



## SCC Non-Essential Matters

Non-essential doctrines are opinions on the beliefs on which members can disagree and remain part of our fellowship. SCC may have a position on specific areas that help make up the church and its roots in the Restoration Movement. SCC urges members to understand SCC's position and exercise liberty.

"In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things, love."

### OUR POSITION ON ...

**ORDINANCES** - We believe the Lord Jesus has committed two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These two commands are indisputable; however, some liberty is given to the frequency and timing of these two ordinances. "We cannot make Christians, but we can make disciples."

**Baptism** is the biblical pattern for disciples placing their trust from themselves and in Christ. It is an act of submission to the Lordship of Christ where we participate in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. In the New Testament, baptism by immersion accompanied by faith and repentance is the normative response to the message of the Gospel.

**Communion** is in no sense a sacrifice but was instituted by Christ to commemorate his death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a pledge and renewal of their communion with him and each other. In the New Testament when the disciples gathered in unity, prayer, and breaking of the bread. SCC embraces Breaking the Bread every week.

Both ordinances are indications of the fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ for the remission of sins. SCC believes these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. [Matthew 26:26-29](#); [28:18-20](#); [Acts 2:38](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#); [1 Corinthians 10:16-17](#); [11:23-31](#); [12:13](#)

**STEWARDSHIP** - God is the source of all blessings and all that we have, we owe to Him. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute their means cheerfully, regularly, proportionally, and generously for the advancement of the Kingdom. SCC believes in the biblical standard for giving either one's time or finances. The church is called to be generous; we also give offerings over and above the tithe. [Leviticus 27:30](#); [Malachi 3:8-10](#); [Luke 6:38](#); [Acts 20:35](#); [2 Corinthians 9:6-15](#)

**FAMILY** - SCC believes God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It comprises persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. The Bible teaches that the foundational family relationship is marriage and represents the relationship between Christ and the church. The Bible defines marriage as one man and woman committed together in a covenant relationship for a lifetime. While the husband is the head of the relationship, the man and woman are of equal value to God. Parents are called to set an example of godly living as children obey their parents in the Lord. Children are a gift from God. From conception, when life begins, they are valued by God. [Genesis 3:18-24](#); [Ephesians 5:21-33](#); [Ephesians 6:1-4](#); [1 Peter 3:1-7](#).

**THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER** - We believe all Christians are obligated to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and human society. Christians must take the Gospel to all corners of the world and every place they live to bear witness to the world in displaying love to all and opposing all forms of injustice, persecution, oppression, discrimination, and racism. The church should advocate for those in need, the marginalized, the unborn, the less fortunate, and the abused. [James 1:27-2:13](#); [1 John 4:7-12](#)

### OUR OPINIONS ON ...

**GENDER ROLES** - SCC embraces a complementarian view regarding roles within the church. While we believe in the priesthood of all believers and equality concerning the oneness in Christ, equal value, and different roles, the role of eldership and lead pastor is held by males only. This includes women in teaching, leading, or serving in other areas. [1 Timothy 3:1-13](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#)

**PREDESTINATION AND FREE WILL, ETERNAL SECURITY, AND ORIGINAL SIN** - Throughout Christian history, theologians have taken different views regarding the origin and effect of sin, the call of God, and the assurance of salvation. Many times, these different views are described in terms of Calvinism (which emphasizes the sovereignty of God) and Arminianism (which emphasizes the free will of humans). We recognize that devout Christians through the ages have held to both these views.

At SCC, we believe you cannot choose to be saved apart from Christ; He is the predetermined means for salvation. Salvation is in Christ, and only through Him is a saved people. From a practical perspective, this translates into the following views that guide our practices.

We acknowledge that God calls people to Himself and desires that they should repent. It is within God's sovereign will that He has granted humanity to receive or resist. The church, the people, are intercessors to go out and preach the gospel. To those who hear, whatever choice the person constitutes falls within the will of God. God preordained Jesus as the means to save people. God calls all who have come to the knowledge through the gospel to repent. We can have the assurance of salvation knowing that we are saved by grace through faith and not by our good works.

The Bible does teach that falling away from salvation is possible. We acknowledge that Adam's first sin brought disastrous effects upon all creation. Creation suffers due to sin, thereby humans are fallen and corrupt the image of God, are born with an amoral nature and are wholly opposed to God and His law, the physical consequences of sin (eventual death). However, it is only by God's grace that man can believe and accept the gift of salvation. Jesus, the second Adam, changed everything. Jesus has overcome the eternal consequences of sin. Therefore, babies are not born guilty of sin and do not require baptism for salvation. [John 3](#); [Romans 3:23](#); [5:1-21](#); [6:23](#); [8:15-17](#), [31-39](#); [Hebrews 6:4-8](#); [2 Peter 3:17](#); [1 John 5:13](#); [1 Timothy 2:42](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS** - God gives gifts to people for the benefit of the Church. However, whether spiritual gifts such as tongues, prophecy, and healing still exist today can cause disagreements in the Church. Whether or not these gifts exist today, we will not seek them out and will refrain from using them in public assemblies or small groups for unity. [Romans 12:3-8](#); [1 Corinthians 12-14](#)

**ESCHATOLOGY (STUDY OF THE END TIMES)** - Jesus promised to return visibly to the earth in judgment, bring the dead to life, judge humanity, and create a new heaven and earth. Various interpretations [Zephaniah 1:15](#); [John 3:36](#); [14:3](#); [Acts 1:9-11](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11](#)