

BELIEVING: CORE DOCTRINE

About the Bible We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and without error in the original writings, and that they are our supreme and final authority in faith and life.

About God We believe in one God, the Creator, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

About Jesus Christ We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and was and remains fully God and fully man.

About Human Beings We believe that God created Adam and Eve in the divine image; that they sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death--which is separation from God; and that, as a result of Adam's sin, all human beings are now born with a sinful nature and stand guilty before God.

About Salvation We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. We believe that all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

About the Resurrection We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.

About Christ's Return We believe in the blessed hope of the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CORE DOCTRINE (continued)

About the Holy Spirit We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and gives spiritual life to all believers, enables them to understand Biblical truth, empowers them for godly living, gives them spiritual gifts and equips them for service and witness.

About Eternity We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

About the Church We believe that the New Testament assembly is a body of baptized believers with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide. New Testament churches promote God's work by cooperating together for missions and many other joint efforts. The assembly is to be led independently of outside persons, bodies, groups or authorities.

About the Ordinances We believe that the New Testament assembly observes two ordinances-baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that all who have received Christ as Savior and Lord should be immersed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that this immersion is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and that the Lord's Supper should be observed in remembrance of Him as a testimony to His death for our sins until He comes again.

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BELONGING: MEMBERSHIP @ MBC

Membership at **Mission Baptist Church** publicly designates those who are committed to the purpose and vision of the church, and to bring us into a place of unified ministry in this community.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP @ MBC?

First, a testimony of a relationship with Jesus Christ through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. This is an acknowledgement of “One Lord and one hope of our calling” (Ephesians 4:4-5).

Second, an acknowledgement of “one faith” (Eph 4:5). Obviously, MBC is a Baptist church, looking at Scripture through a Baptist paradigm. We recognize that you may be from another background, with other lenses and paradigms, and so you may have been taught scripture applications that have a different tint. However, we come together in this place, unified and committed to the “faith that was once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). A person doesn’t have to be a “Baptist” to become a committed member of this church, but does need to agree with the core doctrines of the Word of God that are held by all New Testament believers, and be willing to walk in unity with this congregation and its leadership.

Third, an authorized baptism, after salvation, by immersion. This is the outward symbol of the inward reality. We hold that the original meaning of the word *baptism*, the record of history, and the purpose of identification all point to immersion as the best mode of fulfilling God’s command. These are some of the reasons that we require obedience to Christ’s command through baptism by immersion after salvation for church membership.

WHY IS MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

By public affiliation with MBC, you place yourself into an accountability relationship with other believers of like faith and commitment in order to grow, minister, pray, and give with a common heart and vision

- As a member at MBC, you make a statement of belonging to the body of Christ by identifying with a visible representation of that Body in this community. The New Testament shows Christians affiliating and associating themselves with groups of Christians known as set apart assemblies (*ekklesia*).
- As a member at MBC, you place yourself into an accountability relationship with other Christians for the sake of growth, walk, and ministry.
- As a member at MBC, you can exercise your gifts and abilities while receiving the benefit of others’ gifts and abilities as part of an organized assembly of believers.

HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER @ MBC?

- Fill out a [Membership Application online](#) or pick up a **hard copy** from the Welcome Table and turn it in the office, welcome desk, or offering. A church leader will contact you upon receiving your application.
- If coming from a former church of like faith and practice, you may request a **transfer of letter** be sent from that church to Mission Baptist.
- If you have family or ministry ties to a church located elsewhere, but want to publicly identify with MBC during your time in this community, you may become a member upon statement of faith and testimony of scriptural baptism without transferring membership from your “home” church.

* BECOMING: WHO ARE WE? WHAT IS OUR “DNA”?

As an assembly of baptized believers this is what we long to be in this community, by the grace of God.

We are a people...

- ... who hold the Word of God as the authority for all that is done in our church.*
- ... who seek to honor and glorify God through a walk of faith that depends on his leading and supply.*
- ... committed to making prayer the foundation and power of all ministry.*
- ... seeking to be a family that walks in unity and love, with hearts focused on service to Christ and one another.*
- ... committed to building biblical families that honor Christ.*
- ... who seek to progress on our journey with Christ through relevant programs.*
- ... committed to following the leading of Christ through the Holy Spirit.*

*For the full document detailing each of these aspects of our identity, [click here](#).