



WHAT WE BELIEVE

REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH



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*exists to celebrate and declare the gospel
of God as we grow in knowing and
following Jesus Christ.*

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:16–20



Section 1

CORE BELIEFS



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

“God the Creator taking creation from its original flawless state through its current sin-marred (though still lovely) state to its final glorious state by means of His personal (Father-Son-Holy Spirit) comprehensive (people, places, creatures, and things) redemptive (from sin and decay) work that He shares with His servants, His people.”

- Paul House, Beeson Divinity School

THE GLORIOUS STORY OF GOD’S GRACE

1. We were created for relationship with God and to reflect God to the world (*Colossians 1:16, Isaiah 43:7, Genesis 1:17-28*)
2. We have been ruined by our rebellion (*Isaiah 59:2; Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23*)
3. We have been rescued and reconciled through Jesus Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 2:4-5*)
4. We now reflect Christ and restore His world together with Him (*2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Revelation 21:3-4, Philippians 2:9-11*)



GOD SAVES SINNERS

GOD - The Triune Jehovah, Father, Son and Spirit; three Persons working together in sovereign wisdom, power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people, the Father electing, the Son fulfilling the Father's will by redeeming, the Spirit executing the purpose of Father and Son by renewing.

SAVES - God does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory: plans, achieves and communicates redemption, calls and keeps, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies.

SINNERS - Men as God finds them, guilty, vile, helpless, powerless, unable to lift a finger to do God's will or better their spiritual lot. God saves sinners... sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all, but that salvation, first and last, whole and entire, past, present and future, is of the Lord, to whom be glory for ever; amen.

*J.I. Packer, "Introductory Essay," in *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*, by John Owen (London: Banner of Truth, 1959) 4-5.*



WHAT WE BELIEVE

SCRIPTURE ALONE (*2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21*)

CHRIST ALONE (*Gen. 3:15; John 3:16; Rom. 3:10; Rom. 3:21-26; Heb. 9:24*)

FAITH ALONE (*2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9; Gal. 2:15-3:14*)

GRACE ALONE (*Acts 13:48-50; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 1:29-30; 2 Pet. 1:1*)

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY (*Eph. 3:20-21; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 1:27-28*)





Section 2

DOCTRINE



WHOM WE BELIEVE IN

GOD - We believe in One Holy, Sovereign, and Supreme God who is Triune, existing eternally as Father, Son, and Spirit. While the Father, Son, and Spirit are fully, equally, and distinctly God, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.

God, who Himself is uncreated, immeasurable, and eternal, is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, all that is seen and unseen.

The character, will, and commands of God the Father have been made known through revelation, in His creation and His word. God spoke to His covenant people by the prophets for generations. Greater revelation came when the Father spoke to His people by His Son, Whom He appointed the heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. The Son of God bears the exact imprint of the Father's nature.

The Father's love, wisdom, foreknowledge, sovereignty, justice, wrath, grace, and goodness have all been revealed in the Spirit-breathed scriptures and through His only begotten Son, Jesus of Nazareth.



No one has seen the fullness of the Father except the Son. Whoever has seen the Son has seen the Father. Whoever knows the Son knows the Father.

The Eternal Son entered creation in flesh, fully human and fully Divine; He was conceived by the Spirit, born of the Virgin, and named Jesus. He lived in perfect obedience to the Father. He proclaimed the Kingdom of God and performed many miracles, manifesting His divine authority and Sonship. Jesus was betrayed, arrested, crucified, dead, buried, and on the third day rose again from the grave.

After his atoning death and glorious resurrection, He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature. Jesus upholds the universe by the word of His power. Jesus made purification for sin through His life and His atoning death on the cross, and He made perfectly righteous those whom the Father foreknew and called into adoption. In His resurrection, Jesus victoriously conquered death and hell. Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father, awaiting the ordained time to bring about the righteous judgment of

His creation and to bring the fullness of His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.



When Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son, to descend and remain with the Church, the people of God. Every blessing the Church receives in Jesus Christ is from the Father and is brought into being in the Church by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit quickens faith and new life in the heart of the redeemed and adopted person. Throughout the life of the Christian, the Holy Spirit faithfully brings to bear the conviction of sin, the call to repentance, and the comfort of true forgiveness and reconciliation through Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit unifies the Church through inseparably enjoining the redeemed in Jesus Christ and perpetually bringing about sanctification and fellowship within the communion of the saints. The life of the Christian is a life lived in obedience to the Father's will, to trust in all that Jesus' has commanded, and to live day-by-day abiding in the Holy Spirit.

WHAT WE BELIEVE CONCERNING

CREATION - The Triune God, who Himself is uncreated, created all things seen and unseen from nothing and it was perfect, good, and complete. All of Creation is by God, through God, and ultimately for God, Who governs all things in all places at all times.



HUMANITY - Humans are creatures, made male and female by God: to equally bear His image in dignity and worth; to glorify Him; to enjoy relationship with Him; to exercise care and dominion over His Good Creation. By God's design and will, men and women are joined together in an exclusive covenant marriage, which serves the common good of society and gives testimony to the union of Christ and His Church. Because every human bears the image of God, every life must be regarded as coming from God Himself, and all efforts must be put forward to see that every life is protected, nurtured and respected.

REVELATION - The Holy Scriptures are the unfolding revelation of the greatness and graciousness of the Triune God, they declare the covenant promises of His Kingdom and His people, and they instruct from generation to generation the great deeds of the Lord. The Bible is the divinely inspired and fully authoritative collection of writings which make up the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. The Scriptures are trustworthy, complete, and the primary source for equipping the Christian in faith and service to God. Everywhere the Spirit leads a Christian today is in perfect harmony and unity with the Scriptures, God's written revelation.



THE FALL - Humanity's first parents ushered sin and death into the world by distrusting and disobeying their Creator God. Sin broke the relationship between God and humanity, and their disobedience incurred curses which rendered Creation itself broken and left humanity condemned before a Holy God. Humans are sinners not only collectively, but personally through one's willful disobedience of God. Humanity was helpless to save themselves from their slavery to sin and death. No good works or earthly success could set right what sin had earned. The effects of the fall are still evident in Creation, in the Church, and in the faithful Christian today.

REDEMPTION - From the time of the Fall, God began declaring promises to reconcile a people back to Himself. To redeem a people, the punishment for sin would have to be accomplished; the people would have to be made perfectly righteous, the powers of evil would have to be conquered, and God's covenant people would have to be transformed in the renewal of their minds and bodies. Through Jesus' righteous life of obedience to the Father—His taking on the punishment for sin by death on a cross, and His victorious resurrection from the grave—Christ has accomplished redemption for the people of God, once and for all.



THE GOSPEL - The Gospel is the news that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God has reconciled rebellious humans to Himself and adopted them as His children. Further, Jesus has established an eternal throne, from which He will reign over everything and bring the fullness of the Kingdom of God to earth. All who confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead, will be saved. Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. All who are adopted by the Father through Christ are a new creation, born again, as the children of God, and are born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. This news is the core of the great mystery of the faith and is the central message of the Church.

MISSION - The mission of all Christians is to obey everything Jesus commands. This obedience is practiced personally in righteous, holy living and it is manifested publicly as heralds of the Gospel of God in word and action. Everything the Son commands comes from the Father, and every step of obedience in the life of the Christian is made possible by the Spirit. Therefore, the Christian life lived by the Spirit, is one of joyful obedience and faithful witness to Jesus. It is out of Christian obedience and witness that the covenant people of God fulfill the Great Commission to declare the Gospel of Jesus, to lead people to turn in faith and repentance to Christ, to be baptized, and to be instructed in all of Jesus' commands.



THE CHURCH - The Church is the Body of Christ, made up of God's children, who were transferred from the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son. Christ is the Head of His Church, and He has established under-shepherds to care for, counsel, and correct the members of the local expressions of the Universal Church. The local church is the context wherein Christians: grow up in Christ Jesus as they are taught what He has commanded them and discern their daily obedience to Him; receive instruction in the faith handed down, participate in fellowship, prayer, corporate praise, and receive the holy mysteries of baptism and communion; where they are equipped for the ministry of reconciliation and service to the people among the saints.

OBEDIENCE - Every Christian is called to obey everything that God commands because, just as Jesus who calls the believer is holy, the believer must also be holy in all their conduct. Obedience to Jesus is born out of knowing that the believer was ransomed from the futile ways of rebellion against God, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. Holy living, then, is not an effort to obtain God's grace and love but is lived out of God's present grace and love, which have been secured eternally in Christ. Therefore, the Christian can live, day-by-day, knowing that they are not their own, but have been bought with a price, and their pursuit of righteousness in fleeing greed, lying, cheating, stealing, murder, sexual immorality, idolatry, licentiousness, and all other rebellion against God, is the result of God's transformative grace in Christ.



REPENTANCE - When the Christian disobeys God, the kindness of the Lord through conviction from the Spirit leads them to repentance. The Christian is called to be quick to repentance: seeing their sin, grieving the foolishness of disobedience, turning away from sin and to Christ, receiving true forgiveness, and living in the full assurance of pardon, and seeking to obey the Lord in the days ahead. If the Christian confesses their sins, God is faithful and just to forgive them their sins and to cleanse them from all unrighteousness. What the Spirit brings to bear in the life of the believer is never condemnation, for there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Instead, the Spirit brings conviction of sin, so that the believer might repent and walk in the newness of life.

KINGDOM - The Kingdom of God is the righteous and eternal reign of the Son over the reconciled and redeemed people of God, carried out on the Earth and without end. There will no longer be sorrow, sickness, nor suffering. Sin and the enemy will be judged eternally, as will all who love the darkness more than the light. Those whom the Father has called and Christ has made righteous will live in harmony and justice because the commands of the Lord will be written on their hearts. No longer will anyone teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know Him, from the least of them to the greatest, forever and ever. To God be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations.





Section 3

**MISSION, VISION,
& CONVICTIONS**



REDEEMER'S MISSION

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

-Matthew 28:16-20

REDEEMER'S VISION

We exist to celebrate and declare the gospel of God as we grow in knowing and following Jesus Christ.

REDEEMER'S CONVICTIONS

CELEBRATE - We believe the life of the disciple is a life of worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth. We seek to do this as a community through:

- + **Worship** - to be a family who worships together on the Lord's Day and enjoys lives of worship throughout the week.



- + **Fellowship** - to be a family that prioritizes the holy fellowship established by the Spirit in our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to stir one another up to faith and good works, and to sorrow and celebrate as a family.
- + **Prayer** - to be a family who seeks the Lord in prayer and adoration, for the needs of others inside and outside the community, and for individual growth in obedient devotion.

DECLARE - We believe every disciple of Jesus is called to share their faith and work as a church family to bring the gospel to our city and around the world. We seek to do this through:

- + **Local Church** - to be a family who invests in future churches for the good of God's mission of redemption.
- + **City Welfare** - to be a family who seeks the good of Birmingham through relationships, service, and faithful presence.
- + **Gospel Hospitality** - to be a family who welcomes the stranger, the lost, and the hurting. We believe hospitality is key to fulfilling the mission to make disciples of Jesus. As the Lord generously welcomes us in, we are moved to do the same.
- + **Global Mission** - to be a family who takes the good news of Jesus around the world in word and deed, so that the nations might praise the Lord forever.

KNOW & FOLLOW - We believe the Spirit leads disciples to grow up in maturity in Christ. We seek to do this as a community through:



- + **Relational Shepherding** - to be a family where every member is known, cared for, overseen, and led by the elders of Redeemer.
- + **Word of God** - to be a family who submits to the sufficiency and authority of God's Word for all matters equipping the saints for the ministry: teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.
- + **Priesthood of All Believers** - to be a family wherein each person's God-given gifts and skills are put to use for the good of the community.





Section 4

CHURCH COVENANT



WHAT WE PROMISE EACH OTHER

CONFESS & AFFIRM - The Apostles Creed is the oldest known creed of the Church. For centuries, Christians across orthodox denominations have affirmed the Creed as the fundamental elements of the faith and handed down from the apostle's teaching. All covenant members of Redeemer Community Church are asked to confess the Creed.

All covenant members of Redeemer Community Church are asked to affirm to the Membership Covenant. These commitments are not laws, but the unified direction we desire to mature in Christ together as a church family.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ,

his only begotten Son, our Lord

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary:

Suffered under Pontius Pilate;

was crucified, dead and buried

He descended into hell*

The third day he rose again from the dead

He ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand

of God the Father Almighty

From there he shall come

to judge the living and the dead

I believe in the Holy Spirit

the holy catholic Church**

the communion of saints

The forgiveness of sins

The resurrection of the body

And the life everlasting. Amen.

* Or "descended to the dead"

** The true universal Christian church of all times and all places



CHURCH COVENANT

DISCIPLESHIP - To be active in making disciples and growing as a disciple; seeking out people through intentional relationships to participate in the sharing and understanding of the Gospel throughout the world?

To take seriously the study of God's Word; devoting yourself to prayer and other spiritual disciplines?

WORSHIP - To live a life of worship within our church community; in the giving of your time, finances, and attention?

To live a life of worship in your home; to demonstrate Christ and His Church in your marriage or to honor Christ in your singleness, to educate your children in the Christian faith, and to practice Christian stewardship in your resources?

SERVICE - To share in the responsibility to live the Gospel in the surrounding community; to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God?

To serve within our faith community; volunteering to aide in ministering to one another with a servant's heart?



COMMUNITY - To participate in the fellowship of the faith community; willing to confess your sins, always seeking peace, quick to reconciliation, and ready to encourage brothers and sisters in the faith?

To engage in accountability and discipline from the leadership of Redeemer; to invite the leadership of the church into your life, that from their accountability you might seek the Lord and live faithfully in His forgiveness and restoration?

RESPONSE

I desire to engage in all these things, knowing full well that I will falter. But with the faith and grace given to me by God I will seek to fulfill these things with all glory and praise to Him alone.





Section 5

GROWING TOGETHER



Before Jesus ascended to the Father, He commanded His followers, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,” while reminding them of His power and assuring them of His presence.

As followers of Jesus, we, too, have been sent out by this Great Commission. The Spirit thereby empowers us to share the good news of the gospel, establish believers in sound doctrine and proper practice, and equip the saints for the work of ministry. As Ephesians 4:11-16 clarifies, it is God’s design that we, as the church, would grow towards maturity in Christ together. We are to be disciples who make disciples until Christ’s Kingdom comes in all of its glory and splendor.

At Redeemer, the main ways we seek to grow up together towards maturity in Christ are through our Home Groups and our Core Classes. Through these pathways, as well as through our Men’s and Women’s Ministries, we seek to cultivate a community of Christ followers who live, know, declare, and celebrate God and His gospel in ever-increasing measure.



REDEEMER HOME GROUPS

Home Groups are our way of cultivating “a family within a family” at Redeemer. Once a week, Redeemer members gather in small groups in homes throughout our city in rhythms of Gospel Hospitality, Gospel Conversation, Gospel Care, and Gospel Confession.

We do not organize these small communities by common age, stage, or interest but upon our common allegiance to Christ. They are the primary space where we seek to ensure that every Redeemer member is known, loved, and encouraged to live as the redeemed family of God.

CORE CLASSES

In addition to our Home Groups, we have developed a Core Classes curriculum to further establish and equip our church family in ways that our Homes Groups are not designed to do. These classes are intended for every member to better grasp the wondrous story of our salvation, encourage the knowing and following of Jesus, and engage the world as disciple-makers.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Our Men's and Women's Ministries exist to establish healthy, positive friendships and mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities between believers through our Bible studies, small groups, and other events.





Section 6

SERVING TOGETHER



We believe every disciple of Jesus is called to share their faith and work as a church family to bring the gospel to our city and around the world. Serving not only meets the needs of the church, but is also an avenue to grow spiritually and become connected to others at Redeemer.

As you join, we would love for you to prayerfully consider investigating one or two of the following opportunities for a season as you gain clarity on how the Lord might be calling you to serve at our church.

This list changes often. We encourage you to visit rccbirmingham.org/ serve for the latest ways to serve our church family and the world.

SERVE WITH REDEEMER'S MINISTRIES

- + **MONDAY NIGHT MINISTRY** - Gather with boys and girls from the surrounding neighborhoods every Monday evening for snacks, a devotional, crafts, and games.
- + **INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY** - Team up with Redeemer members to pray for and show hospitality to the thousands of internationals studying or working in Birmingham.
- + **COMMUNITY GARDEN** - Assist in the construction, maintenance, and care of the Community Garden for the good of the surrounding community.

- + **ORPHAN CARE** - Be a resource to our foster and adoptive families through babysitting, meals, prayer, and respite care., or personally learn more about fostering and adoption.
- + **BENEVOLENCE** - Come alongside community members to work through times of crisis, meet needs, and form relationships that reflect the Gospel.

SERVE WITH REDEEMER'S PARTNERS

- + **YWCA HOSPITALITY HOUSE** - Prepare and enjoy bi-weekly dinners with families residing at Birmingham's only family shelter.
- + **AVONDALE ELEMENTARY** - Support the students, families, and teachers of our local public school with service and resources.
- + **ASPIRE MOVEMENT** - Mentor students at a local school with long-term, one-on-one relationships or short-term, group care.

SERVE AT REDEEMER

- + **PARKING** - Welcome guests and care for our neighbors by directing traffic before services.
- + **GREETING** - Be a welcoming host and show gospel hospitality to attendees on Sundays.
- + **EVENTS** - Help host various Redeemer events by assisting with logistics, set up, tear down, or other event needs.
- + **WORKDAYS** - Join us for periodic workdays in our local community as we serve and support church ministries and local partners.
- + **EMERGENCY RESPONSE** - Assist during services with on-call medical or security assistance as needed.



- + **AUDIO / VISUAL** - Volunteer during the service to assist with sound, video, or technical needs.
- + **PRAYER** - Join us as we pray for Redeemer, the surrounding community, our partners, and our missionaries.
- + **VISUAL ARTS** - Use your artistic gifting to serve the church with graphic design, photography, web design, videography, or similar needs.

GLOBAL & MISSIONS

- + **GLOBAL MISSIONS** - Learn more about Redeemer's international mission partners, short-term trips, equipping, and discipleship opportunities.
- + **MISSIONARY CARE** - Encourage Redeemer missionaries with packages, messages, and prayer, among other things.

KIDS, YOUTH, & COLLEGE

- + **KIDS** - Help care for and teach with Redeemer Kids during Sunday services or at other church events.
- + **COLLEGE** - Come alongside our college students and serve them through small groups, studies, and discipleship.

