect yourself to God - not in terms of salvation, but in terms of dependence, "God, I

depend on You today to get me through this day" - you'll miss out. You're trying to live your life on your own strength and that leads only to frustration and exhaustion. God has intended that we be plugged in to Him. He is our power source in life.

T - TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST.

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility and the privilege of every believer to tell someone else about his or her faith in Jesus. You don't have to know the whole Bible. You don't have to have some witnessing plan memorized. All you need to do is tell somebody else, "This is what God did for me. I don't even understand it all, but my life is different because of Jesus."

APPENDIX #3

OUR CORE VALUES

We also believe these values portray how we intend to fulfill our vision.

1. We value the purpose of RELATIONSHIPS.

15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

2. We value the pursuit of HEALTH.

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

3. We value the promise of OPPORTUNITY.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

4. We value the potential of LEADERSHIP.

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,...

Ephesians 4:11-13

5. We value the priority of SERVICE.

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

6. We value the persuasiveness of CREATIVITY.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

7. We value the power of CHANGE.

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

APPENDIX 4

OUR AFFILIATION

Is CrossPoint affiliated with any other Christian agencies?

CrossPoint is an independent church! In fact, every Southern Baptist Convention church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there are in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets.
- Every SBC church determines its own programs and ministries.

Even though CrossPoint is an independent church, we choose to be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and its associations.

CrossPoint is associated with...

- St. Clair Baptist Association: A local Baptist association of churches that fellowship and work together to reach Jefferson County and St. Clair County for Christ.
- The Alabama Baptist Convention, with 3150 churches that work together with the goal of evangelizing our state.
- The Southern Baptist Convention, with almost 50,000 churches that cooperate together in a worldwide effort of missions.

What are the advantages of affiliating with the Southern Baptist Convention?

It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made "creed". The Bible is our only authority.

It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC "Cooperative Program" we help support over 7500 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.