



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

## *Denominational Distinctives*

### INTRODUCTION

- Denominations were formed out of the religious \_\_\_\_\_ of the American colonies.
- Denominations were formed to prevent \_\_\_\_\_.
- Denominations were formed to promote \_\_\_\_\_ while allowing for \_\_\_\_\_.

*Our “denominational” affiliations distinguish us from other evangelical churches in several important ways.*

### REFORMED THEOLOGY

- Generally applies to all protestant churches that grew from the sixteenth-century revolt against the Roman church.
  - Acceptance of five main doctrinal points: the doctrines of \_\_\_\_\_.
1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 3:9-18)
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 13:48; Eph 1:4-6; 1 Thess 1:4-5)
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 5:10)
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:35-40)
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:27-29; Col 1:21-23)

### GOSPEL-CENTERED WORSHIP

*God is not truly worshiped where the gospel is not rightly \_\_\_\_\_.*

Worship is for our own benefit, and God communicates grace to us primarily through:

1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

## MISSIONAL CALLING

1. We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The mission is carried out by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We cooperate with other churches to fulfill this mission \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

## COMPLEMENTARIAN LEADERSHIP

1. All humans have equal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ before God. But God has also ordained distinctive \_\_\_\_\_ for men and women to serve in the \_\_\_\_\_ and in the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Roles for men and women in the home:

Men

Women

3. The Pastoral Council
  - Composed of biblically qualified \_\_\_\_\_
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ of pastors
  - Accountable to \_\_\_\_\_ for the church

## DENOMINATIONAL DISTINCTIVES

Crosstown Church is a self-governing, independent church and so technically not a part of a denomination. However, our two primary affiliations with the Acts 29 Network and the Southern Baptist Convention distinguish us from other evangelical churches in several important ways.

### *In our theology, we are reformed*

- We believe that God created man and woman in a state of sinless perfection with particular dignity as His image bearers on the earth but that our first parents sinned against God and that everyone since is a sinner by nature and choice. Sin has totally affected all of creation including marring human image and likeness so that all of our being is stained by sin (e.g. reasoning, desires, and emotions).
- We believe that because all people have sinned and separated themselves from the Holy God that he is obligated to save no one from the just deserved punishments of hell. We also believe that God in His unparalleled love and mercy has chosen to elect some people for salvation and that the salvation of the elect was predestined by God in eternity past.
- We believe that the salvation of the elect was accomplished by the sinless life, substitutionary atoning death, and literal physical resurrection of Jesus Christ in place of His people for their sins and that this salvation by God's grace alone, shows forth in the ongoing repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ that leads to good works.
- We believe that God's saving grace is ultimately irresistible and that God does soften even the hardest heart and save the worst of sinners according to His will. We believe that the gospel should be passionately and urgently proclaimed to all people so that all who believe may be saved through the preaching of God's Word by the power of God's Spirit.
- We believe that true Christians born again of God's Spirit will be kept by God throughout their life, as evidenced by personal transformation that includes an ever-growing love of God the Father through God the Son by God the Spirit, love of brothers and sisters in the church, and love of lost neighbors in the culture.

### *In our worship, we are gospel-centered*

- We believe that God cannot be truly worshiped if the gospel is not the basis of both our private and corporate worship.
- We believe that God communicates grace to us in our corporate worship in the proclamation of his Word and in prayer as well as through the observance of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, since these are the appointed means for directing our faith to the teaching of the gospel.
- We believe that the proclamation of God's Word should primarily be an exposition of the Scripture whereby the main point of a passage is the main point of the proclamation.
- We believe that baptism should be administered by immersion to all those who trust in Christ and who repent of their sins.
- We believe that communion should be received regularly by all those who trust in Christ and who repent of their sins.

***In our calling, we are missional***

- We believe that the church must be faithful to the content of unchanging Biblical doctrine (Jude 3).
- We believe that the church must be faithful to the continually changing context of the culture(s) in which she ministers (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).
- We believe people are in the church to be trained to go out into their culture as effective missionaries.
- We believe that the mission of Jesus is to be carried out by planting churches.
- We believe in cooperating with other likeminded churches in working toward a common goal of sharing the gospel with every person on the planet.

***In our leadership, we are complementarian***

- We believe that God created both men and women in his image, so all humans possess equal value and dignity before God.
- We believe that as part of the created order, God has ordained a distinction in the roles that men and women are to serve in the home and in the church.
- We believe that husbands are to demonstrate loving, humble headship in the home, serving their wives with the kind of sacrificial love that Christ modeled on behalf of the Church while wives are to demonstrate intelligent, willing submission to their husbands.
- We believe that biblically qualified male pastors are to be the leaders of the local church and that every other office or ministry in the local church should be open to both biblically qualified men and women alike.