

East Valley Bible Church's doctrinal statement. This statement of faith is not exhaustive. The Bible itself, as the Word of God, is the final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. For the purposes of East Valley Bible Church leadership is this organization's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

01. **The Bible**- The Bible is God's special revelation to mankind¹. The Bible is inspired² and infallibly written by God, through human authors, in the original language, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit³. It is completely trustworthy. It is God's specific way of communicating to us in all matters of faith⁴. The Bible is to be interpreted in their natural, literal sense. Doing so reveals God's consistent plan of salvation and His divinely determined ways of acting and requiring humanity to operate (ex. The law, the church and future events in God's timeline). (John 1:17; I Cor. 9:17; II Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24, 25; Heb. 7:19; Rev. 20:2-6) ¹Matthew 4:4; Deut 29:29; 1st Peter 1:25; Romans 1:17; ²2nd Timothy 3:16-17; ³2nd Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; ⁴John 17:17; 1st Thess 5:21; Acts 17;11; Psalm 119:9-11; 2nd Tim 3:16-17
02. **Trinity**- There is only one God. He exists eternally¹ in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit². Each person possesses all the attributes of deity³. All persons are equal in power and glory. Each person is distinct from the other⁴. ¹Deut 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6-8; ²Isaiah 43:10, 44:6,8; Psalm 90:2; 2 Genesis 1:26-27; Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:19; ³God; John 8:58; 10:30-33; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4 ⁴Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30,33
03. **God the Father**
 - a. We believe that God the Father who is Holy, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent, so loved the world that He gave His son, Jesus Christ.
 - b. We believe that God the Father is sovereign and calls the sinner, and that He adopts the believer as their Father at the new birth.
 - c. We believe that God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to abide in the believer forever in response to the Son's request, and that this takes place at conversion.
 - d. We believe that God the Father answers believing prayer when asked in accord with His will in Jesus name. (Isa. 6:3; Ps. 139:1-4, 7:16; Jer. 32:17; John 3:16; 8:42; Acts 4:10-12; John 6:37, 44; Eph. 1:16-22; Gal. 4:4-7; John 14:16, 26; I Cor. 6:19, 20; Acts 10:44, 45; John 16:23, 24; Rom. 8:14, 17)
04. **Jesus**- Jesus is God¹. He became a man². He is the only member of the Godhead that became flesh³. He was born of a virgin⁴, lived a sinless life⁵. He died on a cross for the sins of man, and he rose from the dead⁶. He ascended to the right hand of God the Father⁷ where He continually makes intercession for His people⁸. Jesus will return to earth personally, imminently, pretribulation and premillennium for his redeemed ones; to fulfill His plan for history⁹. (I Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6) ¹John 8:58-59; 10:30-33; 20:28; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; ²Philippians 2:3-8; John 1:1,14; ³John 1:18; 1st John 4:12; Colossians 1:15; ⁴Isaiah 7:14; Matthew Luke 1:26-38 ⁵Hebrews 4:14-15, 2nd Cor 5:21; ⁶2nd Cor 15:1-8; 2nd Cor 5:15; 1st Thess 4:14; ⁷ Acts 2:32-33; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; ⁸Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:24; ⁹1st Thessalonians 4:13-18; Rev 19:11-19; Rev 21:1-4

05. **Holy Spirit**- The Holy Spirit is God¹. He glorifies Jesus in us². At the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit immediately indwells all believers³, and He empowers and teaches them to live to glorify God⁴. The Spirit also gives believers a new identity, assuring them of their right standing with God for eternity⁵. ¹Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:30; Psalm 139:7-8, ²John 16:14, ³1st Cor 3:16; 6:19; 2nd Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30; ⁴Gal 5:16,22-23; Ephesians 5:18; John 14:16, 16:13-14 ⁵Romans 8:9; 2nd Cor 5:17; Ephesians 4:30
06. **Humanity**- God created humanity in His image¹. He created us for His glory and to experience a relationship with him for eternity². God desires for humanity to reflect His image in this world³. However, mankind rebelled against God and so brought sin to the earth⁴. All people everywhere have since been born into this sinful nature, alienated from God and are subject to God's righteous judgment⁵. ¹Gen 1:26; ²John 17:3; 1st John 5:20; Mark 12:30; Ecclesiastes 3:11; ³Genesis 1:28; Colossians 1:10; John 15:8; Ephesians 2:10; ⁴Romans 5:12; Genesis 3:1-19 ⁵Rom 3:23; 6:23; Heb. 9:27; Matthew 7:22-23; Psalm 51:5
07. **Salvation**- God's plan from the beginning was to create mankind to experience life in Him¹. However, mankind has rebelled against God. This is called "sin"². Sin separates people from God and it is the root cause of the problems we face in life³. The penalty for sin is death, eternal separation from God⁴. Man is totally depraved and unable to remedy his condition⁵. However, God established a way to credit His righteousness to us. God the Father accepts Jesus's death on the cross as the payment for the sin of humanity⁶. The sole condition for receiving eternal life is faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died a substitutionary death on the cross for the sins of the whole world and rose bodily from the grave. They are restored to a relationship with God⁷. This is called "salvation", because man is saved from a place of wrath to a place of protection. It is God alone who does this saving work from beginning to end. We are saved purely by grace through faith and not by any of our doing⁸.
- No act of obedience, such as commitment to obey, sorrow for sin, turning from one's sin, baptism or submission to the Lordship of Christ, may be added to, or considered part of faith as a condition for receiving eternal life. This saving transaction between God and the sinner is simply the giving and receiving of a free gift. Once we are credited with Christ's righteousness, our salvation is eternally secure and we should demonstrate our salvation through the fruit of the Spirit⁹. We believe in the sovereignty of God; that He chose before the foundation of the world those who would be saved. (John 6:44, Eph. 1:4-6) We also believe within God's sovereignty, He has given men a free will; that Christ died for the sins of all (elect and non-elect) men. God's offer of salvation to 'whosoever' is legitimate. God holds those who do not receive Christ responsible for their unbelief. (John 3:16; Romans 10:13; I Tim. 4:10) ¹John 17:3; Phil 3:10; ²Romans 3:10, 23; John 3:16-17; 1st John 3:4; ³Romans 7:5 James 1:15; ⁴Matthew 25:46; John 3:36 Revelation 21:8; ⁵Romans 3:20-23; Ephesians 2:1-3,12; ⁶Romans 4:5, 24; 1 John 2:2, 4:10; ⁷John 3:16-17; 1 John 5:11-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1; ⁸Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7; Galatians 2:16; ⁹Ephesians 2:10; Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13-25; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Peter 2:13-20
08. **Eternity**- Every human being will live for eternity. Every person's eternal destiny is sealed at death¹. All of humanity will be resurrected into the spiritual world². Jesus

determines the destiny of all humankind³. Those who have accepted God's grace through Jesus Christ, will live in His life giving presence forever⁴. Those who reject Jesus will be judged by His holy standard and separated from His presence forever⁵ ¹Hebrews 9:27; John 11:25,26; ²Matthew 25:46; John 5:26-29; ³John 3:36, 6:37; 11:25-26; ⁴John 5:24; John 6:40; 1st John 2:2, 1st John 4:10 ⁵Matthew 7:22-23; 2nd Thessalonians 1:8-10; Revelation 21:8; Romans 3:23; ⁶Zechariah 14:1-14; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6

09. **Spiritual Gifts**- We believe the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts upon all believers for Christian service and the edification of the Church. We encourage believers to use their gifts and talents to serve the Lord¹. The Biblical lists of these gifts are not exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. The gifts always operate in harmony with the scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. We desire for our spiritual gifts to be used not as an end in themselves, but for the purpose of glorifying God and edifying others. ¹Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11, ²1 Cor. 12:28-31; 13:8-10; 14:1-28; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:19-22; Hebrews 2:3-4, ³John 14:13-14; 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15, ⁴Philippians 2:3-8; Genesis 1:26-27
10. **Church**- All people who have put their faith and trust in Jesus for salvation are a part of God's universal church¹. The church is indwelt by the Spirit and follows the head and creator of the church, Jesus². Each member of the universal church should seek out a local body of Christians to worship God and to accomplish God's purpose³. God created the church for believers to fulfill the Great Commission—to equip fully devoted followers of Christ. ⁴At East Valley, our church family unites together to love God and love others with all that we are. Our Church encourages us to use our time, resources, and energy to know God and live for Him⁵. ¹Romans 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-6; ²1st Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Ephesians 1:13, 22-23, 4:30; 2 Timothy 1:14; ³Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:7, 11-15; 1st Corinthians 14:12; Acts 2:41-47; Matthew 16:18; ⁴Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; ⁵Ephesians 1:22; Mark 12:29-31; Hebrews 10:24-25
11. **Israel** - The nation of Israel remains God's chosen people. The church is not to be confused with Israel as a nation and Israel is not to be confused with the church. As He has shown His lovingkindness to the church through Jesus, He continues to be faithful in His love towards Israel. Even in Israel's turning away, God's promises remain steadfast towards them. God's plan for reconciliation and redemption of the world includes and even, at times, centers on Israel.
12. **Future Events** - We believe the rapture of the church is imminent. Once the restrainer is taken out of the way there will be two sections of 3.5 years. Both are the foretold "day of the Lord" when God judges the nations, disciplines Israel and brings Israel to salvation. This 7 year period known as the day of Jacob's trouble or the Great Tribulation will end with Jesus coming back the way He promised on Mount Olivet. He will wage war and set up His kingdom for a literal 1,000 year reign during which Satan and his allies will be imprisoned. At the end of Jesus' physical reign in Jerusalem, Satan will be released, lie to the nations and attack Jesus. This war will be over in a word and the Great Judgements will take place. The unbelieving to eternity in the lake of fire, and the justified by faith to eternity in the New Creation just as God created it to be from the beginning.

13. **Sexuality**- Sexual intimacy is a gift from God designed to be expressed between a man and a woman within the love and bonds of marriage. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman. We believe any intimate sexual activity outside of that union is sin such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, violence in marriage or transgender behavior.

Accordingly, East Valley, the leadership, the Vision Owners and staff will not recognize any other union as a legitimate marriage; the Church and staff shall not perform in any marriages, unions or ceremonies of any kind; and the Church facilities shall not be used for such purposes.

The Church recognizes there are persons among us who experience sexual orientations which are unbiblical. The Church encourages all our people to sensitively minister with truth and grace, to all irrespective of sexual orientation. The Church condemns irrational fear of sexual identities. The Church commits itself to listen to the experience of sexually immoral persons and to assure them they are loved by God and they can be the recipients of Jesus' healing grace and saving truth in their lives. We believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who repent and confess their sin.

I Corinthians 6:9-11, Rom 1:18-27 Genesis 2:24-25; Proverbs 5:18; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:2-7; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27 Gen. 19:5-13; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Eph 5:31. (Jas 4:8; 1 John 1:9).