

Vista Community Church

The Story of God: What We Believe

Our Statement of Faith

What we believe about:

God

The Bible

The Human Condition

Jesus Christ

The Work of Christ

The Holy Spirit

The Church

Christian Living

Christ's Return

Response and Eternal Destiny

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that
needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

CHURCH

- *ekklesia*, which is defined as “an assembly” of “called-out ones.”
- “Universal” vs “Local”

Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone; in whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-22

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Matthew 18:20 (ESV).

CHURCH

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” Ephesians 2:19, ESV).

The true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace
through faith alone in Christ alone.

GRACE

Faith ALONE in Jesus Christ ALONE

Justified

= True Church

GRACE

- Definition:
 - “Getting what you don’t deserve” or “unmerited favor”
 - “Not getting what you deserve”
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9
- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5

JUSTIFICATION / FORGIVENESS

- And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:17 (ESV)
- And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness” – and he was called a friend of God. James 2:23 (ESV)

United by the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ, of Which He is the Head

- For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6
- These verses underscore the foundational unity that exists among believers, stemming from their shared experience with the Holy Spirit. They emphasize that this unity is not merely a suggestion, but a reality established by God through the Spirit.

The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers

- Visible and Tangible local expression of the universal church demonstrating the love and unity of believers
- Fellowship and Unity:
 - Space for believers to gather, fellowship, and encourage one another
- Worship and Service:
 - Corporate worship, where believers gather to praise God, hear His Word, and participate in ordinances like communion.
- Discipleship and Growth:
 - Discipleship process, helping believers grow in their faith through teaching, mentorship, and opportunities to serve.

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- Community Outreach:
 - Community outreach, providing support, resources, and a message of hope to those in need.
- Spiritual Warfare:
 - Equip believers to combat spiritual forces of evil through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and the proclamation of the gospel.

Comes to life, impacting individuals, communities, and the world with the love and truth of the gospel.

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baptism and the Lord's Supper,
which visibly and tangibly express the gospel.
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these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

BAPTISM

- Identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Romans 6:3-4
 - Washing away of sins and new birth. Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16
 - Putting on Christ. Galatians 3:27
 - Unification with the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - Public declaration of faith
 - Living in a new way: Colossians 2:12
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The Lord's Supper

- Remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:24-25
 - Proclaiming the Lord's Death.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:26
 - Spiritual Nourishment and Unity.
 - John 6:53-56, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
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The Long-Range Purpose of the Church

- First Fruits
 - Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. James 1:18
 - The Unseen Realm
 - I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Ephesians 3:9-10 (NLT)
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