



**THIS WE  
BELIEVE**

# This We Believe

- God
- The Bible
- Creation
- Humanity and Sin
- Jesus
- Salvation
- Holy Spirit
- Church
- Future Events



# **We Believe in the Creation of The Human Person and the Fall into Sin**



# 1. God Created Humanity in His Own Image and Likeness

- Image symbolized authority over a certain domain
- We represent God
- Gives meaning to work
- Gives meaning to sexuality



## 2. People Consist of a Material Part - the Body, and an Immaterial Part, the Soul

- Immaterial - soul, spirit, heart, will, mind, consciousness, intuition
- Soul consists of understanding and will (John Calvin)





# 3. Sin Entered the Garden - and Our Own Backyard

- Adam and Eve were created with the ability not to sin - they had the moral ability to obey God
- “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Ro 3:23)





Love the Lord your God  
With all your heart  
With all your soul  
With all your mind  
And with all your strength

# 4. The Guilt of Sin is Transmitted to All People from Adam and Eve

- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer 17:9)
- Total depravity - as bad off as you can be
- Utter depravity - as bad as you can be





Therefore,  
*just as sin entered the  
world through one man,  
and death through sin,  
and in this way death came to  
all people, because all sinned.*

Romans 5:12

# 5. Evil and Suffering are Real ... And Really Hurt

- “Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is impotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both willing and able? Whence then is evil?” - David Hume



# Evil

- God has control over good and evil, but God is good, not evil (1 John 1:5)
- God directly causes all good (James 1:17), and he indirectly permits evil in such a way that he does not do the evil, yet he retains control over it (Acts 14:16).
- God cannot be blamed for evil, but places the responsibility for it upon the persons who do it (Eccl 7:29; Is 66:3-4).
- God uses evil for his glory and our good (Gen 50:20; Ro 8:28).



# 6. We Live in a Fallen World

- Personhood
- Relationships
- Sexual Ethics
- Technology



# "NOT A PERSON"



**1815**



**1945**



**2018**

**LIVE ACTION**

# 7. God Wants to Recreate Us in His Image

- “conformed to the image of his Son” (Ro 8:29)
- “which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (Col 3:10)
- “just as we have born the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven (1 For 15:49)





**“Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us.**

**But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
miserable offenders. Spare Thou those, O  
God, who confess their faults. Restore  
Thou those who are penitent; According  
to Thy promises declared unto mankind in  
Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most  
merciful Father, for His sake; That we may  
hereafter live a godly, righteous, and  
sober life, To the glory of Thy holy Name.  
Amen.**

