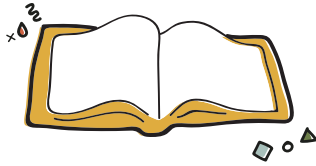




PART I

SERIOUSLY

READ



THIS SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 5 MINUTES!

We are so glad you are here. What you hold in your hands is a guide to help you better understand what it means to be a part of The Church at RB. Over the next few weeks, we want to effectively use your time to help you know and understand what we believe, why we follow Jesus, and how we follow Jesus.

The first thing to know about us is that we don't take ourselves that seriously. Seriously. However, there are some things that we take really seriously. Another way to explain this is that we have some convictions. That doesn't make us unique, everyone has convictions, but so that we have a good understanding, we want to explain what our convictions are up front.

We also have some beliefs. Over the coming pages, we want to help you understand what some of our beliefs are.

We also have some opinions. Just so you know, we aren't the kind of church that spends a lot of time explaining what all of our opinions are. It doesn't mean that we don't have them, it just means we try to hold them in their proper place so that they don't distract from our convictions.

LET'S DIVE INTO THAT IDEA A LITTLE DEEPER.

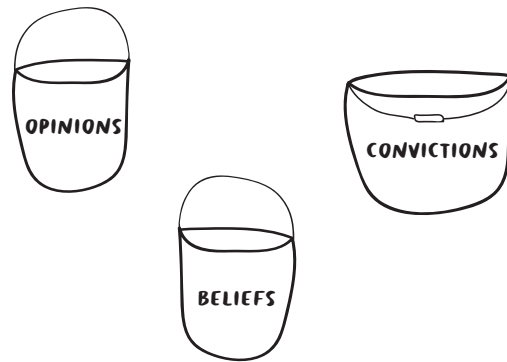
You can think of these three, opinions, beliefs, and convictions, as buckets. And they aren't all equal.

CONVICTIONS: First, what is a conviction? A conviction is what you would die for. A conviction is what you are convinced of, or what makes you pound the table and say, "I'm not wrong!"

For us, our core convictions are that Jesus is risen from the dead and that he has made it possible for anyone and everyone to have a relationship with God. These two ideas are things we'd die for. They are that deep in our bones. They are our convictions. This is the most important bucket.

BELIEFS: This bucket is really important. However, it's not as important as our convictions. Your beliefs are what you wouldn't die for, but you would fight for. Beliefs are those floaty but important truths that make you say, "I

don't think I'm wrong!" For example, we believe baptism is really important when someone decides to follow Jesus. We believe infant baptism isn't. We wouldn't die over these beliefs. Obviously, we have more beliefs than we have convictions. It's a heavier bucket. A big part of this study is going to help you understand what is in our belief bucket.



OPINIONS: We have a lot of opinions. To be clear, you wouldn't die for just an opinion. You probably wouldn't even fight for it. You would however, express your opinion in the context of relationship. An opinion is something that when you say it, there is an implied, "I could be wrong!"

As a church, we have a lot of opinions. At the same time, we don't think they are the most important thing. For example, it's our opinion that drinking alcohol in moderation is totally fine (That's a question Christians ask about a lot!). However, that isn't a conviction. It's also not really a belief. We try really hard as a church to not focus all of our time sharing our opinions so we can keep the main thing the main thing. In fact, isn't it possible that all of our opinions can get in the way of people seeing our convictions?

Why is this important? In the absence of clarity, we tend to treat every issue as a **CONVICTION** when it may just be an **OPINION**.

How many of us have met someone, or maybe you are someone, who walked away from church because someone taught you all of their **OPINIONS** as if they were their **CONVICTIONS**? If we overload our **CONVICTION** bucket, we will begin to take ourselves too *seriously* and lose sight of what actually is *serious*.

We are a church and a group of people who are convicted over the reality that Jesus is risen from the dead. We also share a conviction that we have found life in him in the present. That's our shared **CONVICTION**. Over the coming pages, you are going to discover some of our beliefs and maybe even some of our opinions that make us unique as a church. Some of them you may agree with and some of them you may not.

We really don't have to 100% agree with everyone on 100% of everything before we can become family...that's our opinion. We don't expect you will 100% agree with us on everything. We don't even 100% agree on everything as a staff! Now, let's dive in.

“

WE ARE A
CHURCH AND
A GROUP OF
PEOPLE WHO ARE
CONVICTED OVER
THE REALITY
THAT JESUS IS
RISEN FROM
THE DEAD,

”

WRITE



WHO FORMED YOUR OPINIONS?

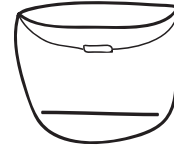
Write the person's name who influenced you the most about that topic in the bucket.



Nike vs Adidas



Sports



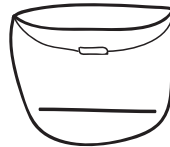
Politics



Books



Pizza Toppings



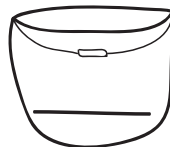
Faith



Saving/Spending
Money



Friends



Music



In N Out vs Chick Fil A



Clothing Style



Toilet paper
roll direction



or



WHERE WOULD YOU PLACE YOURSELF?

Write an "X" on the lines below.



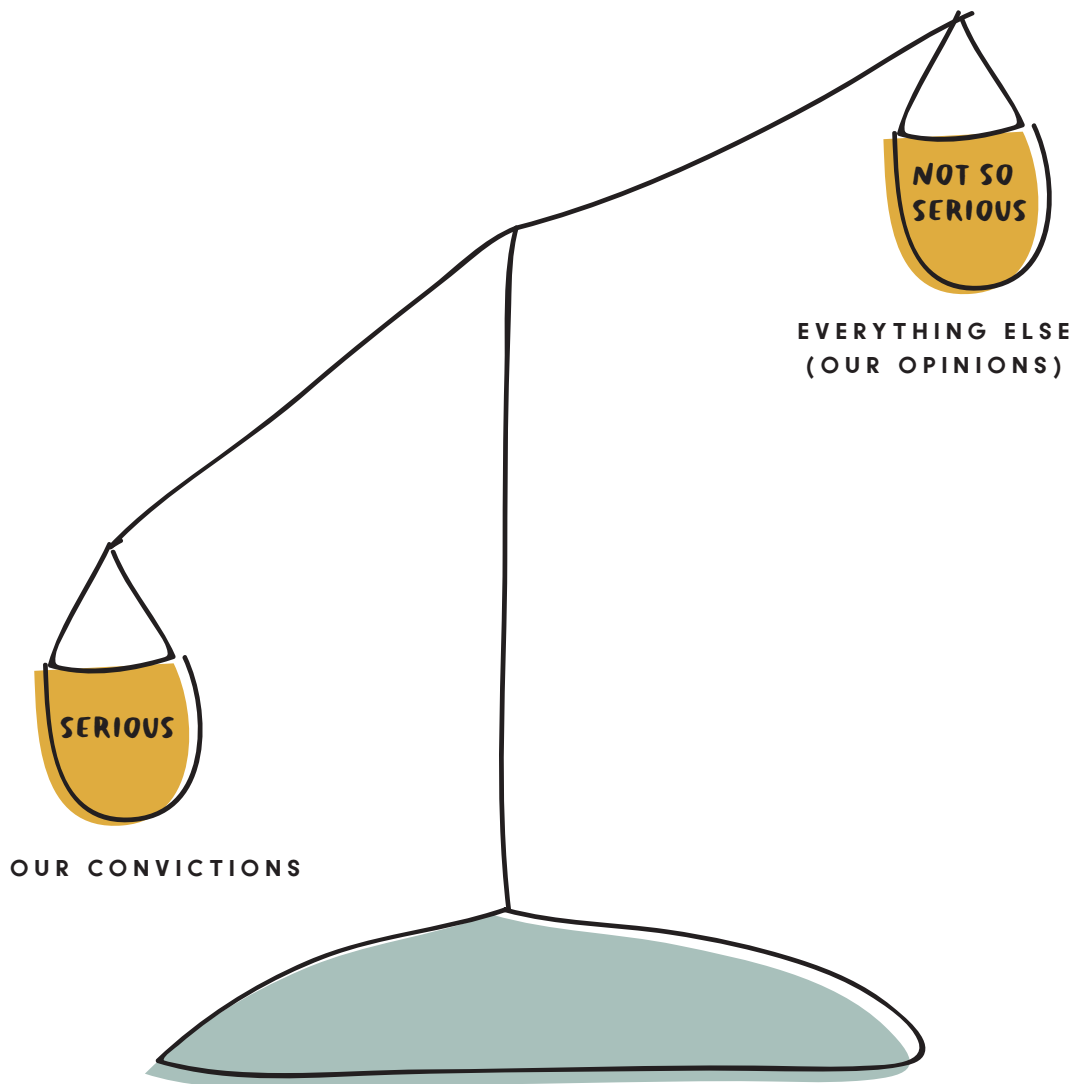
WHERE WOULD YOU PLACE YOUR FAMILY?



WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?



AS A CHURCH, OUR CONVICTIONS ARE MORE
IMPORTANT THAN OUR OPINIONS.



DOES THE SCALE OF YOUR LIFE
LOOK LIKE THIS?

☐ Yes

☐ No

WHAT OPINIONS DO YOU AGREE ON AS A FAMILY?

Check all that apply.

☐ Politics



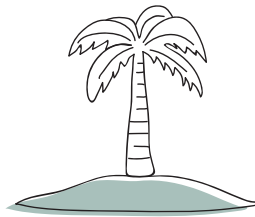
☐ Where to eat

☐ What to watch on Netflix

☐ Music 

☐ Parenting

☐ Where to vacation



☐ Theology

☐ Decorating

☐ Bed time

☐ Sports teams

☐ How to spend money

☐ Pets



**DESPITE OUR DIFFERENT OPINIONS,
WE ARE STILL FAMILY.**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**WE DON'T HAVE TO 100% AGREE WITH EVERYONE ON 100% OF
EVERYTHING BEFORE WE CAN BECOME A FAMILY.**

CONVICTIONS, BELIEFS, AND OPINIONS

Fill in one example for each.

CONVICTIONS:

What you would *die* for.
"I'm not wrong!"



(ONE OF MY PERSONAL CONVICTIONS)

BELIEFS:

You wouldn't *die* for it, but you would *fight* for it.
"I don't think I'm wrong!"

(ONE OF MY PERSONAL BELIEFS)

OPINIONS:

You wouldn't *die* for it, you probably wouldn't *fight* over it,
but you might *express* it in the context of *relationship*.
"I could be wrong!"



(ONE OF MY PERSONAL OPINIONS)

OUR CONVICTIONS ARE EXPRESSED AT THE DOOR. OUR
BELIEFS AND OPINIONS ARE EXPRESSED AT THE TABLE.

PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

Draw a circle around opinions. Draw a square around beliefs.

Draw a triangle around convictions.

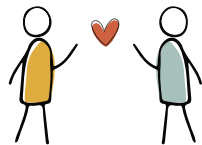
(SEE OUR ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.)



**1. ANYONE AND EVERYONE CAN
HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**



2. JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE.



3. ALCOHOL IN MODERATION IS FINE.

4. JESUS MAKES FAMILIES STRONG.



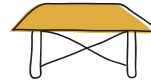
5. BAPTISM IS A CELEBRATION.



6. JESUS MAKES THE COMMUNITY NEW



7. EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY.



8. EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE.



9. JESUS DIED AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

10. IT'S OK TO HAVE A TATTOO

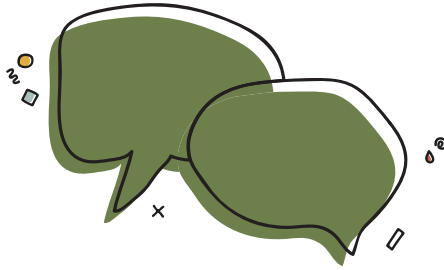


11. LIFE IS BETTER IN CIRCLES.



ANSWER KEY
CONVICTIONS: 1, 9
BELIEFS: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
OPINIONS: 3, 10

TALK



DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR TABLEGROUP.

WARM-UP Q:

When was a time you took yourself too seriously?

- WATCH VIDEO -

1. Why is it important to distinguish between convictions, beliefs, and opinions?
2. When was a time that these weren't distinct in your life?
3. What beliefs would you want to extend to your children?
4. Have you ever been in a situation where someone took something more *seriously* than you did?

DO



THIS WEEK:

What is one misplaced opinion you will take out of your convictions bucket?

Write here: _____
_____.

IMAGINE IF YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE LITTLE THINGS SO SERIOUSLY.

Opinions have the power to create walls and enemies, but our convictions, when taken seriously, have the power to break walls down. Is there someone in your life who is behind a wall built by differing opinion? Imagine how the relationship could change if you didn't take that opinion too seriously.



PUT SIMPLY

WHAT WE TAKE SERIOUSLY:

Jesus died for our sins and rose again so that we could be in relationship with him on Earth and reunited with him in Heaven.

Jesus has made it possible for *EVERYONE* to have a relationship with him.