

Statement of Faith:

Who We Are, and What We Believe

Barryton Church of Christ

Who We Are

As our name implies, we are the Church of Christ. We claim no other name than that of Jesus Christ and follow no doctrine but that of the Bible, which we believe to be divinely inspired and without error.

We do not consider ourselves the “only Christians”; simply put, we are “Christians only”. Christian Churches / Churches of Christ are autonomous churches having fellowship with one another as a brotherhood of believers in Jesus Christ. We have no denominational status, no hierarchy, no headquarters, no official spokesperson.

As such, we at the Barryton Church of Christ, believe in the deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ – God’s one and only Son, the inspiration and authority of the Bible, and the autonomy of local congregations. We respect and aspire to the principals of the Restoration Movement. We seek the unity of all believers based on faith in, and obedience to, Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation and reconciliation to God the Father.

In the spirit of the Restoration Movement, the Barryton Church of Christ:

- We speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent.
- In essentials unity; in opinions liberty; In all things love.
- We are not the only Christians; We are Christians only.
- No creed but Christ; No book but the Bible.

Our Mission Statement:

We exist to exalt Christ, to make disciples, to encourage growth in community, and to equip for ministry.

At the Barryton Church of Christ, each member is expected to participate in the pursuit of our mission by loving God and loving others.

Loving God would include such things as devoted involvement in worship, prayer, study of God's word (the Bible), and giving.

Loving people would include the use of our Spiritual gifts through serving others, being involved in evangelism as a lifestyle and being involved in community with fellow believers.

What We Believe...

We believe, without reservation, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. He is the world's *only* Savior (John 14:6). We believe that he was born of a virgin in Bethlehem of Judea. He was God incarnate: 100% God and 100% man. He came to the earth to seek and save the lost, to fulfill the Old Testament law, and to give his own life as perfect atonement for the sins of mankind. He was crucified on a cross and was completely dead, and 3 days later he rose from the dead in complete bodily resurrection.

We believe the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the inerrant word of God, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training. It is the only rule of faith and practice for the church. (2 Peter 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

We believe that God is triune. That is, a trinity: 3 in person, 1 in nature, or essence. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Mt. 3:16-17; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 15:30)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is an indwelling gift (Acts 2:38; Jn. 16:7-8; Eph. 1:13-14) of every baptized believer in Jesus Christ.

We believe that all who believe (in Jesus) and are baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4). Baptism is by immersion, not sprinkling (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:9-10; Rom 6:4), and, because redemption requires the conscious choice of the individual, one must be of sufficient maturity to understand what they are choosing (Jn 1:12-13; Gal 3:26).

We believe that we are saved by grace through faith (Rom 3:28; 4:16; Eph 2:8-10) Salvation comes by (1) hearing (Rom 10:17; Jn 5:24); (2)

believing (Mk 16:16; Jn 3:14-16; 8:24); (3) repenting (Acts 2:38; 3:19); (4) confessing (Acts 10:9-10; 1 Jn 1:9); and (5) baptism (Acts 2:38; Gal 3:27; Rom 6:3-4).

We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus on our behalf. We offer the Lord's Supper each Lord's day to all immersed believers who wish to partake. (Lk 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:23-30).

We believe that Jesus will return to earth again, a second time, when the dead shall arise (both good and evil) for a final judgement before Jesus. (Jn 5:28-29; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 2 Cor 4:14; Mt 25:31-33; Acts 17:31).

We believe that marriage was created by God, in part, to illustrate His nature as a Triune God. Genesis 2:24 records that God ordained marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman, and for Christians, a relationship that also includes Himself. God, man, and woman reflect the mutuality of the Trinity, and the distinctions of each member of the marriage are important. ***Changes*** in the composition of marriage must be as clear as the passage in Genesis 2:24. ***No such passage exists.*** In fact, the Scripture asserts that sex was designed to be expressed within the bounds of a marriage of a husband and wife rather than in any other relational context. We affirm these truths and hold them as sacred to our lives.

