



Mission Statement

**To teach, encourage, and inspire
Authentic Christianity to the people of Statesboro,
Bulloch County, and Surrounding Areas**

Our Goals

- To reach the unchurched of Statesboro and surrounding areas
 - To proclaim the word of reconciliation
 - To operate in power and purity
 - To encourage and build up all people
- To help people discover their divine purpose and destiny
 - To be a family of love, acceptance, and forgiveness

The Five Purposes of the Church

Worship Love the Lord Your God

Matt 22:37

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the First and Greatest Commandment!"

Evangelism Make Disciples of All Nations

Matt 28:19a

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."

Fellowship Baptizing Them

Matt 28:19b

"...baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

Discipleship Teach Them to Obey My Commands

Matt 28:20

"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Ministry Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Matt 22:39

"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

WE CHOOSE TO BELIEVE

(Our Core Values)

WE CHOOSE TO BELIEVE

- Because we believe God is our partner, we choose to make our plans BIG.
- Because we believe, we choose to think big and not insult God with small thinking.
- Because we believe, we choose to take risks and not insult God with safe living.

WE CHOOSE TO BE SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTORS NOT CONSUMERS

- The church does not exist for us.
- We are the church, and we exist for the world.

WE CHOOSE TO LIVE A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

- We choose generosity, we truly believe it is more blessed to give than to receive.
- Choosing generosity is not just what we do, being generous is who we are.
- We choose to plan to be generous and stand firm in generosity.

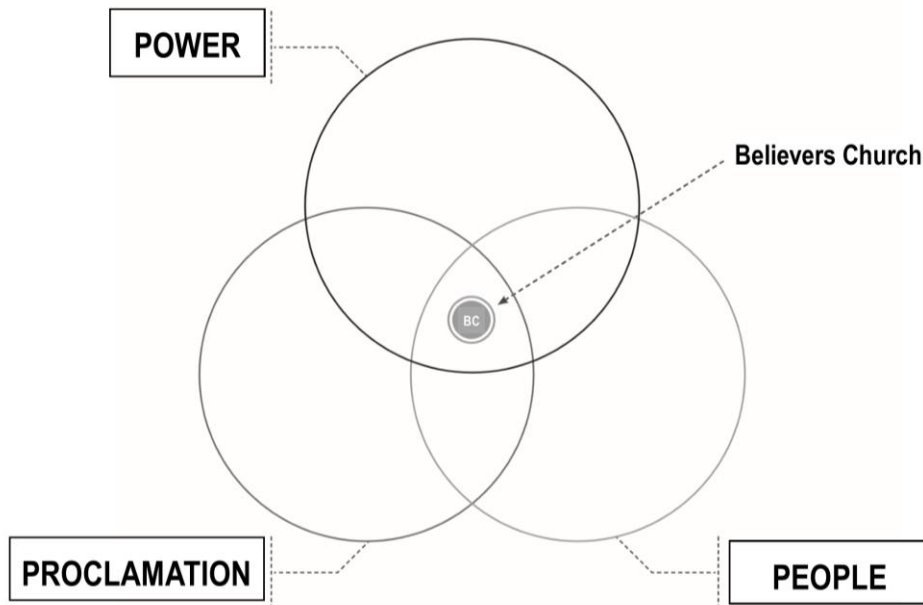
WE CHOOSE TO BE INWARD AND OUTWARD FOCUSED

- We don't just WANT to reach people for Jesus... we MUST reach people for Jesus.
- We choose to do anything short of sin to reach people who don't know Jesus.
- We choose to reach people no one is reaching, so we'll do things no one is doing.

WE CHOOSE TO DO LIFE TOGETHER

- We Choose to Help Each Other Find Strength in God.
- We Choose to Encourage One Another Daily.
- We Choose to Remind One Another of the Promises of God for Us.
- We Choose to Do Life Together Because Jesus Will Show Up in A Big Way!

The Believers Worship Experience





We believe God loves all people. He is for you and not against you. He has hope and a future plan for your life.

We believe life should consist of more than drowning in a sea of mediocrity.

We believe life in Christ is abundant, joyful, and exciting.

We believe Church should be like a family, a safe place of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

We believe in encouraging every person to discover, develop, and excel in God's perfect will for their lives.

We believe that Jesus' teachings are relevant for the 21st century.

We believe the Holy Spirit will manifest His presence in an atmosphere of truth, sincerity, and purity.

We believe that God hears people when they pray and reveals Himself to those who seek Him.

We believe that attending church should be enjoyable.

We believe that a church serves its community and world and should not be seen as always having its hand out to get from the community.

We believe that we are commissioned to reach people for Christ Jesus and teach them the truths in God's word.

We believe that Jesus can be celebrated and honored in a real way.

We believe in equipping every believer to care for and minister to others with the talents and gifts that God has given them.

We believe in authentic Christianity. No pretensions, Jesus is real!

Do you believe?



We Believe (Tenets of Faith)

We Believe the Bible to be the inspired and only, infallible and authoritative, Word of God.

We Believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity (the Son of God) who became flesh to reveal God to man and to become the Savior of the lost world.

We Believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in the blessed hope of His personal, visible, future return to this earth to receive to Himself, His blood-bought church, that it may be with Him forever.

We Believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

We Believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, salvation only occurs when a person places his faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as the sufficient payment for his sin.

We Believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.

We Believe that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, empowered to witness by the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and we are continually being filled with the Spirit. We produce the fruit of the Spirit as we walk in the Spirit.

We Believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by who's indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

We Believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

We Believe that the church is the body of Christ of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The members are those who have trusted by faith the finished work of Christ. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to a lost world.

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We Believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We Believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25)

We Believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4)

We Believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We Believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We Believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Believers Church of Statesboro Inc. as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Believers Churches members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Believers Church of Statesboro Inc. in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We Believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We Believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Believers Church of Statesboro Inc.

The Sanctity of Human Life

We Believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

For purposes of Believers Church of Statesboro Inc.'s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Senior Pastor, Ministry Staff, and Financial Board is Believers Church of Statesboro Inc.'s final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The Significance of Water Baptism / Just Add Water

What do these things have in common: a cup of coffee, a jet ski, a catfish, a lily pad, a rose, and a Christian?

Jesus' Ministry Was Launched by Just Adding Water

As a child of God, it is important to follow Jesus' example and be baptized in water. It is a very important first step in the Christian life. Jesus was baptized in order to "fulfill righteousness." "But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus Tells Us to Just Add Water to All Nations

As Jesus commissioned His followers, He established Baptism as an eternal ordinance of His church. Matt 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (NIV) We, at Believers Church, are not fulfilling our commission if we are not being baptized ourselves and baptizing others.

Belief and Adding Water Go Together

Jesus Commands Us to Just Add Water. Baptism is not an option for us; rather it is a commandment that God requires out of every believer. Some of Jesus' last recorded words instructed believers to be baptized. Believing and baptism seem to naturally flow together. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" Mark 16:16

Jesus' call for us to believe in Him also included a call to be baptized, showing us the importance and high value that the Lord places on Baptism. Notice that even though we are expected to be baptized, Baptism is not what saves us, the believing does. "He who does not believe will be condemned." Baptism is an outward display of an inward change.

Believers in the Bible Added Water by Being Baptized

- Acts 2:38-41 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
- Acts 8:26-40 When Phillip shared the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch, he immediately asked, "Here is water, what is hindering me from being baptized?"
- Acts 10:44-48 When salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came to the Gentiles, they were also instructed to be baptized in water.
- Acts 16:14-15 When she and the members of her household were baptized...
- Acts 16:33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. (NIV)
- Acts 18:8 ...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.
- Acts 19:1-6 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Acts 22:15-15 Ananias told Paul, after his conversion, that the first thing that he needed to do was be baptized.

In our modernized "comfort zone Christianity," we do, sad to say, tend to take God's commandments far too lightly. As Chuck Colson points out: "Most Westerners take Baptism for granted, but for many in the world, the act requires immense courage. In countries like Nepal, it once meant imprisonment. For Soviet or Chinese or Eastern bloc believers, it was like signing their own death warrant."¹

¹ "The Body: Being Light In Darkness" by Charles Colson and Ellen Santilli Vaughn, 1992, Word Publishing, page 137

Adding Water Is A Public Identification with the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus.

In water baptism, a Christian is bodily submerged in water as a public identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our old sinful nature symbolically dies when we go under the water. When we come up out of the water, we come up as a new person in Christ Jesus. We are no longer controlled by sin, but we are alive in Christ Jesus! Dead to sin, life in Christ! Romans 6:1-11

When you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you became a new person. Your old life and your old sinful ways are gone. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore, Baptism is an outward expression of something that has already occurred in you at salvation.

- It is your public confession to your friends, family, and all who know you that you are now a new creation in Christ Jesus.
- It is your public commitment to forsake the ways of the world.
- It is your public declaration that you are dead to the sins of the past.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NIV)

Adding Water Declares That You Are Forgiven of All Your Sins.

You are forgiven; therefore, your accuser or accusers are disarmed! Col 2:11-14 / 1 Cor.2:8

Adding Water Is a Public Declaration of Your Belonging

A wedding ring is an outward sign that a person belongs to another through the act of marriage.

A military uniform is an outward sign that a person belongs to a particular branch of service.

Similarly, Baptism is an outward sign that identifies us as belonging to the family of God.

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks ...”

1 Cor. 12:12-14 Here again, Baptism is an outward picture of something that has occurred within. No matter what your background or ethnic origin, by one Spirit, we are baptized into one body. Baptism represents your adoption into the family of God. You now belong to Christ’s family and are members of His Body.

When new believers are baptized, we are welcoming them into our family.

We are saying, “This person is now one of us!” As a family, we can love, support, care, and pray for one another. The Living Bible describes it this way in Ephesians 2:19 “You are members of God’s very own family ... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” That’s right; this is where you belong, in the household of God.

So, as you make the decision to be baptized, we rejoice with you as you publicly declare, “I am now a new creation in Christ Jesus, the old has passed away and all things are new! I am now baptized into the Body of Christ Jesus. I am part of His family!”

So Why Add Water?

1. Adding water is a public identification with the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus.
2. Adding water declares that you are forgiven of all your sins.
3. Adding water is a public declaration of your belonging.
4. Believers in the Bible added water by being baptized.
5. Jesus commands us to just add water

So, if for no other reason, you should add water to your Christian experience and be baptized just because Jesus told you to. John 14:15 Back to Acts 8:26-40: When Phillip shared the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch, he immediately asked, “Here is water, what is hindering me from being baptized?” What is hindering YOU from being baptized? Acts 22:15-16 “And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”