



## SCC Core Essential Doctrines

Essentials are Distinctive Beliefs upon which SCC has taken a firm stance and by which members must abide to be part of our fellowship are non-negotiable. These hold our fellowship in unity & guard the purity of His church.

### TRIUNE GOD

We believe that there is one living and true God, the Maker, Preserver, and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections and is infinite in them all. All creatures owe the highest love, reverence, trust, and obedience. We believe God eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These are without division of nature, essence, or being and equal in every divine Perfection. The three are in agreement making the Triune God perfect in wisdom, power, and love, knowing all things past, present, and future, and His sovereign plan of redemption was set in place before the foundation of the world. [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Daniel 7](#); [Psalm 145:3](#); [John 1:3](#); [Romans 11:36](#); [1 Corinthians 8:4-6](#); [10:31](#); [Colossians 1:16-17](#); [1 Timothy 1:17](#); [Gen 1:1, 26](#); [John 1:1, 3](#); [Matt 3:16-17](#); [28:19](#); [John 4:24](#); [Rom 1:19,20](#); [2 Cor 13:14](#); [Eph 4:5-6](#)

### GOD THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father, a personal spirit, infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, including the future free choices of all humans and other moral beings, that he concerns himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, that he hears and answers prayer, and that he saves from sin and death all who come to him through Jesus Christ. [Matthew 23:9](#); [Luke 10:21-22](#); [John 3:16](#); [6:27](#); [Romans 1:7](#); [1 Timothy 1:1-2, 2:5-6](#); [1 Peter 1:3](#); [Revelation 1:6](#)

### JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son and is fully God and fully man. We believe in His virgin conception by the Holy Spirit, sinless life, miracles, and teachings, and He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth. We believe He is divinely appointed between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe. [Isaiah 53:10-12](#); [Matthew 1:18-25](#); [20:28](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#); [John 1:1, 14, 18](#); [10:30](#); [17:3](#); [20:28](#); [30-31](#); [Acts 1:9-11](#); [20:28](#); [Romans 5:6-8](#); [6:9, 10](#); [8:34](#); [9:5](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [15:3-4](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Galatians 3:13](#); [Ephesians 1:4](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [Colossians 1:15-20](#); [Hebrews 1:1-3](#); [7:25](#); [9:28](#); [1 Timothy 2:5](#); [3:16](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [1 Peter 2:21-23](#); [Revelation 12:10](#)

### HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. [John 14:16-17, 26](#); [15:26](#); [27:16](#); [9:14](#); [Romans 8:9, 14-17](#); [1 Corinthians 3:16](#); [6:19](#); [Galatians 5:22-26](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)

### THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is the authoritative word of God as the sole guide for faith and practice. "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent." The Bible is the sole authority in matters of faith and practice; Scripture alone rules over other authorities, for it alone is God's inspired, inerrant, and sufficient word, "No creed but Christ" is a call to focus solely on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as the foundation of faith. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, alone the Word of God, being entirely written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and therefore is without error in the original manuscripts and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. [Psalm 19:7](#); [Isaiah 40:8](#); [Mark 13:31](#); [John 20:31](#); [Acts 20:32](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)

### HUMANITY

We believe God is God, and man is man. God created humans in his image, and his subsequent willful sin resulted in physical and spiritual death and the necessity of a new birth for salvation. Jesus put on humanity (incarnation) to restore that image. God is gracious, and patient enough, allowing mankind to fully repent in faith upon hearing the gospel or suppressing the truth of righteousness. [Genesis 1:26-27](#); [2:17](#); [3:1-7, 19](#); [6:5, 12](#); [8:21](#); [Jeremiah 17:9](#); [John 5:24](#); [Romans 3:9-23](#); [5:12-19](#); [6:21, 23](#); [7:13](#); [8:6-7](#); [9:22](#); [Ephesians 2:1-3](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:9](#); [James 1:14-15](#); [1 John 3:14](#); [Revelation 21:8](#)

### JUSTIFICATION

We believe justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners in Christ alone, not by anything done by them, but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ; they receive His righteousness by grace alone through faith alone. [John 1:16](#); [Acts 10:43](#); [13:39](#); [Romans 3:24-26](#); [4:23-25](#); [5:1-21](#); [8:1](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Philippians 3:7-9](#); [Titus 3:5-6](#); [19](#); [1 John 2:12](#)

### SANCTIFICATION

We believe God sanctifies by the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who supplies divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in delightful obedience to all Christ's commands. Living faith is demonstrated or expressed through repentance, confession, and a life of obedience. [John 17:17, 19](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#); [15:16](#); [1 Corinthians 1:30](#); [6:11](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18](#); [Ephesians 1:4](#); [Philippians 1:9-11](#); [2:12-13](#); [3:12-16](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3](#); [5:23](#); [Hebrews 2:11](#); [6:1](#); [7:1](#); [10:10](#); [12:10](#); [1 Peter 2:2](#); [2 Peter 1:5-8](#); [1 John 2:29](#)

### REPENTANCE & FAITH

Repentance occurs when a person expresses their faith from whom the Holy Spirit made sense of the justification through the gospel proclamation. The sinner who rests their trust upon Him alone through Faith that is accompanied by all other saving graces with baptism by immersion and leads to a life of love and holiness. Everyone is called to repent, "change of mind," and see God's gracious drawing of sinners through the gospel. [Proverbs 28:13](#); [Matthew 3:8-10](#); [Mark 1:15](#); [John 3:16, 36](#); [5:24](#); [6:40, 44, 65](#); [Acts 2:37-38](#); [11:18](#); [13:38-39](#); [17:30](#); [20:21](#); [Romans 2:4-5](#); [3:21-28](#); [4:1-5](#); [4:17-25](#); [6:3-4](#); [8:1](#); [10:3-4, 9, 14, 17](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [7:10-11](#); [Philippians 1:29](#); [Ephesians 2:8-10](#); [Philippians 3:9](#); [Hebrews 11:6](#); [James 2:14-26](#); [Ezekiel 36:25-26](#); [John 1:13](#); [3:3, 5-8](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Galatians 2:20](#); [Ephesians 2:1-6](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [1 John 5:1](#)

### THE CHURCH

We believe the church is the spiritual body of immersed believers in Jesus, who is the head, who have given a credible profession of faith and have covenanted together for worship, edification, fellowship, and the spreading of the gospel. As an Independent Christian Church of the Restoration Movement, we seek to restore unity as a New Testament church disregarding denominational divisions and extra-biblical traditions. The work of Christ, and Christ alone, is the basis on which the ungodly are justified, "In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things, love." [John 10:16](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2:42-47](#); [6:1-6](#); [20:17, 28](#); [Ephesians 1:22](#); [2:19-22](#); [4:11-16](#); [5:19-21, 23](#); [Colossians 1:18](#); [3:16](#); [1 Timothy 3:1-12](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [Hebrews 3:13](#); [10:24-25](#)

### LEADERSHIP

We believe church leadership is a locally appointed plurality of Elders who are men. The elders of God's flock are presented in Scripture as those who lead God's people by declaring the rule and reign of God, primarily by leading his people in the Word to meet the theological need of fallen man. Elders are called to preserve unity in the church through conflict resolution and church discipline, teach the Bible, protect from heretics, mediate, discipline, and pray for the sick. They are faithful men whose lives and service advance God's kingdom by declaring His power. [Acts 2:42](#); [Acts 20:28](#); [Philippians 1:1](#); [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)

### ETERNITY

We believe that Heaven and Hell are real places. Hell, one day will be thrown into the eternal Lake of Fire, and God will refine and make the heavens and earth like new. Humanity will spend eternity in one place or the other. We believe that the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are promised to those who trust that the death of Jesus on the cross was to atone for the sins of humanity. [Jeremiah 17:9](#); [Isaiah 53:3-6](#); [65:17](#); [66:22](#); [Mark 13:31](#); [Romans 3:23](#); [5:8](#); [8:19-22](#); [2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 21](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:8-9](#); [Hebrews 9:27](#); [2 Peter 2:13](#); [Revelation 20:15](#); [21:1-5](#); [22:3-5](#)

## The Restoration Movement's Essential Principles

The Restoration Movement, also known as the Stone-Campbell Movement, was a 19th-century religious movement in the United States that sought to restore primitive Christianity by emphasizing a return to the teachings and practices of the early New Testament church. The movement emerged as a response to the divisions and denominationalism present in American Christianity at the time.

1. **Restoration of New Testament Christianity:** The movement seeks to restore the original simplicity and purity of the New Testament church. It aimed to discard denominational divisions and extra-biblical traditions. The work of Christ, and Christ alone, is the basis on which the ungodly are justified in God's sight.
2. **The Authority of Scripture:** The movement emphasizes the importance of the Bible as the authoritative word of God as the sole guide for faith and practice. "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent" "The Bible only" The Bible is the sole authority in matters of faith and practice; Scripture alone rules over other sources, for it alone is God's inspired, inerrant, and sufficient word, "No creed but Christ" is a call to focus solely on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as the foundation of faith.
3. **Christian Unity:** The Restoration Movement seeks the promotion of the unity of Christians based on the essential teachings and adherence of the Bible and a shared commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord to promote cooperation and fellowship among believers as products of His grace and glory, "In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things, love" encapsulates Christian unity based on essential beliefs while allowing for diversity in non-essential matters.
4. **Congregational Autonomy:** The movement favored a congregationalist approach to church governance, emphasizing the independence and self-governance of local churches. This congregation is an independent body of believers with leadership and decision-making processes overseen by the elders.