

ERC MISSIONARY PARTNER PACKET | DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

As a Christian church, Emmaus Road derives its beliefs from the Bible. In addition to our beliefs below, we also affirm the historic Apostles' and Nicene Creeds*.

ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE:

We believe the purpose of life is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever, and that things such as success, pleasure, wealth, work, vacations, retirement, family, or fame, will ultimately disappoint us, unless God is kept in the center of them. God calls us to put Him in the center of our lives and to actively surrender to His kingly rule. He promises that if we do that, then He will take care of the rest. (Matthew 7:32-33)

We believe God put us here by design. God planned when we would be born and the exact places where we would live, so that we would seek Him. (Acts 17:26)

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testament is God's singularly unique book written by human authors who were carried along by the Holy Spirit to record accurately God's words and deeds throughout history. It is completely true, and free from error. As God's word, Scripture holds the final authority over our beliefs and lifestyle. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21, John 10:35, Revelation 22:18-19)

ABOUT GOD

As Scripture teaches, we believe there is one God the Creator and sustainer of all things, and in whom all things hold together. (Genesis 1, Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:17)

We believe God is personal and has created us for fellowship with Himself (Genesis 3:8-9, Matthew 11:28)

We believe that just as a three leaf clover is one plant with three leaves, so also the God revealed in Scripture is one God in three persons –God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit –Yet there are not three gods but one God. Each person of the Trinity is fully divine, co-equal, co-eternal, worthy of worship and unlimited in power This unified diversity that exists between the persons of the Trinity is not only a mystery but also a model for the global human community as we seek to live together and serve each other in love. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, John 1:1-3, 8:58, 10:30)

ABOUT CREATION

We believe the Triune God created the heavens and the earth and everything within them and that it was very good. At that time people lived in sync with God and his good creation, free from sickness, pain, decay or death. (Genesis 1:4, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31, Acts 14:14-17)

We believe God made humans in His image and likeness and thus set us apart from the rest of the created world, with a unique dignity and value above that of animals, plants or any other created thing. (Genesis 1:27, James 3:9-10)

We believe every good and perfect gift comes from God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment, and that good gifts such as food, drink, sex within marriage, and whatever else God provides, are to be used with thankfulness for his glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Timothy 4:4, 1 Timothy 6:17, James 1:17)

ABOUT THE FALL

We believe that our first parents, did not stay in sync with God but rather chose to go their own way. Their sin, which disrupted the connection with God and creation, has now been passed down from generation to generation spreading like an unchecked virus. As a result we all find ourselves sinner by nature and choice and part of a world that is cursed, distorted, painful and dying. (Psalm 51:5, John 8, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, 6:23)

We believe though we were made in God's image, sin has so disfigured it within us that we cannot save ourselves with good deeds, moral efforts, or religious acts. (John 3:3-7, Romans 8:6-8; Galatians 3:10)

ABOUT REDEMPTION

But we also believe that God, in love, planned before the creation of the world to reverse the curse and undo the virus we've infected ourselves with. The Jewish prophets predicted God would do this through a promised Savior who would be; a prophet like Moses, born of a virgin, who would die for our sins, and who would be raised from the dead on the third day. (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19; Isaiah 6:14, Isaiah 53:5-6, Psalm 16:8-11, Revelation 13:8)

We believe Jesus is that promised Savior, the eternal Son of God, fully God and fully man. Though he was equal with the Father he humbled himself and became a man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, a descendant of David, lived a sinless life perfectly in sync with the Father, teaching and performing miracles. He then died on the cross for our reconciliation to the Father and the forgiveness of our sins. He was buried in a tomb and on the third day God raised him bodily from the dead. He now sits at the Father's right hand and offers forgiveness to all who would trust Him and turn from their sins. (Luke 1:34-35, Philippians 2, Hebrews 4:15, John 14:9, Colossians 1:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 15:3-7, John 3:16)

We believe that Jesus is the only way to the Father and that salvation is found in no one else. For there is no other name, under heaven, given to men by which we must be saved. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12).

We believe that the Holy Spirit comes to live in each person who turns from their sins and believes in Jesus. The Spirit empowers us to share our faith, He gives us spiritual gifts, he baptizes us into the team of believers and He transforms us to be more and more like Jesus. (1 Corinthians 3:16, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 13, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Galatians 5:22-25)

ABOUT RESTORATION

We believe that Jesus will return again in glory to restore all of creation back to the way it was in the beginning, before the fall. God will make everything new and create a new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness. He will wipe every tear from our eyes. He will heal all of creation. There will be no more death or crying or pain. Then peoples of every tribe, language, nation and people group will live in total wholeness together with God as their King. (John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:1-4, Revelation 7:9-10)

We believe that on that great and glorious day that all people will stand trial before God and their secrets will be judged by Jesus. Those who repent from their sin and trust Jesus will be saved and those who do not believe will be condemned. (Romans 2:16, John 3:17-18, 1 John 5:11-12, Revelation 20:15)

We believe that before that day arrives that God sends the church into the world to implore people to put their faith in Jesus and reestablish their connection with the Creator before that great day arrives. God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone he wants instead for us to turn from going our own way, and live! (2 Corinthians 5:20, Mark 1:15, Acts 16:30-31, Ezekiel 18:32)

***The Apostles' Creed**

"I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic [universal] church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

Amen."

The Nicene Creed

"We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."