

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

### **Verbal inspiration of the Bible**

We believe the Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, to be verbally inspired by God in the original manuscripts; infallible, inerrant and God-breathed, and a perfect rule of faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16)

### **The Trinity (Tri-unity: 3 in one, not 3 Gods)**

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(1John 5:7; Matthew 28:19- see note)

Note: Jesus is recorded as saying in Matthew 28:19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**.”* We are **not baptizing in multiple names, but ONE NAME**. There is but one God and Lord to baptize in the name of. Three in one.

### **The Lord Jesus Christ is God (Jesus is Lord)**

We believe that God, the Son, who has always existed, became a man (without diminishing His deity) by virgin birth through Mary. He lived a sinless life and as the infinite God-Man took upon Himself the sins of all men, died in their place and satisfied the justice of God concerning their sins. We further believe in the literal, physical Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and was exalted to the right hand of God, Who is the Great High Priest of all believers. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1; John 14:6; John 10:30; John 20:27; Matthew 28:5-7)

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, a Divine Person, who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of the coming judgment. He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, empowering, teaching, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption and leads believers in all Truth. (John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:13; John 16:5-12;)

### **Salvation**

We believe, and the Bible teaches, that we are saved by Grace through faith. Grace is God’s gift to our salvation made available by the shed Blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary, and not by any works of man. Faith is man’s response to God’s Grace and the invitation to be one with Him. This faith should result in a changed life and a life-long commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Matt. 7:21-23; Matt. 25:31-46; Romans 10:9; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9)

### **Water Baptism**

We believe that water Baptism, by submersion or immersion, is an act of obedience and public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ. (Mark 1:9; Acts 8:36; Colossians 2:12)“buried in baptism”- as Jesus was buried in the earth, in baptism we are buried in the water and brought back up which is symbol of the resurrection)

The word “baptizo” in the Greek, translated “baptize” in the New Testaments, meant to “dip” or “immerse.” It is sometimes argued that in Mark 7:4 and Luke 11:38 the word means “to wash by pouring,” not “immerse”; but in those texts the actual meaning (as historical information substantiates) is to “wash by dipping or immersing in water.”

“Rhantizo” means to sprinkle. “Katacheo” means to pour. The Bible did not use these Greek words, but “Baptizo”.

### **Eternal Security**

We believe that all who have repented of sin, believed on the Lord Jesus, Confessed and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior will never lose their salvation. (John 3:16; John 10:27-30 1John 5:13)

### **Resurrection of the Saints (Rapture)**

The dead in Christ will rise first and those remaining alive will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord. (1Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1Corinthians 15:52; Matthew 24:40-42-)

...40Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come....

### **The Second Coming**

Indicates that Christ will be universally visible at His second coming. In contrast with His first coming in Bethlehem. The second coming will happen when Jesus Christ returns to defeat the Antichrist, overthrow evil, and then establish His 1000-year reign.

(Luke 21:27; Matthew 24:29-30 Revelation 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16)

### **Devil and Demons**

We believe that Satan is a person who is aided by a host of evil spirit beings called demons. Their design is to destroy believers, their homes and their churches, blinding the lost to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every believer is subject to their attack, but may be made victorious through Jesus Christ. He is not omnipresent like God, which means that he cannot be everywhere at once. He uses demons on assignments.

(John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8; Mark 1:32-34)

### **Sanctification**

Sanctification is “Christ living His life through the believer”. It is not the teaching of passivity, sinless perfection, or the deification of man. Those who have been born-again have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and our bodies are the temple of God in which dwells the Holy Spirit and our bodies are vessels to be used for a holy or pure purpose for the glory of God. The origin of this word, sanctification, is from the Latin word “sanctus” which means holy or to consecrate (meaning to set apart). The suffix of “tion” in sanctification is the ongoing or continuing process of this “becoming holy”. As Believers, we are sanctified by the Blood of Jesus Christ. (2Thessalonians 2:13; 2Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 13:12)

## Marriage

We believe in the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman according to the teaching of Scriptures in the Holy Bible, the inerrant Word of God. We believe that marriage is ordained by God and is a spiritual union in which man and woman are joined together by God to live together as one. (Genesis 2: 23-24; Mark 10:6-9)

## Protecting the Sanctity of Life

Because a human fetus is sacred and blessed of God, we believe that we have the responsibility to protect the life of the unborn. Since God is the Giver of life, it is our firm conviction that abortion is wrong. (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalms 139:13-16)

Proverbs 6:16-17

*"The Lord hates hands that shed innocent blood."*

## Tithing and Giving

We recognize the wise use of money. It is an essential part of the Christian life. It is a principal that is required and commanded by God that will bring forth blessings and protection of finances (he'll rebuke the devour). (Malachi 3:10-11; Proverbs 3:9; Luke 6:38; 2Corinthians 9:6-7)

## Spiritual Gifts

The Spiritual Gifts are grace gifts that are given by God to equip the Believers to glorify God and to build up the Church (the Body of Christ) through the Supernatural power of Holy Spirit. These gifts are to be used to benefit others. There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit, different kinds of service but the same Lord. Different kinds of working, but in the same God. (1Cor.12:4-6) The Bible says that God does not want us to be un-informed or ignorant about them.

**The 9 Spiritual Gifts (or The Manifestation Gifts)** are listed in **1 Corinthians 12:1-10**. The Spirit of God is the Source of these Supernatural gifts, and they are manifested for the benefit of others to bring glory to God, not to man.

They are: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Discernings of Spirits, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Workings of Miracles, Different Kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy.

**5 Ministry (Service) Gifts** are tools or areas of ministry that God uses to lead, guide, and build up the Church. Ministry gifts are often confirmed by ordination.

These are found in **Ephesians 4:11**:

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers

**The 7 Motivational (Working) Gifts** are found in **Romans 12:7-8**. Each Christian receives one of these gifts at the time of salvation, and it is the tool through which God works in him or her to see needs and to do something to meet them. These gifts help the church to grow and to remain healthy. They help to shape how believers view life, relate to others, and impact the Body of Christ.

These gifts are:

Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Mercy, Exhorting, Organizing/Leading, Giving.

## Church Covenant

We, the members of **The Way Church** of Hartwell, GA, having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive our Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord by profession of Faith in Him, and having been baptized, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into a covenant relationship with one another as one body in Christ.

We therefore agree, by the aid of the Holy Spirit and the inspired Word of God, as our guide: to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in holiness, knowledge, and unity; to promote its spirituality; to sustain worship, an attitude of love, discipline, ordinances, and doctrines; to give cheerfully and regularly of tithes and offerings to support the ministry of our church and for the spreading of the Gospel here at home and around the world.

We agree to encourage family and personal devotions; to educate our children according to our faith; to seek the salvation of unbelievers; to maintain a good reputation by being just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, reliable in our responsibilities, and an example to those around us; to avoid gossip and backbiting; to abstain from drunkenness from the use of alcohol, as well as illegal drugs and other substances harmful to our bodies which are the temples of the Holy Spirit; to use our influence to preserve the sanctity of human life and to combat moral issues such as pornography and gambling; to oppose the practice and the support of homosexuality which is condemned in the scriptures; to be zealous and to work untiringly for advancement of the Kingdom of our Savior by witnessing to the Love of Christ in words and actions.

We agree to walk in Christian harmony and watchfulness, giving assistance where needed, with meekness and affection; to pray for one another; to help each other during sickness and sorrow; to be slow to anger; to be quick to forgive, and always to be eager for reconciliation.

We moreover agree, that if we move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with a local church of like beliefs where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.