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OUR ESSENTIALS

What is ETERNAL

(What are our foundational beliefs?)

One of the statements that churches like ours come to adopt says:

**“There is one Body and one Spirit. . .
there is one Lord, one faith, one
baptism, and one God and Father
of us all. . .” Ephesians 4:4-6**

**“In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty;
and in All Things, Love.”**

In the things that are the “core” of Christianity, we are to be united. Things that are not “essential” are considered opinions and there is liberty (flexibility) concerning these topics. Above all, love is to be practiced in everything.

“If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge, but also the very secrets of God, and have the faith that can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)

**“Methods are many, essentials are few.
Methods always change,
essentials never do!”**

1. THE BIBLE

The Bible is the inspired word of God and the final authority for Christian faith and practice.
(2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 119:105)

2. THE PERSON OF GOD

God is the eternal and true God who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He has revealed Himself as the creator, as righteous in all things and perfection in all things.
(Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19;
2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

3. JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is God, the Son. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and was crucified as a sacrifice for our sins. He was bodily resurrected from the dead (which was witnessed by more than 500 people) and returned (ascended) to heaven to prepare a place for those who accept Him as Savior and Lord. He will come again to receive His church unto Himself. (Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Titus 2:13; Acts 1:9-11; John 1:1-5, John 14:10-30)

**“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me.” Jesus
John 14:6**

**“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-to the praise of his glorious grace which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”
Ephesians 1:4-6**

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit, who convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment. Upon conversion, He resides in the believer, and is our teacher. He is the power to live the Christ-like life and is our guarantee of our salvation. (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Galatians 5:22-25)

5. PEOPLE

Men and women were created in God’s image. We are all sinners by choice and thus condemned by our own sin against God. At the same time we are the most valuable thing in all of God’s creation. We have never met a human being that God did not desperately love and care about. By acceptance of God’s plan, we can be saved, our sins forgiven and we can become His children. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9,10; Acts 2:36-39)

6. THE CHURCH

The Church is the body of Christ on earth. Christ is the head of His church. The church, as a body, is made up of many parts (people) who have become Christians by God’s grace through faith in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, confession of their belief in Christ as Lord, repentance for their sins and baptism into Christ. We not only belong to God, we belong to each other. (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4)

7. ETERNAL LIFE

Some day Jesus will return to take His church (bride) home. He, at that time, will raise the dead and judge the world. Every person who is a Christian (washed in His blood) will live with Him forever. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:36-51)