What We Believe

At The First Christian Church of Noble, what we believe influences everything we do. Below, you will find what we believe and why we hold each belief.

Vision

FCC Noble desires to GROW God's kingdom by positively impacting Noble, and the surrounding communities, with the love of God and the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

FCC Noble exists to GROW Disciples who will GROW more Disciples.

Motto

Loving God...Loving Noble

The Trinity

There is one God. He is our perfect, holy, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Creator. In the unity of the Godhead, there exists three separate, equal, and eternal persons--the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:26 | Deuteronomy 6:4 | Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19

God the Father

God the Father is perfect in love, justice, wisdom, grace, and mercy. He is in control of all things and works all things to the good of those who love Him. God is actively involved in human affairs and listens and responds to prayer. He rescues from destruction those who place their faith in Jesus.

<u>Deuteronomy 32:4</u> I <u>Job 12:13</u>; <u>42:2</u> I <u>Psalm 145:8-9</u> I <u>Matthew 7:7-11</u> I <u>1 Peter 5:10</u> I <u>1 John 4:16-18</u>

Jesus Christ

Jesus is the one and only Son of God. He is both fully God and fully human. Jesus is the Head of the Church. He was before all things, which were created through Him and for Him. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Jesus lived a sinless life on earth so He could die on the cross for our sins. He conquered death three days later by physically rising from the dead in order to bring new life to those who choose to follow Him. After appearing to over 500 people, proving His resurrection, He ascended to Heaven where He rules at the Father's right hand, interceding for His people until the time of His return.

<u>Matthew 1:18-23</u> | <u>Luke 24:1-8</u> | <u>John 1:1-5</u> | <u>Acts 1:11</u> | <u>1 Corinthians 15:6</u> | <u>2 Corinthians 5:18-21</u> | <u>Colossians 1:15-20</u> | <u>Hebrews 4:14-15</u>; <u>10:12-14</u> | Revelation 19-20

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully God and dwells within believers upon their salvation. The Holy Spirit convicts man of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Spirit empowers believers, equips them with spiritual gifts for the advancement of His kingdom, and marks believers as God's own.

John 16:8-11 | Acts 2:38 | 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 | 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 | Galatians 5:22-23

Scripture

We believe Scripture--both Old and New Testament--to be the inspired Word of God. We believe the original writings are without error and are pivotal to having a whole view of God. Each book and letter should be interpreted based on its specific context, audience, and genre in order to understand God's purpose. All believers are called to be eager students of the Word so they may fervently apply it. The Word of God is not to be added to, subtracted from, or changed in any way. All doctrine and teaching must be tested against Scripture for accuracy.

Psalm 1:2 | 2 Timothy 3:16-17 | 2 Peter 1:20-21

Humanity

God created man--male and female--in His image. We were created without sin and in perfect relationship with God. However, tempted by Satan, mankind rebelled, turning away from God, introducing sin into the world. We are all sinners, responsible for our own rebellion, subjecting us to God's perfect and righteous wrath. God, in His love, grace, and mercy, desired to restore His relationship with us and sent His Son to die on the cross where God's wrath was absorbed for all those who put their faith in Jesus. Apart from Christ, a person is still lost and without hope of salvation no matter how "good" or "righteous" he or she may be.

Genesis 1:26-27 | Romans 3:23; 5:6-21; 6:23

Salvation

Salvation, deliverance from sin into a renewed relationship with God, is only possible by God's grace, through a confession of faith in Jesus as Savior, expressed through repentance from sin and baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. Only Jesus' sacrifice on the cross has the power to erase our sins which separate us from God. No amount of good works or rituals can achieve the saving grace that Jesus offers. Upon salvation, we receive the Holy Spirit, God dwelling in us.

John 1:12; 3:3-7; 5:24 | Acts 2:38 | Romans 6:4 | Ephesians 2:8-10 | Titus 3:5

Communion

Communion is the remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The bread signifies His broken body, and the cup signifies His blood spilling out, showing us the true cost of our sins. It is a time for believers to examine themselves against the Gospel. We partake of communion weekly and invite all believers to join us in this fellowship.

Mark 14:22-25 I 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

The Church

The Church is the body of believers who put their faith in Jesus. The Church exists to bring glory to God. We believe the Church is commanded to devote themselves to worship, studying and receiving God's Word, prayer, fellowship, and service to one another. We believe the Church is also commanded to take the message to the Gospel to all the world. All members of the Church are under the authority of Christ and are, therefore, accountable to encourage, teach, correct, and rebuke one another in love to God's glory.

Matthew 28:18-20 | Acts 2:42-47 | Colossians 1:18 | 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:2

Sanctification

Sanctification, the process of becoming more like Christ and less like the world, is the work of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification renews our minds and our lives by putting to death our sinful nature and instead pursuing with our whole selves the things of God such as love, compassion, and forgiveness. Although sin is an ever present adversary, we become more equipped to fight it as we recognize the power of the Spirit living in us and the victory of Christ over sin and death. Through spiritual disciplines such as studying Scripture, prayer, worship, confession, fasting, and meeting with fellow believers, the Holy Spirit makes the heart of God known to us. We recognize that sanctification will not be complete until Christ returns and makes all things new.

Romans 7:15-8:17 | 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 | 2 Corinthians 5:17 | Galatians 5:16-26 | Philippians 3:12-21 | Colossians 3:1-17

In the End

We believe in a bodily resurrection in which each individual is judged. For those who have found salvation in Jesus Christ, they will live and reign with God forever in glory; they will be free from sin, pain, and death. Although salvation is not dependent upon works, believers will be rewarded for their actions in this life. For those apart from Christ, they will be eternally separated from God and His grace. They will be cast down with Satan and all those hostile towards God into an eternity of torment. Although the eternal reward for following Christ is great and the consequence for remaining apart from Christ is severe, Christianity is not about fear of the end but about following Christ because of an understanding of His love and what He has already done for us. We follow Christ out of love and appreciation, not out of fear.

Mark 10:29-30 | John 5:19-30 | 1 Corinthians 15 | 2 Corinthians 5:8-10 | Ephesians 2:8-9 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Revelation 19-21