

thechapel.life

Core Distinctives

1. GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Together, we believe that The Gospel (Jesus Christ died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day) is central to the story of God, the redemption of creation, the salvation of humanity, the life of God's people, and the mission of His church. We believe the Gospel is not only received (by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone), but it is that upon which we stand and are being saved (1 Cor 15:1 –5). Therefore, we are committed to making the Gospel central in everything we do as churches.

2. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION

We affirm and believe that God is the source of the salvation of human beings, necessary because of their radical depravity. Therefore, God chose those whom He would save in Christ before the foundation of the world, not based on any foreseen faith or merit, but unconditionally, according to the purpose of His sovereign will. Further, God is also the accomplisher of salvation. Therefore, those whom God has elected for salvation He graciously and effectually draws to himself, so that they would believe, and further provides the grace necessary for them to persevere in their faith. (Jn 1:12 – 13, 10:25 – 30, Rom 3 – 4, Eph 1:4 – 5 2:8 – 10, 1 Jn 1:7, 9)

3. THEOLOGICAL UNITY WITH SECONDARY DIVERSITY

We affirm and uphold the doctrinal statement and these core distinctives of The Chapel and remain firmly committed to theological unity in these central doctrines. We also recognize that there are doctrines which are not clearly stated in either our doctrinal statement or any of these core distinctives. For these, we embrace the maxim, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity."

4. EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING

Because of our belief in the authority of Scripture (see our doctrinal statement) and the centrality of The Gospel (see above), we are committed to faithful exposition of the Scriptures as the regular means of preaching and teaching for the equipping and edification of God's people within our congregations. (2 Tim. 3:16 – 4:2)

5. A UNITED FAMILY OF CHURCHES

While fostering diversity within our movement of churches, we are committed to unity; cultivated primarily in shared commitments to our mission, vision, overarching governance structure, global outreach initiatives, Camp Carl and fellowship among the Lead Pastors of each congregation. Secondly, we share central services for the benefit of our churches.

6. MISSIONAL OUTREACH

We believe that mission is not a program of the church, but an essential element to the identity of the church. Further, we believe that mission is a primary part of Christian discipleship. Therefore, we are committed to each church engaging outreach by mobilizing the people of God through local ministry and disciple-making, church planting, and global missions. (Mt 28:16 – 20, Acts 1:8)

7. ORDERED EQUALITY IN SHARED MINISTRY

We believe and practice that God has created men and women with equal worth, dignity, value, and personhood and that He has given them distinct and complementary roles in both the home and the church.

Men and Women share ministry in our churches and fulfill a variety of roles and responsibilities. Accordingly, we believe and practice that God has designed the role of Elder/Pastor in the church to be exercised by men under the authority and headship of Christ Jesus.

8. CHRIST-CENTERED CORPORATE WORSHIP

We believe that God is ultimate and that human beings were designed to worship and enjoy Him forever. We do this through Jesus, empowered by the Spirit of God. Therefore, our corporate worship gatherings are structured so that Christ-Centered Worship is the primary activity of those gathered. In this way, followers of Jesus are edified and equipped while being evangelistically mindful of those who are not yet worshippers of Jesus.