



Real Life Community Church Statement of Faith **August 15, 2008**

Everything that we are and seek to become has been shaped by the historic Christian beliefs reflected in these statements. *Real Life Community Church* is a community of faith. In these essential beliefs, we agree with one another—in non-essentials, we pledge our respect for and acceptance of one another—and in all things, we love one another.

We hold this statement to be an accurate and biblically based means of summarizing our essential beliefs as a church. On those issues where the Bible is silent or the teaching is obscure we trust in the continued guidance of God's Spirit to lead us as we seek deeper understanding characterized by balance, mutual respect, humility and love.

About God

We believe there is only one true God—Creator of all that exists. God is eternal. God is love. God is holy. God is mystery. God is all truth, righteousness, wisdom, knowledge, power, justice, and glory. God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ through the moving of His Holy Spirit—evidence of God's tri-unity. God is transcendent, and yet present, and continues to be intimately involved in sustaining His creation. Throughout human history, God has passionately pursued an intimate relationship with us and is continually reaching out to us, inviting us by His grace to follow Him and be with Him in faith, worship, fellowship, learning, and service.

About Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus is Lord. Jesus is God come to earth in human form—sinless, yet with human feelings and characteristics. Jesus is the fullest expression of what God is like. Jesus is the Christ—the Messiah—the fulfillment of God's promises sent to rescue a lost and dying world. Jesus was born of a virgin—crucified for the sins of all of us—resurrected from the dead—and ascended into heaven to dwell at the right hand of God, serving as intermediary for humanity. Thus the events of the Cross, and Christ's resurrection as the ultimate victory over sin and death, exist as the turning point of human history as God made available through Jesus forgiveness for our sins, abundant life on earth, and eternity spent with God in Heaven. Jesus will come again at a time known only to the Father, to gather the faithful into His eternal presence. Jesus Christ is the Leader of our lives, and founder and head of the Church. No individual, group, or outside body can take His place of prominence. All we endeavor to do—every decision we make—is to be a reflection of His leadership and teachings.

About the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is God's presence living within us. The third person of the Trinity, the Spirit of God comforts, teaches, empowers, convicts, reveals, and guides the hearts and minds of those who follow Jesus in faith. Through the Holy Spirit, every believer is given unique and diverse gifts with which to serve God for Kingdom purpose. The Holy Spirit draws us to God individually, fosters our collective unity, shapes us into Christ-like character, and nurtures our love for God and one another.

About the Bible

We believe the Bible is the written Word of God—inspired by His Voice—infallible in its original manuscripts—and perfect in its truth and teaching as God’s guidebook for all of life, in every age. It is both our privilege and our responsibility to seek to understand God’s message to us and apply it as the standard for all we say and do. As God’s means of revealing Himself to us, the unchanging truth of Scripture must be communicated in ways that are relevant and clear to the people of our community. The dominant theme of the Bible is God’s redemption of humanity, thus Scripture must be interpreted and obeyed in light of the person, message, and mission of Jesus Christ.

About Humanity

We believe we have been created by a loving God to be in relationship with Him for eternity. All human life is equally precious and valuable. We are created in God’s image for lives of purpose and meaning. However, our nature is to sin—to fall short of God’s moral standards. Through our sin the image of God within us becomes marred and stained, our relationship with God is broken, and our purpose becomes unclear. Our only hope for restoration and for eternal life with God, and for abundant meaningful life here on earth, is His boundless, marvelous, amazing grace shown to us in His Son Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, we receive the free gift of God’s forgiveness and a spiritual rebirth. It is grace alone, through faith that rescues us from our sin. Good works, though evidence of faith, and vital to an authentic Christian life, are not enough to save us.

About the Church

We believe the Church is to continue the Mission of Christ to the world. The primary purpose of the Church is to reach those far from God and draw them lovingly into a relationship with the Father through the Son, and then equip them for life as fully devoted followers of Christ. All believers in Christ are members of the Church, universal. The best expression of the Church as Jesus intended it is the local, voluntary gathering of believers called the church. The local church, when it is functioning well, will emphasize the equipping of all believers as ministers, and will devote itself to outreach, discipleship and prayer, fellowship, servanthood, generosity, and worship. We believe Jesus gave the church two particular forms of worship to serve as public expressions of our faith—communion and believer’s baptism. The church is both a community of oneness and a celebration of our diversity. Church membership is defined as a deep personal commitment made in partnership with a particular body of believers to serve in unity of purpose, to further the work and ministry of the church through faithful and responsible use of one’s time, talents and treasures, to be supportive of those in leadership, and to practice loving, God-honoring relationships.