



## OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

“GIVE UNTO THE LORD THE GLORY DUE UNTO HIS NAME” (PSALM 96:9)

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“Give to the LORD the glory due His name” (Psalm 96:8)

The driving mission and philosophy of all of the labours of Open Bible Fellowship are based on this all encompassing verse. All we do, and aim to do, is to give the Lord the glory that is due to Him. This creates the passion of worship and the excellence in music and the demand for solid teaching. We believe that we are to do all things to give the Lord what He deserves, and that requires giving our best. We work hard to prepare properly, and to ensure that each worship service is worthy of that verse, both in the actual visual results, as well as in the hearts and attitudes of those leading. We gather to give the Lord the best worship that we are able too, and to give Him the glory that is fitting, and to which He is worthy of.

### Our Theological Position

Open Bible Fellowship is an elder run, independent church that holds to the statement of faith below. We hold to the historic position regarding the Sovereignty of God, and of the teaching of His Word. We follow a desire to be honest to the Bible and to hold high the message and deity of Jesus Christ. Our teaching is that which is known as *reformed*, and we follow the classical position of the historic church that taught the position of the “5 Sola's” of the reformation.

### God

We believe in the only true God ([John 17:3](#)), the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). He created all things ([Revelation 4:11](#)) and upholds all things by the Word of His power ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). In Him we live and move and have our being ([Acts 17:28](#)). He is a God of truth and without iniquity, He is just and right ([Deuteronomy 32:4](#)) and He shall judge the world ([Psalm 9:8](#)). He currently rules the world in complete and total authority as Sovereign Lord over all. ([Philippians 2:9](#), [1 Timothy 6:15](#))

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same honour, praise, thankfulness and obedience ([Mark 12:29](#); [John 1:1-4](#); [Matthew 29:19-20](#); [Acts 4:3-4](#)).

### Jesus Christ

We believe in the total deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe He is the manifestation of God in the flesh. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe Him to be true God and true man ([John 1:1](#), [1:14](#), [1:18](#); [John 14:8-9](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#)).

## **Holy Spirit**

We believe in the total deity of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ ([John 16:14](#)). The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner upon belief in Christ, baptizing the believer into one body of which Christ is the head. The Holy Spirit indwells, guides, instructs, fills, comforts and empowers the believer through the Word of God for godly living ([Mark 13:11](#); [John 14:26](#); [John 16:13](#); [Romans 5:5](#); [1 Corinthians 3:16](#); [Romans 12:2](#)). The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of God's righteousness and of coming judgment ([John 16:8-11](#)).

We believe that the redemption brought by the Lord Jesus Christ is effectually applied to all His people by the Holy Spirit, who works faith in us and thereby unites us to Christ, renews us in the whole man after the image of God, and enables us more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness; until His gracious work has been completed in us.

## **Scriptures**

We believe the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament are verbally inspired by God and inerrant in their original writings. We believe the 66 books of the Old Testament and the New Testament are God's complete and sufficient revelation and therefore carry God's authority for mankind and we believe the English translations we have available today are accurate to the originals and therefore authoritative in all areas ([Psalm 119:97-104](#); [Psalm 119:160](#); [Matthew 5:18](#); [John 5:46-47](#); [John 10:35](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-16](#)).

## **Man**

We believe man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker but, by voluntarily transgressing, fell from his sinless state. Consequently, man, by his fall into a state of sin, has wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation; so as a natural man, being altogether averse from good, and dead in sin, is he not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, seek after, or to prepare himself for salvation since all mankind is sinful and spiritual, morally and effectively dead. All people are sinners not only by inheritance, but by their own choice and therefore are under just condemnation without defence or excuse. We believe that without exception every man and every woman is totally depraved and needs a Saviour ([Genesis 3:1-6](#); [Romans 3:10-19](#); [Romans 1:18](#), [Romans 1:32](#); [Romans 5:1-2](#)).

## **Salvation**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of His people according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. He bore the wrath of a most holy God in punishing our sin upon Christ. When God's holiness and righteousness was satisfied He declared it finished. We believe that each person who by faith receives Him as personal Saviour and Lord is justified on the basis of Jesus Christ's shed blood on Calvary. Each person who commits to follow Jesus Christ is born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby becomes eternally secure as a child of God. We believe the Holy Spirit baptizes each believing person into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation and empowers followers to follow and serve Him ([Romans 8:37-39](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).

## **Resurrection**

We believe in the resurrection of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension into heaven and His present life for us as High Priest, Advocate and King ([Acts 1:3](#); [Acts 1:9](#); [Hebrews 7:25-26](#)).

## **Heaven, Hell and the Return of Christ.**

We believe in the “blessed hope”: the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ. His return has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The saved are raised to eternal life in heaven which will be a bodily existence on the new heaven and earth enjoying this world renewed without sin and full and wonderful unhindered intimacy with God ([Matthew 25:34](#); [John 14:2](#); [2](#); [Corinthians 5:1](#); [Revelation 2:7](#)). The lost are raised to hell in conscious torment under the wrath of God. ([Matthew 8:11](#); [Matthew 10:28](#); [Matthew 13:49-50](#); [Mark 9:47-48](#); [Luke 12:5](#); [Revelation 21:8](#).)

## **Church**

Upon committing to follow Jesus as Lord, a believer becomes part of His body, which is the church. There is one church universal, composed of all those throughout the world who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The Scriptures command believers to gather in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances (baptism and communion), fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world in fulfillment of the command of Christ to make disciples of all believers ([Ephesians 5:23](#); [Romans 12:1](#); [Acts 2:42-46](#); [1 Corinthians 14:26](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

Wherever God’s people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the church — under the oversight of elders and other supportive leadership. The church’s members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ ([Ephesians 4:16](#)).

## **Missions**

Realizing that the cause of Christ extends beyond any one local fellowship, we commit ourselves to an ongoing ministry of extending the call of Christ to make disciples around the world ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).