

Chapelgate Presbyterian Church
Statement of Faith

What We Believe (Essentials)

- ✍ A complete articulation of our beliefs and doctrine is summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. The following is a summary of our essential beliefs.
- ✍ The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- ✍ There is One God, eternal and self-existing in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who are to be equally loved, honored, and adored.
- ✍ All mankind participated in Adam's fall from his original sinless state and is thus lost in sin and totally helpless.
- ✍ The Sovereign God, for no other reason than His own unfathomable love and mercy, has chosen lost sinners from every nation to be redeemed by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit and through the atoning death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ.
- ✍ Those sinners whom the Spirit quickens, are born again, come to believe in Christ as Savior by the Word of God, become sons of God, and will persevere to the end.
- ✍ Justification is by faith and through it the undeserving sinner is clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
- ✍ The goal of God's salvation in the life of the Christian is to live in holiness and service of God's kingdom for the renewal of God's creation and for the glory of God.
- ✍ The Church is the Bride and Body of Christ consisting of all who make profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ together with their children. The Church has been gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit to gather and equip the called of God for ministry and service.
- ✍ At death the Christian's soul passes immediately into the presence of God and the unbeliever's soul is eternally separated from God unto condemnation.
- ✍ Jesus Christ will return to earth, visibly and bodily, at a time when He is not expected, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
- ✍ The Gospel of God's salvation in Jesus Christ must be published to all the world as a witness before He returns.

Diversity and Unity in Doctrine (Non-Essential)

There are many other distinctives that are held by Chapelgate, as well as other Presbyterian and reformed denominations. We recognize that some leaders may not embrace one or more of these distinctives. However, leaders need to be aware of these so that they can agree not to teach anything that contradicts them. All our leaders need to be respectful of our theological distinctives.

- ✍️ Predestination. We believe that God chose, before the creation of the world, his own elect, predestined to eternal salvation. We recognize that the doctrine of election is important and that there are implications to this doctrine that we would consider essential for everyone in ministry at Chapelgate. For instance, one implication of election is that we believe and teach that salvation is solely by God's grace through faith alone. It is God only that saves us and sanctifies us as believers.
- ✍️ Baptism. We believe that baptism is a sign and seal of God's covenant with the family and is properly administered to children of believers in their infancy as well as to those who come as adults to trust in Christ. At the same time we want to affirm consistently that we acknowledge that both sacraments are gracious signs—not signs of our commitment to God, but of His commitment to us.
- ✍️ Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be given to those who have a credible profession of faith.
- ✍️ Christ's Return. We believe that the return of Christ will occur when the church is still in this world (that is, without a rapture). We do not want people to teach a pre-tribulational rapture.
- ✍️ Covenant Theology. We believe in continuity between the Old Testament people of God (Israel) and the New Testament people of God (the church) such that the church can be called a "renewed Israel." We do not embrace either "dispensationalism" or "replacement theology."
- ✍️ Women in Ministry. Our denomination does not allow for women to hold ordained office. At the same time, while affirming that view, we also affirm and value the role of women and the many opportunities for them to serve, lead and teach in ministry, worship and leadership as any non-ordained person could.

There are other matters that we do not want to be taught as if Chapelgate has a distinctive view.

- ✍️ The Creation Days. Chapelgate does not take a stand on the length of the days of creation or the age of the earth.
- ✍️ Sabbath Day. Chapelgate does not take a stand of how strict our observance of the Sabbath day ought to be. Some hold to a stricter interpretation of the Sabbath than others.
- ✍️ Politics. Chapelgate does not take any political view to be more "Christian" than another. We want to embrace people of all political persuasions equally.
- ✍️ Eschatology. While most PCA pastors embrace an "a-millennial" view of eschatology, we do not want any particular millennial view to be taught as the view of Chapelgate.
- ✍️ Religious Holidays. Some Christians object to the celebration of Christmas and Easter on the basis of their "pagan" origins. Chapelgate will not condemn the celebration of these holidays.
- ✍️ Legalism. Another matter of great importance is the issue of legalistic teachings in the church. Chapelgate seeks not to teach any rules that are not specifically taught by Scripture. Rules such as prohibitions against drinking alcohol, watching movies and dancing are not found in Scripture and should not be taught. We also recognize that excesses in these matters can lead to sin and addictions,

so, for instance, while we would not condone admonitions against drinking alcohol in general, we do not condone drunkenness.

Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church in America.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Chapelgate Presbyterian Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Church's members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Chapelgate in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.)