



8 Essential Beliefs

Essential Belief #1

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He exists eternally in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is one God in three persons. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Takeaway: One God, Three Persons, all are equal

Practical example: Gravity

I know gravity works. I know a little of why, but others understand way more.

God gives us enough knowledge to know who He is to be able to trust him.

- We can know it's true without completely understanding
- Understanding is not a prerequisite for faith

Essential Belief #2

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. After three days, he arose from the dead to demonstrate his power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and will return to earth again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Jesus - most missed

Takeaway: Jesus was not...created John 1:1-5

- Jesus is eternally begotten of the Father (proceeds from & same substance as)

Essential Belief #3

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every Christian, from the moment of salvation, he provides Christians with the power to live and understand spiritual truth. He guides them in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

Takeaway: The Holy Spirit...dwells in believers

- God is here, all around us, but for the believer, He is within us

Essential Belief #4

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because God inspires it, it is the truth without any mixture of errors.

Takeaway: The Bible is authoritative truth.

- The Bible is God's self-revelation to us
- He does talk about His love for us. However, it is primarily about Him, not us.
- Authoritative = from God, Truth = There is nothing wrong in the Bible.

Essential Belief #5

Mankind is made in the spiritual image of God to be like him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, we are all marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates us from God and causes many problems in life.

Takeaway: Males and females are...made in the image of God
Humanity is born...sinful and separated from God (original sin)

Essential Belief #6

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sins by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sins' penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Salvation most missed

Takeaway: We are saved by grace through faith.

Essential Belief #7

Eternal security is the grace and keeping power of God. Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian.

Takeaway: If the Holy Spirit is in you, then NO ONE can take it away

- God knows everything you will ever do,
- Nothing will surprise Him and make Him take back His Spirit
- If someone is truly saved, then God can't lose that person!

Essential Belief #8

Eternity is how long we were created to exist with God. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with

Him is heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

Takeaway: Those who trust in Jesus spend eternity with God.

Essentials 1-3 - Show us the grandeur of our God. (We should fall on our faces and worship.)

Essential 4 - Our God reveals Himself through His Word

Essential 5 - The Word (& our experience) show us we are dead/hopeless

Essential 6 - God offers salvation through the Son

Essential 7 - God gives us His Spirit as our guarantee and guide

Essential 8 - God gives us Himself for eternity

These beliefs should cause us to love God and people more.

- Love God because He didn't have to come to us.
- Love people because we don't deserve salvation, just like they don't deserve it.
- This is the gospel. If you know the essentials, you know the gospel.
- If we know what we believe, we can share what we believe.