



Core Team Prospectus

Doctrine. Hot Topics. Expectations & Core Values. Commitment.

Doctrine.What we believe.

There are no Scriptures on this part of the document as we believe this is the comprehensive teaching of the Bible and not limited to a few passages. If you have any questions about our doctrine, please ask a Pastor.

The Bible.

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written words of God, and the ultimate authority for faith and practice both inside and outside the Church. These Scriptures, called the Bible, are absolutely trustworthy, verbally inspired, and inerrant in the original autographs. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit the Bible was written by many individuals, in many different styles, to many different cultures. It is humanity's goal to understand what the Bible says and to humbly submit to it. The Bible should not be added to or detracted from. Ultimately, the Bible tells one story of God's redemption of humanity through the work of Jesus Christ.

God.

We believe in one living and true God who eternally exists in three persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Godhead is equal in power and glory, and they share the same attributes. Within the Godhead there is perfect submission, eternal love and justice, and self-sufficiency.

Father.

We believe God the Father is the creator of the world, everything visible and invisible, and is full of glory. He created everything out of nothing. God judges the world in righteousness and truth, and concerns Himself perfectly in the affairs of humanity. God's fatherhood involves both His relationship in the Godhead and his relationship with the redeemed. God the Father is sovereignly in control over everything happening at all times in all places. He knows perfectly the past, the present, and the future, and does all things in accordance with His will.

Son.

We believe God the Son is the Lord Jesus Christ, known and revealed through the Bible. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and lived a human life. Jesus never ceased to be God, but took upon himself a full human nature and existence to live as a man without sin. He did this so that He could be the perfect example to everyone, to die for the sins of all people as our substitute, and to conquer sin, death, and Satan himself. The Lord Jesus was raised bodily from the dead, then ascended into Heaven where he is alive today sitting at the right hand of God. He is currently our high priest and prays for people all the time. Jesus will return one day to judge the world, establish His kingdom, and make all things new.

Holy Spirit.

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates people so they will repent and believe the Gospel, baptizes all believers into the body of Christ, and forever seals them as

God's own possession. The Holy Spirit is personal, not just a spiritual force, and is present in every believer at work progressively sanctifying them to help them to live a righteous life - as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit - and to die to sin. The Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to every believer.

Humanity.

We believe God created all people, male and female, with dignity, value, and worth. God created people in the image of God for His own glory, to exercise dominion over the earth and to care for His creation. All humanity is directly responsible to God in matters of life and faith. God's will for humanity is that they love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and that they love their neighbors as themselves.

Sin.

We believe that even though God created everything perfectly and it was very good, humanity chose to substitute themselves for God and directly disobey His commands. Our spiritual and physical parents, Adam and Eve, represented humanity and sinned against God. As a result, the image of God in humanity was corrupted. Through Adam, all humanity inherited this corrupt sinful nature and have been alienated from God due to our own rebellion. So now humanity is born with a depraved nature and is prone to reject God. People are born separated from a relationship with God, are spiritually dead, and in a fallen state. Being sinners by nature and choice and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition, humanity is in need of salvation.

Salvation.

We believe that all people are dead in sin apart from God and a Savior is needed. This Savior is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ offers salvation as a free gift from God, received by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone and what he accomplished through his death and resurrection. All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven of all their sins, justified in God's sight by the merit of Christ's righteousness, adopted into the family of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and have equal access to God. This is the Gospel, the good news.

Soteriology.

Furthermore, we believe that because humanity is depraved and prone to reject God, salvation is initiated by God. By the Holy Spirit, God convicts sinners of their sin and elects individuals to salvation even though they may not be seeking God, nor even want God. God regenerates sinful hearts of humans so that they will respond to His invitation to a relationship with Him. God does not wait for humanity to take the first step toward Him; He takes the first step towards us. We respond to this with extreme gratefulness and worship.

Church.

We believe that when an individual responds to God in repentance and faith, God supernaturally places them into His family called the Church. The Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit since the day of Pentecost. The church is also defined as a local gathering of believers who gather under qualified leadership to worship Jesus, practice baptism, celebrate the Lord's Supper, listen and respond to instruction from the Bible, and for people to serve and give testimony of what the Lord is doing in their lives. The church is not perfect, but rather is the visible gathering of believers who are to be involved in evangelism and discipleship for the glory of God and the good of the world.

Baptism.

We believe that all Christians should be baptized by immersion as a way to profess their faith in Christ and testify to the world about their faith in Christ. All members must be baptized. However, for those previously baptized as infants, we leave the judgment as to the merit of their baptism up to each individual. Any Christian convinced of the validity of their baptism as a believer in Christ are welcome to be members of the church.

Lord's Supper.

We believe the New Testament formulated and defined the continual practice of celebrating the Lord's Supper (communion) as often as the church gathers together to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus until He returns. Therefore, the church will celebrate taking communion together every Sunday as possible.

Generosity.

We believe that God has created humanity to emulate Him, and He is the Giver of givers. Being new creations in Jesus Christ, and therefore part of the church, means that we are no longer living for ourselves; but we are living for God. Everything we have belongs to Him. So we are to be generous with the gifts God has entrusted to us, whether it is our time, our treasures, or our talents. The church should be a generous community, and we expect Christians to be generous. We will regularly celebrate generosity as part of our weekly gatherings.

Last Things.

We believe that God's people, the Church, are invited by God's grace into His kingdom. God's kingdom has come with the inauguration of Jesus Christ's first coming, but it still has not yet fully come until Christ's second coming when He will establish His reign in His Kingdom forever. Until that day we will still deal with injustice and pain of all sorts in the world. But Jesus Christ will come again one day in glory - in bodily form - as the reigning King of Kings and establish a new heavens and a new earth in which the redeemed people of God will live in perfect sinless harmony and worship forever. All people, even the dead who are resurrected from the dead, will stand before Christ at His return to face His judgment. Christians, justified by the merit of Christ, are given resurrection unto life. Unbelievers, by their own works, good or evil, are raised unto the resurrection of damnation. The day of Christ's return is only known by God and cannot be guessed or figured out, and it can come suddenly at any time.

Hell.

We believe hell is a real place. It is a place of eternal judgment from God where the lost and demons and Satan will be tormented day and night forever because of their separation from God. We do not want anyone to enter hell. For that reason, the church will proclaim the grace of God to all people all the time and pray for lost people.

Eschatology.

We believe the Bible does not describe a simple description of how Jesus Christ will return to earth. Believers holding to various eschatological views are welcome to be members of the church, provided they are not divisive on this issue.

Hot Topics. What we believe and discuss, but will not divide over.

We hold the above doctrine, "What We Believe," with conviction and ask our members to understand and support our doctrine. However, in several other matters described below, we allow for members to hold different positions within the bounds of historical Christian orthodoxy, as long as they are not divisive and do not contribute to confusion within the body. However, we also want people to understand that there will be distinctives of Imprint Church, and on some of these issues below we will have a particular position or practice that attendees of all sorts will want to understand and submit to. Most of what is described below we will leave to the conviction of individual Christians.

Complementarianism.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that men and women are created equal in value, dignity, and worth, but differently in their unique roles in the family and the church. We believe the Bible describes and prescribes that men should lead both their families and the church. Ultimately this means that men should be like Jesus, the greatest servant of all, and give of themselves to lead their family and church well. Therefore, at Imprint Church, the office of Elder/Pastor is designated only for men. Women are encouraged to serve, lead and teach in other areas of the church. This allocation of roles is not unlike the allocation of roles within the Godhead, in which there are differing roles but perfect equality and mutual respect. We recognize that many Christians disagree with this, and we invite them to be members of Imprint Church, provided they acknowledge that this is a settled issue for the church.

Elder/Pastor.

At Imprint Church, we do not differentiate between elders and pastors. All pastors are elders and all elders are pastors. Eldership is a high calling that we do not take lightly since these men will lead the church.

Church Governance.

We believe that the Bible does not necessarily prescribe or describe a single form of church governance that should be universally adhered to. However, the Bible certainly gives some direction on who should lead the church and how it should be lead. For this reason, Imprint Church will be an Elder governed church where ecclesiastical authority will be shared by a board of Elders (both paid and unpaid) who are equally responsible for the vision, operation, and governance of the church. Elders are annually affirmed by the membership and submit to their leadership at such time. The lead pastor is one of the Elders and leads the Elder board, but shares authority with the other board members. Selection of Elders is an intense process and calls for the candidate's life to be examined and tested against Scriptural qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 2 and Titus 2 so he can lead the church. The membership of the church is encouraged to give feedback to the board of Elders, and may be asked to vote on or affirm decisions the board is considering. However, members of Imprint Church do not legally vote on church matters.

Charismatic Gifts.

We affirm that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are active and remain in perpetuity today. However, we do not believe that gifts of the Holy Spirit are necessary to provide "proof" of regeneration, or that such gifts should be practiced in larger meetings when the church gathers together. Furthermore, the practice of gifts such as miracles, prophecy, or tongues should be submitted to the church leadership to ensure biblical fidelity and prevent chaos or confusion. We are

cautious knowing that sign gifts are sometimes abused and driven more by personalities than for the glory of God. So we want to work to preserve unity in the church and hospitality for non-Christians around us. Cessationists, those who believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased to function in our day, are welcome to become members of Imprint Church, provided that they understand we may sing too loud for them.

Age Of The Earth.

We believe that God created everything out of nothing, as the Scriptures tell us. But we acknowledge that the timing, dating, and way the earth was created is a matter of disagreement among Bible believing Christians. Therefore, it will not be an issue for Imprint Church, and those who believe in a young or old earth are welcome to be members.

Politics.

Imprint Church is not a political organization and has no particular devotion to any political party or ideology. We will very rarely talk about politics at Imprint Church. People of all political persuasions are welcome to be members of the church.

Alcohol and Tobacco.

We believe the Bible does not declare the use of alcohol or tobacco necessarily sinful. But the use of these substances can be sinful, just like overeating can be sinful. Drunkenness and addictions are prohibited by the Scriptures and will be confronted among members of Imprint Church. Regardless of whether an individual abstains or partakes in these substances, we would ask that everyone be respectful and think of others before they think of themselves. This includes being aware of the health concerns of others and/or the conscience, family history, or disposition of people towards these things. We want freedom with love and respect to be shown to all people in this issue.

Entertainment.

We do not believe that forms of entertainment, such as movies, music, gambling, or video games in and of themselves violate biblical principles. We leave these things up to Christian conscience on a case by case basis knowing that all these things can be neutral or can be sinful. We ask members of Imprint Church to carefully choose their entertainment with an attitude of thanksgiving and response to the new life that God has given you in Christ.

Expectations & Core Values.

Simplicity.

As a church plant we will value simplicity. In other words, we hope to do a few things; and we hope to do these few things very well. We will focus most of our energy on our Generosity Groups (see below), and our Sunday worship service(s) including our children's ministry. Our goal will be to plug people of all ages into these main areas to both minister and be ministered to as a part of Imprint Church. Our hope is not to have so many programs that we get bogged down from the vision and mission God has given us. However, please do not confuse simplicity with a lack of excellence or lack of strategy. Quite the contrary is true, actually. Having simplicity as a core value means that we are more strategic about the things we do and do not do, and work to help our members know and walk through the simple process of discipleship.

Furthermore, since we believe that simplicity is reproducible, discipleship and people-oriented (instead of program-oriented), and creates space for missional living, we will do our best to keep Imprint Church from drifting towards complexity in the future as we grow.

Generosity Groups.

The Christian life should be one of generosity. Therefore, Christians should be very good at giving their time, talent, and treasure away. We believe this happens much more naturally in the context of community. At Imprint Church our small groups will be focused outward to care for neighbors, our community, and our world. Generosity Groups will be encouraged to serve the world around them and take on projects as a group to serve the world in gospel action and proclamation. Then we will celebrate stories of groups displaying generosity regularly on Sunday mornings when we gather.

Pastoral Care.

Generosity Groups will not only be a place to serve, but will also be a place of pastoral care. We hope and pray that much of our growth in Christ will happen in the context of community and the “one anothers” in the Bible. For example, the Bible says to:

- Love one another (John 13:34-35; 15:12; 1 Pet 1:22; 1 John 4:7, 11)
- Bear the burdens of one another (Galatians 6:2)
- Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11; Hebrews 10:25)
- Build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Seek what is good for one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Comfort one another (2 Corinthians 13:11)
- Stir up one another (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)

We pray that these one anothers will be displayed in the context of Generosity Groups. This also includes benevolence. We want most of our benevolence money and care to be distributed through our groups.

Multiplication & Mentorship.

We want to develop leaders on a regular basis and commit ourselves to perpetual church planting. All members of Imprint Church will be encouraged to be disciples of Jesus Christ who make other generous disciples of Jesus Christ, and to mentor others. Every leader at Imprint Church will be exhorted to raise up other leaders that can serve the Church and world.

Commitment.

We are asking our core team to commit to the mission and vision of Imprint Church, and this prospectus, with their time, talents, and treasure. In other words, we want our core team to serve willingly, give sacrificially, and help build the church in every way they can. We are also asking for an 18 month commitment from our core team to do all these things.