

## Woodmen Valley Chapel Statement of Beliefs

**Our Belief is that** God is Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives within every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance for doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. (John 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus entered the human race through a virgin birth. 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 rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15)

The Bible is God's word to all people. 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, there are no mistakes. It is completely trustworthy. (Psalm 12:6; 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Salvation is a gift from God to each one of us. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can one be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith. (John 1:12; 14:6; Romans 5:1; 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

We were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union 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. (John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-13; Revelation 20:15)

Human beings are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creation. Although we have tremendous potential for good, we are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." Sin separates us from God. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23)

The local church consists of believers who have been baptized and have agreed to unite in faith and fellowship for the purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus with all people. Woodmen Valley Chapel is self-governing through a plurality of elders under the authority of Christ the Head. The New Testament also speaks of the church as the Body of Christ including all believers throughout history. (Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 37-42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:3-4; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 5:1-3).

Baptism is a public display of a believer's commitment to Christ. Baptism does not make a person a Christian, but is symbolic of death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ. Baptism is by immersion and is done after one decides to follow Jesus Christ. (Matthew 3:13-17, 28:19-20; Acts 2:41, 8:35-39; Acts 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

The Lord's Supper is a memorial service, symbolizing the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is for all believers. (Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

## Vision and Values

**Our Vision** (who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do)

To launch and strengthen a fleet of Christ-following communities who are compassionately sailing through a turbulent culture toward a deeper amazement of God's grace.

### **Our Philosophy of Ministry**

Pastor-Led Hebrews 13:17 As shepherds, the pastors are to lead the flock of God. They lead from a position of spiritual authenticity, integrity and servanthood or they forfeit their privilege to lead. At Woodmen Valley Chapel, the Senior Pastor is appointed to lead the church and be accountable to the Elders.

**Elder-Governed** 1 Peter 5:1-3 The Bible designates that Elders are to be appointed to "be shepherds of God's flock...serving as overseers." (1 Peter 5:2) the Elders of the church are responsible for the welfare and governing of the church. They are authorized to make the final decisions concerning the church.

**Lay-Empowered** Ephesians 4:11-13 We desire to be a community of God's people who are in the right places for the right reasons. We desire to be a church where everyone is serving in their area of giftedness according to their talents, skills, and passions.

**Small Groups-Oriented** Acts 2:42-47 We believe every person needs a small group. Small groups can make a big difference in a person's life. The book of Acts records the impact and vitality of small groups. The early followers of Jesus drew together in small groups to grow in the Word, for prayer and fellowship, and for outreach to the community.

**Biblically-Based** 1 Timothy 3:16-17 We believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God and is necessary for spiritual growth and equipping for life. It is our "soul food" and our "user friendly" manual for living. It is the timeless and timely foundation for all of our ministries. We expect all preaching and teaching to be derived from the Bible.

**Seeker-Sensitive** 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 Being Seeker-sensitive does not mean: ignoring the Bible avoiding controversial topics watering down doctrine addressing only "safe" subjects using "gimmicks" to draw a crowd Being seeker-sensitive does mean: presenting biblical truths in terms people understand, not in "Christian-eze" removing cultural obstacles that may get in the way of understanding the gospel providing a safe environment where people can hear the "dangerous" life-changing message of the gospel addressing people's felt needs so they can recognize their real need for a relationship with Christ speaking the truth in a loving, compassionate, and meaningful way presenting biblical truth in a way that is interesting, stimulating, credible, and compelling using various art forms to convey biblical truth

**Contemporary-Style** John 1:14 and Galatians 4:4 The message of the gospel and the teaching of the scriptures must come to people in terms that they can understand. Just as Jesus became a Jew and communicated in terms familiar with a first century Hebrew culture, so too, we will use the language, technology, art forms, and music of our culture to communicate biblical truth to our generation. Just as missionaries today must learn the language and culture to the people they are trying to reach, we also must know the language and culture of the people we are trying to reach. Our message is the timeless gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible, but our methods are constantly being changed to most effectively connect with our culture.

**Our Values** (what guides us...)

We strive to be intentional and guided by our 10 values:

1. People matter to God and to us.
2. Our church is to be culturally relevant and biblically based.
3. Genuine worship can be meaningful to both believers and seekers.
4. Life change and loving relationships best occurs through small groups.
5. Pastors and church leaders mobilize, equip, and release believers to serve in their area of giftedness.
6. Church membership means commitment to Christ with our time, service, finances and prayers.
7. Excellence honors God and inspires people.
8. Biblical unity is affirmed by embracing the diversity within the Body of Christ.
9. Global Impact is a natural overflow of a healthy church.
10. Our church should continue to grow until everyone in the Pikes Peak Region is a fully devoted follower of Christ.

***A fully devoted follower of Christ is someone who...***

*as an event,*

- embraces Christ as Savior and Lord
- identifies with Christ by believer's baptism
- connects with a local fellowship of believers

*as part of a process,*

- grows in relationship with God through spiritual habits
- participates in a small group
- serves in their area of giftedness
- gives out of God-given resources
- develops loving relationships with non-believers
- discovers their life purpose – and pursues it