

# What We Believe at Faith Outreach Church

## Jesus



## Who is Jesus at FOC?

Many are asking who is Jesus? The Bible tells us that Jesus is God incarnate; He is God the Son, eternally one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He alone can forgive our sins and give salvation. We will tell you more about who is Jesus and what Faith Outreach Christian Life Center teaches below: The writer of Hebrews explains how "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 1:1-3). Many people believe that Jesus lived, was a good teacher and a very spiritual man, but they deny that He is God. A diluted Jesus is not the real Jesus. We must be careful to believe in the Jesus that He himself declared He was, "not be[ing] led astray from [our] sincere and pure devotion to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

### **7 declarations where Jesus shows us who He is:**

#### **1. Jesus said He was God**

Matthew 26:63-65 "But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, 'I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.' 'Yes, it is as you

say,' Jesus replied. 'But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.'"

John 8:58-59 " 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

John 10:30-33 " 'I and the Father are one.' Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' 'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.' "

John 14:8-9 "Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?' "

## **2. Jesus said He came from heaven, God's eternal dwelling place**

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."

John 16:28 "I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

## **3. Jesus said He was sinless, as God alone is without sin**

John 8:46 "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?"

## **4. Jesus forgave sin**

Mark 2:5 "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"

Luke 7:48, 49 "Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' The other guests began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' "

## **5. Jesus said He was the only way to heaven**

John 14:6 “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

John 11:25 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’”

## **6. Jesus accepted worship as God**

Matthew 14:33 “Then those who were in the boat worshiped him Jesus, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

John 9:38 “Then the man said, ‘Lord Jesus, I believe,’ and he worshiped him.”

## **7. Jesus performed miracles including raising others and himself from the dead**

Matthew 4:23 “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

Matthew 17:18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.

Luke 8:49-50, 52-55 “While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. ‘Your daughter is dead,’ he said. ‘Don’t bother the teacher any more.’ Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.’ ...Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. ‘Stop wailing,’ Jesus said. ‘She is not dead but asleep.’ They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, ‘My child, get up!’ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.”

Luke 7:12-15 “As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’ Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.”

John 11:43, 44 “When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go.’”

Luke 24:5-8 “In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He [Jesus] is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ Then they remembered his words.”

# Baptism



## What is Baptism at FOC?

The Bible clearly teaches that baptism is the first step of obedience after making a commitment to Christ. Baptism for the believer is a public confession to the world of their commitment to Christ. People often have questions regarding baptism: Why should I be baptized? I've already been baptized. Do I have to do it again? Does it matter if someone is sprinkled or dunked?

If you are considering baptism, we are glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review the following information about this next step. To sign up for baptism, please contact our office to meet with an elder. If you have other questions about baptism, please email us at [baptism@foclc.org](mailto:baptism@foclc.org)

## ***What God's Word says about Baptism:***

### **Why Should I be Baptized?**

1. To follow the example set by Christ.

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”  
(Mark 1:9)*

2. Because Christ commanded it.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20)*

3. It demonstrates I am a Believer.

*“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.” (1 John 2:3)*

## **What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?**

1. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.

*“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)*

*“Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)*

## **Why Be Baptized By Immersion?**

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

*“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.”  
(Matthew 3:16a)*

*“As Jesus was coming up out of the water...” (Mark 1:10)*

2. Every Baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

*(for example) “Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38–39)*

## **When Should I Be Baptized?**

1. As soon as you have believed in Christ for salvation.

*“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12)*

## **Should I Be Baptized Immediately After Salvation?**

The Bible teaches that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are “good” enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

Since baptism is not a part of your salvation but a symbol of it, it is ok to wait until the next scheduled baptism.

1. The word “baptize” means “to dip or immerse.”

2. It best symbolized a burial and resurrection.

*“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:3–4)*

## **Who Should Be Baptized?**

Every person who believes in Christ should be baptized. Believers realize their sin separates them from God. They conclude that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross bridges the gap between them and God. Having decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation, they follow Christ in baptism as a symbol of their new life in Christ.

## **What About Children?**

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the person did not request it. All instances of baptism follow an individual’s decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:47–48). At Faith Outreach Christian Life Center we wait until the child is old enough. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them as a symbol of their faith in Christ.

## What About Infant Baptism?

In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone to baptize them. Baptism is a public profession of salvation (as the Bible teaches), and only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.

If you have not experienced adult baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

## Membership



## Membership at FOC

Here at Faith Outreach Church, we believe church membership is not just about having rights, but becoming owners of the vision and being good stewards of the local mission. We believe every Christ-follower should belong to a local church and take some ownership of that church. Membership at Faith Outreach Church includes serving, giving and participating in biblical community. Here is our mission at Faith Outreach Church:

***Our Vision is to identify, win, and train brothers & sisters of all nationalities and denominations into one body of Christ, who in turn will carry the ministry of this church into all the world. Our Purpose is***

***to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional needs of all people. Our Destiny is to point others to their destiny in Christ Jesus.***

We offer church membership classes where you'll learn the history, vision and values of Faith Outreach Church. In our membership class we'll teach you the five core values our church lives by: Found People Find People, Saved People Serve People, Growing People Change, You Can't Do Life Alone and You Can't Outgive God. At the end of the class you'll have an opportunity to become an owner of Faith Outreach Christian Life Center.

Membership Class is designed for all those interested joining the church no matter the age or denomination. Sign up at Guest Services on Sunday or by using one of the links below. This class is a requirement for being a member at Faith Outreach Church. The prospective member will receive a membership application form. Once the application for membership is completed, the next step is a Membership Registration. During the meeting with a church elder, the prospective member shares his or her testimony of conversion to Christ and asks any remaining questions about the church.

## Church Government



## Church Government

FOC is committed to the Bible's teaching that men who hold the offices of Elder and Deacon are to oversee various functions of the local church.

The Bible's teaching on the subject of two church offices is found in [1 Timothy 3:1-16](#) and [Titus 1:5-9](#). Although there are three terms used for the offices of the church, i.e. bishop, elder and deacon, analysis of these terms indicates that bishop and elder are used interchangeably.

# Elders

The Scriptures show that the Elders “serve by leading” and that their responsibility involves the spiritual oversight of the congregation. All Elders are equal in authority but not necessarily equal in influence.

## *Elder Qualifications*

Above reproach, able to teach, husband to one wife, not addicted to wine, temperate, not antagonistic, prudent, uncontentious, respectable, free from the love of money, hospitable, manages own household well, not a new convert. ([Titus 1:6-9](#))

## **The Elders’ Primary Responsibilities**

- Doctrine: Ensuring that the doctrine of the church is biblical; all doctrinal issues in the church will be settled by the Board of Elders;
- Direction: Ensuring that the direction of the church is consistent with the FOCLC statement of purpose and the four pillars;
- Discipline: Administering in love and humility the process of church discipline as outlined in [Matthew 18:15-20](#); [Galatians 6:1-4](#); [Titus 3:10](#); [2 Thessalonians 3:14-15](#); [1 Timothy 5:17-25](#); 1 Corinthians 5; [2 Corinthians 2:5-11](#) and [Romans 16:17](#).

## **Plurality of Elders**

The Scriptures teach that a plurality of elders governed individual New Testament churches ([Acts 14:23](#); [Acts 20:28](#); [Titus 1:5](#); [Philippians 1:1](#)). The Scripture does not mention any congregations featuring a stand-alone pastor and leader. A plurality of godly elders, exercising their individual giftedness, squares with the Scripture’s teaching that wisdom is found in a multitude of godly counselors ([Proverbs 11:4](#); [Proverbs 12:15](#); [Proverbs 15:22](#); [Proverbs 19:20](#); [Proverbs 24:6](#)). This truth does not eliminate the possibility and likelihood that one or more elders will stand out from the others as more public in their ministries or more influential in their workings on the Elder Board.

# Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor automatically serves as an Elder and, because of his public presence and responsibility before the congregation, may be considered “first among equals” as a member of the Elder Board. The Senior Pastor should be gifted primarily as a preacher/teacher and as a leader.

# Deacons

The Bible teaches that Deacons “lead by serving” (Acts 6). The qualifications for Elders and Deacons are the same regarding an individual’s character, but they differ in aptitude. The elders are to be “able to teach” while the deacons are to be “able and proved as servants.”

## *Deacon Qualifications*

Individual of dignity, above reproach, not double tongued, first tested as servants, not addicted to wine, spouses must be faithful, dignified, temperate, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience, husband of one wife, manages household well. ([1 Timothy 3:8-12](#))

## **THE VISION**

**The purpose of the ministry is to be a New Testament Church, fulfilling Mark 16:16-19 and Matthew 25:31-40.**

**Our four-fold vision is:**

- 1. a family oriented church**
- 2. a learning and teaching center**
- 3. a place to mend up and heal the broken**
- 4. an outreach church to the entire world**

**This four-fold ministry is supported by the following goals and ministries:**

**...to be a family church and a learning and teaching center. A place to reach out and mend up the broken and hurting. A center for local and worldwide evangelism.**

**...to prepare and perfect the saints according to Ephesians 4:12-13. We recognize that we have a mandate from God to reach the lost and dying world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to instruct them on how to apply Kingdom principles to their lives and encourage them to teach others. This ministry will be enhanced through the use of music by using the musicians from our own body.**

**...to invite well-known Word preachers with the five-fold ministry gifts and teachers who will bring a balanced ministry, teaching line upon line and precept upon precept.**

**...to use the arts, (drama, dance and flags) as an aide to project and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord showed me in this vision a large assembly area with healings, miracles and power because Jesus was being lifted up. This ministry is to reach the immediate community, county and city, as well as the world, with the Gospel. This can be achieved through evangelism, missionary outreach and MORE...**

**...a local church declaring the filling of the Holy Spirit for power, healing, speaking in other tongues and manifesting the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.**

**...to involve every person in the body in the work of the Kingdom.**

**...to have a Christian College and Seminary to prepare and equip the minister and lay-person to properly teach and preach the Word of God to effectively reach a lost and dying world for Jesus.**

**...to have a Christian Academy for the children grades K3 – 12th.**

**...to instruct the leadership of this body in the organizing of “Home Bible Study Groups,” enabling them to minister to the members in their locale, thus assuring that every member would be personally ministered to.**

**...to have a Christian restaurant with live Christian entertainment. This facility would also include a Christian bookstore and tape ministry available to anyone.**

**...to have a radio station with the ability to reach a fifty-mile radius that would reach the Tampa Bay area. The programs would feature well-known ministers as well as local pastors and ministers funded by the church.**

**...to have a variety of departments within the church to accommodate the needs of the members of the body and visitors.**

**...to fulfill the commission given to us by God as a part of the Body of Christ.**

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

Most people genuinely want to know God... it's church they want to stay away from! At Faith Outreach Center, our greatest desire is for you to come to know a loving God, without organized religion getting in the way. Come and see for yourself just how amazing and fun church can be.

At Faith Outreach Center, you can expect a dynamic church service that includes great music, practical Biblical teaching, and an opportunity to experience the presence of God. We believe that God's love for you is so great that, given the opportunity, He will make Himself real to you.

WHY DO WE...

STAND WHEN WE SING? II Chronicles 20:19 “And the Levites..., stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.”

CLAP OUR HANDS? Psalms 47:1 “Oh clap your hands all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.”

LIFT OUR HANDS? Psalms 134:2 “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.” (also see Psalms 63:4 & I Tim. 2:8)

SING CHORUSES AND HYMNS? Ephesians 5:18-19 "...be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

SING IN TONGUES AND ENGLISH? I Corinthians 14:14-15 "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

USE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AS A PART OF WORSHIP? Psalms 150:3-5 "Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: Praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals."

SPEAK WITH TONGUES AND HAVE INTERPRE-TATION OF TONGUES? I Corinthians 12:7, 10 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal...to another divers kinds of tongues, to another the interpretations of tongues:"

ANOINT WITH OIL AND PRAY FOR THE SICK? James 5:14-15 "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him."

PROPHECY? I Corinthians 14:3 "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." (also see I Cor. 14:29, 31; Amos 3:8)

## **Below are the four Core Values of "WHO WE ARE" at Faith Outreach:**



### **Gospel Centered Teaching**

We value the Bible, which is God's reliable, authoritative, and sufficient revelation. We value a growing love for the Word, as well as a deepening understanding of it, in each person within the church, whether old or young.

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. -2 Timothy 3.16*



### **Spirit Formed Lives**

Jesus promised His followers they would receive power – power to move in new dimensions of worship, praise, prayer, service, and witness. (See Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4) We value the timeless practices and principles set forth in Scripture that lead to a Christian life filled with power and maturity under Jesus’ lordship and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.



### **Family and Community**

We value building up strong marriages and families, where God’s Word is taught and lived out, where husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church, where wives respect their husbands, where hearts of the parents are turned toward their children, and the hearts of the children toward their parents. We also value living, and serving together with ALL members of the body of Christ, as a healthy and active community.



### **Making Disciples**

God has called us to be more and more like Jesus and to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Jesus lived a life of making disciples through personal investment in others. Jesus gave of Himself in order to help His disciples grow and mature. We desire to follow His example by giving to others what God has given us so that we all may be “built up...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4.13)

# Beliefs

Faith Outreach is an interdenominational fellowship, dedicated to glorifying God, equipping and edifying His people, and reaching out to make disciples of all nations.

We exist to love God and love people. We present the gospel of Jesus Christ to inspire individuals to progress from seekers into believers. We provide an atmosphere to help nurture discipleship and build a relationship with Jesus Christ. We encourage people to discover their gifts and talents through serving. We strive to train and equip individuals to reach their world for Christ.

We value the Scriptures as God's infallible Word

We value Spirit-led, contemporary, Christ-centered worship

We value prayer

We value reaching out to a lost world

We value teaching people about God

We value Truth

We value balance in doctrine and practice

We value discipleship and a growing relationship with God

We value cultivating a relational family atmosphere

We value individuals

We value embracing diversity

We value practicing sensitivity and compassion

We value creativity and innovation

We value releasing individuals to serve in their areas of giftedness

We value our leaders

We value managing our resources with excellence

# Logo

