

## Essential Teachings

- We believe in one God, creator of all things, perfect in love and holiness who exists as three person: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2)
- We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and entered human form by the miracle of the virgin birth, that He lived a sinless life, and that He died for our sins. We believe that He rose again on the third day and now sits at the right hand of God as our advocate. (Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1 & 14, 3:16; I Corinthians 15:3-7; Hebrews 1:3; I John 2:1).
- We believe that the Holy Spirit is God. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. We believe that He brings about the new birth, indwells, baptizes, seals, anoints, and endows all who are regenerated with spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit also leads believers who daily surrender their life to Him by guiding, teaching, sanctifying, and filling them (John 15:26, 16:8, 3:3-6, 14:16-17, 14:26).
- We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and is the sole authority for all Christian faith and life. We believe that God has preserved His word and that by His power it has been kept from being lost, destroyed, or diluted with error (II Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:89; I Peter 1:23,25).
- We believe that all people are created in the image of God. At the same time, because of Adam's sin, all people are sinful by nature and choice. Apart from forgiveness in Jesus Christ, all are lost and alienated from God (Genesis 1:27, 3:1-6; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3).
- We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. His death is the only payment for our sins that God will accept. All who truly believe in Christ are born again and become the children of God (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- We believe that the church consists of all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior. The local church exists to exalt Christ, encourage believers and evangelize the world. We believe the local church is still God's primary way to minister to a fragmented, hurting, lost world.
- We believe in the resurrection the body. At death the spirits of the saved go immediately to be with the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven and the unsaved descend immediately into hell until the final day of judgment. At that time their bodies shall be raised from the grave; the saved will return to be in heaven with Christ, the lost will be judged and returned to hell (Luke 1:19-31, 23:43; Revelation 20:11-15).

## DISTINCTIVE TEACHINGS OF WABASH FRIENDS

- We believe in the priesthood of all believers, and that every follower of Christ is a minister, has direct access to God and has the responsibility for personal growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:5; I Peter 2:2, 5 & 9).
- We believe we are to minister to the whole person: body, soul and spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:23; I John 3:16-18)
- We believe that the Holy Spirit gives to every true follower of Christ at least one spiritual gift. He has also wired in us natural gifts and worked in us to acquire skills to build the kingdom of God. The purpose of these gifts are build up or believers to gather people to Christ and his community and go into all the world to bring about his kingdom. (I Corinthians 12:12, Matthew 28:18-21)
- We believe that no outward symbols or rituals are effective for salvation. We believe that baptism is an inward work of the Holy Spirit that baptizes the believer into the body of Christ. Communion is also an inward work of the Holy Spirit that connects our hearts to the risen, living Savior and to each other. We feed on the true bread of life, Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13; John 6:48-51). However one is free to follow his/his conscience in these matters. All of life is a sacrament.
- We believe each follower of Christ will be moved to tell his/her story and how Christ has worked in their individual lives and in their life of community. Our story is combination of words and actions that demonstrate our faith in and our love for Jesus. Part of this story is to invite people to come to personal and corporate faith in Christ, wherever their spiritual journey may take them. (Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9,10).
- We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is to be the salt and light of the world. We are responsible to address the specific issues of each generation based the authority and truth of Scripture and the collective wisdom of God's people. (Matthew 5:13-16; James 4:17)
- We believe that church governance is not to be by vote but by coming to consensus in discerning the will of God together. (Acts 13:1-3)
- We believe we are to work for reconciliation and peace among all peoples.
- We believe that the Second Coming of Jesus can be at any time. It will be visible This will establish justice and initiate the next phase in God's eternal plan for the New Heaven and New earth.