

# OUR SHARED FAITH

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

It is our desire to have those presenting the Word of God to be in agreement with the church's position on our essential beliefs. The following represents those beliefs. Please check the box that most accurately expresses your belief in each of the essentials listed.

## What We Believe At Northwoods Baptist Church

- In essentials beliefs – we have unity.
- In non-essential beliefs – we have freedom.
  - In all our beliefs – we have love.

Strongly Agree  
Mostly Agree  
Somewhat Agree  
Somewhat Disagree  
Mostly Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

### About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He exists eternally in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

### About the Father

He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. He reigns with providential care over the universe and the flow of human history goes according to His purposes and plan.

### About Jesus

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus has eternally existed and became man at His incarnation. He lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He bodily arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

### About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error.

### About People

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. However, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Strongly Agree  
 Mostly Agree  
 Somewhat Agree  
 Somewhat Disagree  
 Mostly Disagree  
 Strongly Disagree

**About Salvation**

Salvation is God’s free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting Jesus Christ as God’s offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin’s penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

**About Eternal Security**

Salvation is for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot “lose” it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

**About Eternity**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

**About Baptism by Immersion**

We believe that scriptural baptism must be: (1) by being completely immersed under the water, and (2) must be after salvation, not before salvation. Jesus was immersed and all baptisms in the New Testament were by immersion. These two facts set the standard for baptism today. Baptism has not saving power but is the first act of obedience symbolizing (1) the believer’s faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, (2) the believer’s death to sin and resurrection to walk anew in Christ, and (3) the Christian’s belief that he will die, be buried, and that Jesus will resurrect him from the dead.

**About the Lord’s Supper**

The Lord’s supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers remember the death of the Lord Jesus and anticipate His second coming. The bread is symbolic of His body and the juice represents His blood.

**About Tithing**

At Northwoods we believe in giving the tithe – 10% of gross income, as well as offerings. According to the Scriptures we are to give cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer’s cause on earth.

**About Evangelism**

It is the duty of every born again follower of Jesus Christ and of every church to endeavor to make disciples of all men everywhere. It is the command of Christ for every believer to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

**About the Church**

A New Testament Church is a body of baptized believers who are joined together for spiritual strengthening, for evangelism, and for Christian fellowship. The church is an autonomous body, with the government of the church vested in the local body, and subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body.

**About Christian Unity**

To live in harmony with other believers is clearly the teaching of the New Testament. It is the responsibility of each believer to endeavor to live in fellowship with each member of the congregation. It is further the responsibility of each member to bring all gossiping and backbiting to an end, and speak only what is edifying to the body.

**About Scriptural Officers**

The Scriptural Officers of the church are pastor(s) or elder(s) and deacons. Pastors serve through the ministry of spiritual oversight and leadership. Deacons serve through meeting physical needs. The church is pastor led, deacon served, and every member ministered. Every member, given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit, should develop and deploy those gifts in and through the ministry of the church.