

WHAT WE BELIEVE

(A Reunion Church understanding of the Great Biblical Truths of the Christian faith)

Salvation and Regeneration

We believe this to be...

Salvation is our conscious acceptance and confession of Jesus Christ the Son of God, as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9). In Christ we receive the God's gift of eternal life (1 John 5:10-12). This process begins with repentance for the life we have all lived apart from Christ (1 John 1:9). From that moment we are forgiven for how we have lived and we are being made new in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17); this is called regeneration. Both salvation and regeneration come to us through Christ as a gift of God's love and grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). We did not earn the gift of God's love but we certainly believe that by His grace we will forever keep it (John 11:25-26).

Sanctification and Holiness

We believe this to be...

Sanctification is the life-long process of spiritual maturity in Christ, in which we learn to think like Jesus. To be sure it is the metamorphosis of our thoughts, words, and actions as they begin to resemble His character and reflect His presence (1 Thessalonians 4:7). Jesus said, "But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." But who on their own power can do that? The understanding of the sanctification and holiness process is revealed to us more through "our being" than solely through "our doing" (John 17:14-19). This means simply to focus each day on who we are becoming in Christ, and is evidenced by a deeper commitment to the simplicity of our intentions and the purity of our affections (1 Peter 1:13-16).

Grace and Justification

We believe this to be...

In grace we are awakened to the central thing; we walk with God under his eye, confident that he is looking at us and searching our heart, our soul, and all that is within us (Hebrews 2:12-16). Discovering then, that in all he sees of us and all that He knows about us did not stop Him from loving or choosing us... that is grace (Romans 5:6-8). Bottom line is that we have all sinned and in that sin we are unacceptable to God (Romans 3:23). But, God's love for us came to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ - and in the righteousness of Christ He was making a way for us to be acceptable (Titus 3:4-7). So, being forgiven and having our sin's debt forever paid for by Christ, we now can without shame, freely come to God... that is justification (Romans 3:24).

The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit

We believe this to be...

Christ promised the disciples that He would send to them a comforter when he left them (Luke 24:29). The fulfillment of that promise came to them on the "Day of Pentecost" in the upper room in Jerusalem. That day the Holy Spirit empowered them to spread the Gospel around the world. Today, we too are filled with the

Holy Spirit as evidenced by the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit described in (1 Corinthians 12:1-13), which are given to us (the body of Christ) by God, as He wills (Hebrews 2:4). Some of these gifts are given by God as a power for service and ministry within the Christian community, while others were given as a sign to unbelievers. When the gifts of the Spirit are expressed and shared according to God's will everyone is built up, everyone is encouraged and everyone is equipped for the work of the ministry. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for building or boosting a personal agenda, but rather to serve and edify of all those Christ calls us to. We also believe that the use and expressing of these gifts are only validated by the sincere evidence of the "fruit of the Spirit" that should be active in the day to day life of the Christian believer (Galatians 5:20). We do not lead people with gifts of the Spirit, but we are to serve them with the fruit of that same Spirit.

Redemption and the Second Coming of Christ

We believe this to be...

The scripture teaches us clearly that no one comes to the Father except through the Son (John 14:6), which is Jesus Christ. In fact, there is no other name under heaven (Christ) whereby a man can be saved. Having understood "access to God" to be only in Christ - then it is only logical to conclude that He alone is our redemption (Colossians 1:13-23). The second coming of Christ is the literal act and culmination of the redemption process. Christ comes for us to present us to the Father as His own. We embrace the idea of an actual second coming of Jesus Christ, and His gathering up and transformation of all those alive or dead who have believe in Him, as described in (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).