

# New Connections

A CLASS FOR THE CURIOUS

This class is designed to introduce you to the *Beliefs* and *Life* of **North Park Baptist Church**

**Week 1:**

## OUR CORE BELIEFS

UNDERSTANDING THE EVANGELICAL ESSENTIALS

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE WE BEGIN . . .

- (1) What brought you to North Park Baptist Church?
- (2) If you could ask the leaders any one question about the church, what would it be?
- (3) Describe the person who has influenced you the most spiritually.

### Essentials, Doctrines, and Preferences:

**Essentials:** areas of teaching that all true Christians accept as true and essential for faith and practice.

**Doctrines:** areas of teaching that a particular denomination considers biblically accurate & significant.

**Preferences:** areas of teaching that reflect style, taste and familiarity; but not binding for all.

*"In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, love."* —Augustine

### The Essentials of North Park Baptist:

#### 1. **The Authority of the Bible** (infallibility = absolutely trustworthy)

- We Believe the sixty-six books of the Bible are fully inspired by God ("God-breathe"), without error in the original manuscripts, and God's special revelation to mankind (John 10:35 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16–21)
- We Believe the Bible is the authority and guide for all faith and practice. (Psalm 119: 9–16, 105–112 Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:17)
- We Believe the Bible constitutes the divine rule by which all people will be held accountable. (John 12:47–50)

## **2. The Triune God**

- We Believe God is triune, eternally existing as one essence, yet in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19, John 17; 16:26)
- We Believe God is one. (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 17:3)
- We Believe the Father, Son, and Spirit are equal in all power and authority. (John 6:27; 20:28; 16:14)

## **3. The Absolute Deity and Humanity of Christ**

- We Believe Jesus is the 2nd person in the “Trinity.” (Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:21–22; Acts 5:3–5)
- We Believe Jesus is “God in the Flesh.” (John 1:1, 14; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5–6)
- We Believe Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as a real man; that He is fully God and fully Man (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:6-14; Galatians 4:4–5)
- We Believe this birth made him the perfect substitute and atoning sacrifice for our sins. (Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- We Believe Jesus rose up from the grave on the third day. (Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4)
- We Believe his resurrection is proof that all true believers will rise as well. (1 Corinthians 15:20; John 6:39)

## **4. The Creation and Fall of Humankind**

- We Believe humankind was created in God’s image. (Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 9:6)
- We Believe Adam rebelled against God and passed sin to all of humankind. (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12–14)
- We Believe sin has ruined humankind and creation; and has separated us from God. (Romans 7:18; 8:19–23; Ephesians 2:1–3)

## **5. *The Salvation of the Lost***

- We Believe the human race is spiritually lost and separate from God because of sin.  
(Genesis 3; Romans 3:23; 5:12–21; 6:23)
- We Believe salvation comes only by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.  
(John 3:16; Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–9; I Peter 3:18)

## **6. *The Literal Return of Christ to Earth***

- We Believe Jesus will come back to earth the way he left. (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)
- We Believe the day of his return is not for us to know, but it could happen at any time.  
(Mark 13:33-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6)

## **7. *The Future Judgment***

- We Believe God will assign people to their eternal destination in the last days.  
(Daniel 12:2; John 5:28–29)
- We Believe those who have chosen to rebel will be assigned to hell; a place of torment.  
(Matthew 5:29-30; Revelation 20:10,15)
- We Believe that those who have accepted the promises of God by faith will be assigned to heaven.  
(John 14:1–2; Revelation 21:1–4)

**For our complete doctrinal statement, please see the Constitution & By-Laws**

**A QUESTION TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT WEEK. . .**

**\* What kind of church structure and leadership are you most familiar with?**