

Bloom's Essential Beliefs

In essential beliefs – we have unity.

For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all. –Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLT)

In nonessential beliefs – we have liberty.

Welcome all the Lord's followers, even those whose faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having beliefs that are different from yours. What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right. And so, each of us must give an account to God for what we do. – Romans 14:1, 4, 12 (CEV)

In all our beliefs – we show charity.

What if I could prophesy and understand all secrets and all knowledge? And what if I had faith that moved mountains? I would be nothing, unless I loved others. – I Corinthians 13:2 (CEV)

GOD: God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. God is love.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22 Psalms 90:2 Matthew 28:19 I Peter 1:2 II Corinthians 13:14 I John 4:8

HUMANITY: God created people in His image to be receivers and givers of His great love. He fashioned us after Himself with three parts: a spirit, a mind, and a body. All of humanity has sinned and the consequence of that sin is spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.

Genesis 1:27 Psalms 8:3-6 Isaiah 53:6a Romans 3:23 Isaiah 59:1-2

ETERNITY: God created us each with a spirit that will live forever. We will either live eternally in love with God, in heaven, or eternally separated from God, in hell. Sin is what separated us from God, but believing that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin – God's free and undeserved gift of grace – is what brings us into union with God and secures an eternal future with God in heaven. It is God's will that all of humanity would live forever in union and in love with Him, in heaven.

John 3:16 I John 2:25; 5:11-13 Romans 6:23 Revelation 20:15

JESUS: Jesus is the Son of God. Because He knew that all of humanity would sin and be unable to obey His perfect law of love, God sent Jesus – fully God and fully human – to earth to live a sinless life. For our sakes, Jesus lived the perfect life of love that we cannot, and then gave up His life for us by dying on a cross. After three days, God raised Jesus from the dead. In His death and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. Jesus returned to heaven shortly after his resurrection, and He will one day return to reign on earth as our loving King of all kings.

Matthew 1:22-23 Isaiah 9:6 John 1:1-5; 14:10-30 Hebrews 4:14-15 I Corinthians 15:3-4 Romans 1:3-4 Acts 1:9-11 Titus 2:13 I Timothy 6:14-15

SALVATION: God wants, more than anything, to save us from the consequences of our sin and bring us into relationship with Him. When we accept what Jesus did for us on the cross, we are united with God, as our Father. This gift of love is free and undeserved. We can never make up for or pay for our sins by self-improvement or good works. From the moment we accept God's offer of forgiveness by putting our trust in what Jesus did for us, our spirits are reunited with God, now and for eternity.

Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:8-9 John 14:6; 1:12 Titus 3:5 Galatians 3:26 Romans 5:1; John 10:29 II Timothy 1:12 Hebrews 7:25, 27; 10:10-14 I Peter 1:3-5

THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ, so they can be reunited with the Father. He lives inside of each person who accepts God's salvation through Jesus. He provides those who put their trust in Jesus with encouragement, help, power, wisdom, and guidance to live a life of love that brings joy to God and to others.

II Corinthians 3:17 John 16:7-13; 14:16-17 Acts 1:8 I Corinthians 2:12; 3:16 Ephesians 1:13 Galatians 5:25 Ephesians 5:18

THE BIBLE: The Bible is God's written Word to all people for all time. It was written by human authors, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Although each author has his own style of writing, the words themselves, are God's Words to all people, intended to communicate the story of His love to us. The Bible shows and teaches us how to live a life that pleases God.

Because the Bible is God's Word, it is true in its entirety.

II Timothy 3:16 II Peter 1:20-21 II Timothy 1:13 Psalms 119:105,160; 12:6 Proverbs 30:5