

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The following statement of faith is the theological position of Eleventh Avenue Church.

- The Bible.** We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired by God, without error in the original writings, and is the supreme and final authority for every aspect of faith and life. (Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21)
- The Godhead.** We believe there is one God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is Person distinct from the others, but inseparable, coequal, coeternal, unchanging, and unlimited in power, presence, and knowledge. All are worthy of the same worship and obedience. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 11:33-36; 1 Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:16-17; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:8-10)
- The Person of Christ.** We believe in the full humanity and the full deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory. (Luke 1:35; Rom. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Phil. 2:6-11)
- The Person of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is a divine person, co-equal with the Father and the Son. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts unbelievers of their sin and condemnation before God, and regenerates the hearts of believing sinners. He baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ. He also seals, indwells, enlightens, equips for service, and empowers the believer to live a godly life. (John 16:7-8; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; 6:19; 12:13; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:4-6; Tit. 3:5)
- Humanity and Sin.** God created the first man and woman in His own spiritual image and likeness. They disobeyed God, died spiritually, and became subject to physical death. As their descendants, we are all sinners both by nature and by choice, and are totally unable of ourselves to do anything pleasing to God. (Gen. 1:26-27; Isa. 64:6-7; John 15:15; Rom. 3:9-23; 5:12; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:5)
- Salvation.** God justifies sinners solely by His grace upon the grounds of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. This complete salvation is given as the gift of God through faith, apart from our works. Only those who trust in Jesus Christ are born of the Spirit and become children of God. (John 1:11-13; 3:16; Rom. 3:24-28; 10:9-13; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-9)
- Eternal Security.** All believers are eternally saved through Christ and are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. (John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:1; 8:28-39; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; Col. 3:1-4; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 John 5:11-13)
- Sanctity of Life.** All human beings are made in the image of God and created as male and female; thus every human being has been granted by God the right to life from conception, or the functional equivalent thereof until his or her natural death. Therefore, the intentional killing of an innocent human being violates God's lasting commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." (Gen. 1:26, 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Psa. 139:13-14)
- Sanctity of Marriage.** We recognize that marriage is between one man and one woman for life and that God has designed sexual relations to be enjoyed only within the God-ordained marriage relationship. (Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6, Eph. 5:22-23, Heb. 13:4)
- Dispensations.** We believe that the Holy Scriptures are best understood through the framework of Dispensational Theology. The Bible is clear that God deals in different ways, at different times, with different people. These changes in the outworking of God's plan are referred to as "Dispensations." We recognize several distinct dispensations in Scripture. Each is marked by revelation from God that is specific only to that dispensation. The current dispensation, God's plan for the Church, The Body of Christ, "the mystery" revealed to the Apostle Paul, is distinct from God's plan for the nation of Israel. We find in Paul's writings alone the revelation, position, and destiny of this church. (Rom. 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-12; Col. 1:24-29; 2 Tim. 2:15)
- The Church.** We believe that all in this dispensation who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ are united together in the one true Church, the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. God's specific truth of and for this Church was first revealed through the Apostle Paul. This Church began historically with Paul before the writing of his first epistle. (1 Cor. 12:13, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:1-11; Col. 1:18, 24-25)
- Spiritual Gifts.** God has given believers spiritual gifts with which to serve the Lord for the building up of the Body of Christ. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; Eph. 4:7-16) Some of the spiritual gifts that operated in the early Church were temporary in nature and intended for its infancy, including the offices of apostles and prophets. Other gifts, such as miraculous powers, the gift of healing, speaking in "tongues", revelations and visions have also ceased. (Rom. 11:11-36; 1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8-13; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:20; Phil. 2:25-26; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20) We do affirm that God is sovereign and able to operate in miraculous ways as He desires to do so. (Eph. 3:20)
- The Believer's Walk.** As a result of Christ's victory over sin and the indwelling Holy Spirit, all of the saved may and should experience deliverance from the power of sin in their daily lives. This comes through constant submission to the Holy Spirit and obedience to God's Word. Since believers are still in bodies of sinful flesh, we must consciously work in harmony with the Holy Spirit to avoid sinful behavior. (Ps. 119:9-11; Rom. 6:6-14; 1 Cor. 10:12-13; 2 Cor. 2:14; 10:2-5; Gal. 5:16-25; Phil. 2:12-13)
- "The Lord's Supper".** We believe that the practice of The Lord's Supper, The Lord's Table, or Communion Table, as variously described, is not for the practice of the Body of Christ. When gathered with the disciples at the last Passover meal, we believe the Lord altered the meaning of the Passover feast for the nation of Israel. No longer was it to be practiced in remembrance of freedom of slavery from Egyptian bondage, but instead to be practiced in remembrance of Christ who was the true Passover lamb. (Matt. 26:17-29; Luke 22:7-20; 1 Cor. 11:20) The practice is associated with the New Covenant made with the house of Israel and Judah. (1 Cor. 11:25; Jer. 31:31)

What We Believe...

15. **Baptism.** We believe that the Holy Spirit places all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation by one spiritual baptism that is not related to a water baptism. Through this work of the Holy Spirit we are identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. The Bible also speaks of a water baptism which was ritualistic in nature and played a key part in God's program with the nation of Israel. While this baptism was important in the past, the Scripture speaks of the spiritual baptism as the one and only baptism that is operative today. Therefore, we practice no other baptism. We emphasize the spiritual baptism as foundational to the unity of all believers in Christ. (Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 1:17; 12:12-13; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 4:3-6; Col. 2:9-12; Heb. 9:9-10)
16. **Resurrection.** We believe in the physical resurrection of the dead. Jesus Christ was resurrected bodily, and therefore everyone will have a bodily resurrection. The saved will be raised to eternal glory and the unsaved to an everlasting punishment. (Luke 24:39-43; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-24; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:4-6; 20:11-15)
17. **The Return of Christ.** The Lord Jesus Christ will personally come to take His Church to heaven, commonly referred to as "the rapture of the Church". All members of the Body of Christ, both living and dead, will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. This event is imminent and will take place prior to the Great Tribulation that will come upon the earth. (1 Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13-14) After the seven year Tribulation period, Jesus Christ will return in power to establish His Kingdom upon the earth. (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:20-27; Zech. 14:4,9; Matt. 24:15-41; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-4)
18. **The State of the Dead.** Immediately after death all people continue to exist in a state of consciousness that will last forever. The believer of this age passes directly into the presence of Christ in heaven. All of the unsaved dead enter a state of conscious eternal suffering without any hope of salvation. (Luke 16:23-28; John 3:36; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 14:11; 20:10-15)
19. **Mission.** Our mission is to bring glory to God as we proclaim the message of reconciliation to all the unsaved; as we equip and train the saved for the spiritual and physical growth of the Body of Christ; and as we serve all people through acts of grace and compassion. In this way we make plain to everyone the unsearchable riches of Christ according to the dispensation of the mystery. (Rom. 12:9-21; 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; Gal. 2:10; 6:10; Eph. 3:8-9; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:1-8; Col. 4:3-6; 1 Tim. 2:3-7)
20. **Offerings.** We believe that each believer should give willingly and cheerfully to the Lord's work without coercion. Not because they are bound to it, but because it is a sincere desire. In doing so, the believer shares in the blessings of the work and outreach of the local ministry. The specific amount given is to be decided by the believer as each has been prospered and has determined in their own heart. (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7)

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