

OUR LOCAL HISTORY

Our church originated when in 1989 several local families requested that the Reformed Baptist Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, help them begin a church in Louisville committed to historic Christianity and, in particular, historic Baptist principles.

OUR BAPTIST HERITAGE

In late 1991 God granted us our hearts desire and we became a fully constituted Baptist Church, but a Baptist Church with a difference. Let us explain. The formal, doctrinal basis of our church is the [1689 Baptist Confession of Faith](#). We are historically in the Baptist tradition. We believe in the baptism of believers only. We believe that only baptized believers should be members of local churches. In this sense we are unashamedly Baptist. We are Baptists in the tradition of John Bunyan, Benjamin Keach, and Charles Haddon Spurgeon. The problem is that you may have met not a few people who call themselves Baptist who are not that kind of Baptist. Tragically, Baptist churches, like other churches, have been subject to the erosion and dilution of their biblical convictions.

In recent years, however, the God of grace has been pleased to create a thirst in many across our land and across the world for biblical revival and thoroughgoing reformation. Not a few have looked back and discovered how far modern evangelical and fundamental Christianity has deviated from historic Christianity. They are grieved by the man-centered worship of the church today and want to return to the God-centered worship of historic Christianity. The names of the great Reformers--Luther, Calvin, Knox, and many others--have once again begun to be revered as those God was pleased to use to restore the great gospel truths of Scripture alone, grace alone, Christ alone, and faith alone to the church. The writings of their godly successors in the Puritan tradition--John Owen, Thomas Goodwin, George Whitefield, yes, and Spurgeon too-- have once again begun to be appreciated as treasuries of Bible truth. This is why we say that we hope to be a Baptist church with a difference.

OUR DISTINCTIVE TEACHING

Many in our day give too high a priority to secondary issues in choosing a church. The first and most important thing to consider in choosing a church is what they believe and teach.

We believe in the reality of sovereign grace. In other words, we teach that God is sovereign not only in general, but especially in salvation (1 Cor. 1:26-31; Eph. 1:3-11; Rom. 8:28-32). Salvation is by grace alone (Eph. 2:8-10). A man is saved only when God gives him the willingness and the ability to repent and put his faith in Jesus Christ, the one who suffered the wrath of God in the place of sinners (Phil. 1:6, 29,30; 2 Tim.2:24,25).

We take both doctrine (teaching) and life seriously. Therefore, we strive both to accurately understand the truth of the Word and to practically incorporate it into our daily living.

We believe that doctrine and life are inseparable. What a man really believes deeply affects how he lives. How a man lives demonstrates what he really believes. A man cannot consistently have right attitudes or actions without possessing a measure of right doctrine.

Doctrine is a life and death matter. Paul wrote to Timothy, "Pay close attention to your life and to your teaching, persevere in these things; for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you" (1 Tim.4:16). If our faith is to be genuine and saving, it must embrace and be nourished by sound biblical teaching. False teaching can be fatal.

Life is also a matter of eternal significance. The writer of Hebrews says, "Pursue peace with all men, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb.12: 14). The man whose life does not display practical holiness will not be saved eternally. Though our own practical holiness does not save us, it is proof that we possess genuine saving faith. "Faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:26). A faith barren of the fruits of holy living will save no one.

We acknowledge ourselves to once have been condemned sinners now redeemed by the blood of Christ. In our struggle against sin, we say with the Apostle, "Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3: 13,14).

OUR VIEW OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe in the centrality of the local church in the Christian's life (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 13:17). There are too many "free agent" Christians around today who think that it is sufficient to be a member of an invisible church. The problem with invisible churches is that they have invisible members and invisible officers. The help and the accountability they give is also invisible. We believe that Christians need each other and are responsible to attach themselves to a good local church that they might be instructed, counseled, and, if need be, corrected.

We believe that the preaching and teaching of the Word should be central in the life of the local church. The church, said the Apostle Paul, is "the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). Many other things ought to be part of the local church: good fellowship for Christians, generous benevolence to the poor, missionary and evangelistic endeavors toward the lost, but it must never be forgotten that the fountain of all these things is the faithful proclamation of the Word of God.

We believe the church should be a spiritual family which cares about the spiritual welfare of its members (1 Thess.5:12- 4; Phil.2:1-5). Becoming a member of a local church is a

covenant commitment to the Lord and to the members of a local church. It means willingness to be transparent, willingness to be humble, and willingness to undertake the obvious responsibilities of such a commitment (Eph. 4:1-3, 25-32). Such a commitment ought not to be lightly undertaken or frivolously forsaken.

We believe that the policies, practices, and worship of the church should be ordered by the Word of God. The Word clearly says that the local church is "the house of God, the church of the living God" (1 Tim. 3:15). As such the will of God revealed in the Word of God must regulate church life. "Lord Pragmatism" (whatwill-work) and "Lord Tradition" (the-way-we've-always-done-it) rule in many churches, not the Lord Jesus. We reject such human "will worship" (Col. 2:23), and embrace the Word of God as our only rule of faith and practice.

OUR PUBLIC WORSHIP

We seek to glorify God through honorable worship and the preaching of His Word to all. The greater part of each service is normally given over to expository preaching. We endeavor to make each service interesting and meaningful, but we make no effort to entertain.

We pay careful attention to the biblical content and musical quality of the hymns we sing. We view the reading of the Scripture and corporate prayer as important elements of each worship service.

We endeavor to focus our attention not on ourselves and our own needs, but on our God and His Glory.

OUR OPEN INVITATION

If these convictions strike a responsive chord in your heart or if you have questions, we would like to talk more with you. We meet on Lord's Day mornings for Sunday School and worship & also on Wednesday nights for prayer. For more information about the time and places of our services or if you have other questions, call us at (502)266-6573

We invite all to come and run with us the glorious race marked out for the saints of God!

TRUTHS WE BELIEVE AND TEACH

1. The inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of the Bible;
2. The absolute sovereignty of the Triune God over all of history and salvation;
3. The essential deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His

substitutionary death, and His physical resurrection;

4. The present session of Jesus Christ in heaven and His future return to judge the world and establish His everlasting kingdom;
5. That salvation is by the grace of God alone, on the basis of the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and wholly apart from human merit;
6. That the only valid answer to the many evils in present-day human society is to be found in the gospel of Christ. which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone who truly believes it";
7. That God commands all people to repent and to believe the gospel;
8. That the church is composed solely of repentant and believing sinners who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and submit to His rule and authority as set forth in the Scriptures;
9. That Christians have the solemn obligation to conduct themselves at all times in a manner worthy of the gospel they profess to believe;
10. That Christians are responsible for the evangelistic spreading of the gospel to the ends of the earth.