

DOCTRINES & VALUES

Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separating ourselves from evil and identifying with things that are good, upright, and morally pure. Sanctification takes place as Christians devote themselves to God. (Rom 12:1-2) Although we are declared holy or sanctified at salvation, it is not the end of a Christian's spiritual growth. As the believer submits himself to the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, he is progressively transformed toward a divine nature, like that of Christ. God's design for each believer is that the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), and the character traits of a Christ-like life, be more obvious each day.



The Church and Its Mission

The Church as described in the Bible consists of all people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as the only remedy for their forgiveness of sins. Each Christian is an integral part of that Church. God's purpose concerning mankind is:

- ◆ Seek and to save all who are lost in sin (Luke 19:10)
- ◆ To be worshipped by all (Rev 19:10)
- ◆ To build a unified body of believers who are mature in faith and knowledge like His Son—Jesus (Eph 4:12)

Therefore, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as a part of the Church is: To be a vessel of God for evangelizing the world, to be a unified body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.



The Ministry

Involvement in ministry in response to a divine call is scripturally ordained in the Bible. It is a provision of our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: Evangelization of the world Mark 16:15-20), worship of God (John 4:23-24), and building a body of believers conforming to the life of Christ (Eph 4:11). This doctrine is important because the success any assembly has in fulfilling its mission depends to a great degree on Holy Spirit anointed leadership.

Divine Healing

(*one of the four cardinal doctrines)

Divine healing from God is an integral part of the gospel (Mat 8:16-17). Deliverance from sickness is provided in the Atonement—Christ's suffering and death for our reconciliation with God—(Isaiah 53:4-5). Healing is a privilege of all believers (James 5:14-16).



The Blessed Hope

(*one of the four cardinal doctrines)

All Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air. Christians who have not yet died will be raptured—or caught up with them—to be with the Lord (1Thessalonians 4:16-17). Then Christians of all ages will live with God forever. The scriptural truth of the Lord's soon return is “the blessed hope” (Titus 2:13).

The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of all Christians, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for 1000 years (Matthew 24:27 & 30 Revelation 1:7, 20:1-6). This millennial reign (1000 years) will bring the salvation of Israel as a nation and the establishment of universal peace.



The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the unsaved dead will be raised and judged according to the way they lived. Anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be sent to everlasting punishment in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (sulfur), which is the second death (Matthew 25:46).



The New Heavens and the New Earth

According to God's promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell and reign forever (2 Peter 3:13).

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Who We Are

We at River of Life Assembly of God exist to serve in Christ's name for his glory to reach families in the Central Susquehanna Valley to help every person become what God has created them to be.



- ◆ We want to share God's goodness with others.
- ◆ We strive to communicate God's love, warmth, and awesome presence.
- ◆ We want to help every person feel like they are part of the family.
- ◆ We want to help others along their spiritual journey.
- ◆ We want to help others find and grow in their place of ministry.

Statement of Fundamental Truths



The Bible Inspired

The Scriptures of the entire Bible are verbally inspired of God. We believe:

- ◆ The Scriptures are God's revelation of himself to mankind
- ◆ They are infallible (never wrong)
- ◆ They are the divinely authoritative guide for our faith, belief, and manner of living. (2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, and 2 Peter 1:21)



One True God

There is one true God. He has revealed himself as having always existed without any outside cause or agent bringing Him into being. (Isaiah 43:10) He is the Creator of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1) and the One who redeems, saves, or rescues mankind from sin and its painful consequences (Isaiah 43:11). God has further revealed himself as a single Being (Deuteronomy 6:4) consisting of three interrelated persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22). This concept of one God or Being of three persons is called the Trinity.



The Lord Jesus Christ is Fully God

The supernatural birth of Jesus (Mat 1:23), His sinless life (Heb 7:26), His working of miracles (Acts 2:22) all give proof that He is the divine Son of God who came to earth in human form to give himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 Cor 15:3). No death of a natural human could provide forgiveness of sin (salvation) for the entire human race. Knowing that Jesus came from God, and actually is God, and returned to God's presence after His death and resurrection (Acts 1:9,11) assures us that our salvation and restored relationship with God is not only logical, but a true reality.



The Fall of Mankind

Mankind was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." (Gen 1:26-27) However, mankind by willful choice, ignored God's instructions...choosing to engage in what they knew was wrong and evil. (Gen 2:17) As a result mankind fell from innocence and goodness (Gen 3:6) and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Rom 5:12-19)



The Salvation of Mankind

(*one of four cardinal doctrines)

Salvation simply means the deliverance from spiritual death and enslavement by sin. This is a gift from God that is totally FREE. God provides salvation for all who believe and accept His free offer of forgiveness. Salvation is received as a person repents before God for his sins and has faith in the fact that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ removes and brings forgiveness for his sin. Once you accept the gift of salvation, one experiences the spiritual rebirth, the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, is declared right with God, and becomes heir to God's promised hope of everlasting life. (John 3:3, Eph 2:8, Titus 3:5-7) Without this doctrinal truth, all other doctrinal statements are empty and without meaning. More importantly, without this experience, one's life is empty and without real meaning.

Baptism in Water & Holy Communion

Some churches use the term sacraments instead of ordinances. The Assemblies of God chooses to call water baptism and holy communion ordinances because they are religious practices ordained or established by Jesus himself. Water baptism and Communion are not simply religious customs. Both embody the central message of the Christian faith. Water baptism is a one-time event in which the new believer announces publicly that he is now a child of God who has identified with Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. (Mark 16:16) Communion is a periodic (often monthly) reminder that the believer has received his free salvation through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 11:26)

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

(*one of the four cardinal doctrines)

All believers are entitled to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and therefore should earnestly seek the promise of the Father, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:4, 8) It also provides believers with specific spiritual gifts for a more effective ministry. (1 Cor 12)

- ◆ An overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39)
- ◆ A Deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43)
- ◆ An intensified commitment to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42)
- ◆ A more active love for Christ, His word, and those who have not yet become believers. (Mk 16:20)

The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues (unlearned languages) as the Spirit of God gives them audible expression. (Acts 2:4) This form of speaking in tongues is basically the same as the gift of tongues except the difference is the purpose and use. The audible expression of tongues should also continue to function in the Spirit-filled believer's personal prayer life. Whereas the gift of tongues operates publicly, usually in congregational worship settings which is usually followed by the gift of interpreting the tongues. Their purpose is for the spiritual benefit of the individual and the congregation.