

## CityLights Belief Statement

### A. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (I John 17:17; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)

### B. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. (Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-4, I John 5:7)

### C. God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17; John 4:24; John 17:5)

### D. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ as God, the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth as a human being, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3, I John 1:7)

### E. The 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 that He is abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. (John 16:7-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; I John 14:26)

### F. Regeneration

We believe that all mankind are sinners by nature and choice. Therefore, they are under judgment. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are transformed by the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12-13; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Titus 3:5)

### G. The Church

We believe in the universal church; a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. (Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:38-41; Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:25-27)

#### H. Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of fellow believers; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (II Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:17-23; I Thessalonians 5:17-18)

#### I. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the Triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-32)

#### J. The End Times

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:18, 29; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:1-15)

#### K. Christian Marriage

We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained of God for the benefit and propagation of mankind. It is the spiritual and physical union of one biological man and one biological woman; this is the only legitimate marriage relationship prescribed in the Bible and, according to the scriptural ideal, is to be broken only by death. Accordingly, CityLights Church, its Pastors, staff and members, will not recognize any other union as a Biblical marriage; our Church and staff shall not perform or participate in any same-sex marriage or unions or ceremonies of any kind; and Church facilities and property shall not be used for such purposes. (Gen 1:26-27, Gen 2:18-25, 1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4)

#### L. Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139)

M. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of CityLights Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elder Board is CityLights Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

N. Religious Liberty & Civic Responsibility

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God in all matters of faith. Each church is independent and must be free from unreasonable interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority; Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. (Romans 13:1-2; Matthew 22:21)

O. Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches, likewise, cooperate with the interdenominational fellowship on a voluntary independent basis.