

DISCOVER  
marble *springs*  
baptist church

*"You are a member of God's very own family...  
And you belong in God's household with every other Christian."*

Ephesians 2:19

# WELCOME TO DISCOVER MARBLE SPRINGS!

We are glad you have chosen to discover more about Marble Springs. Together, we will explore what the Bible says about the church and, more specifically, what we at Marble Springs believe, how we operate, and what we can expect from one another.

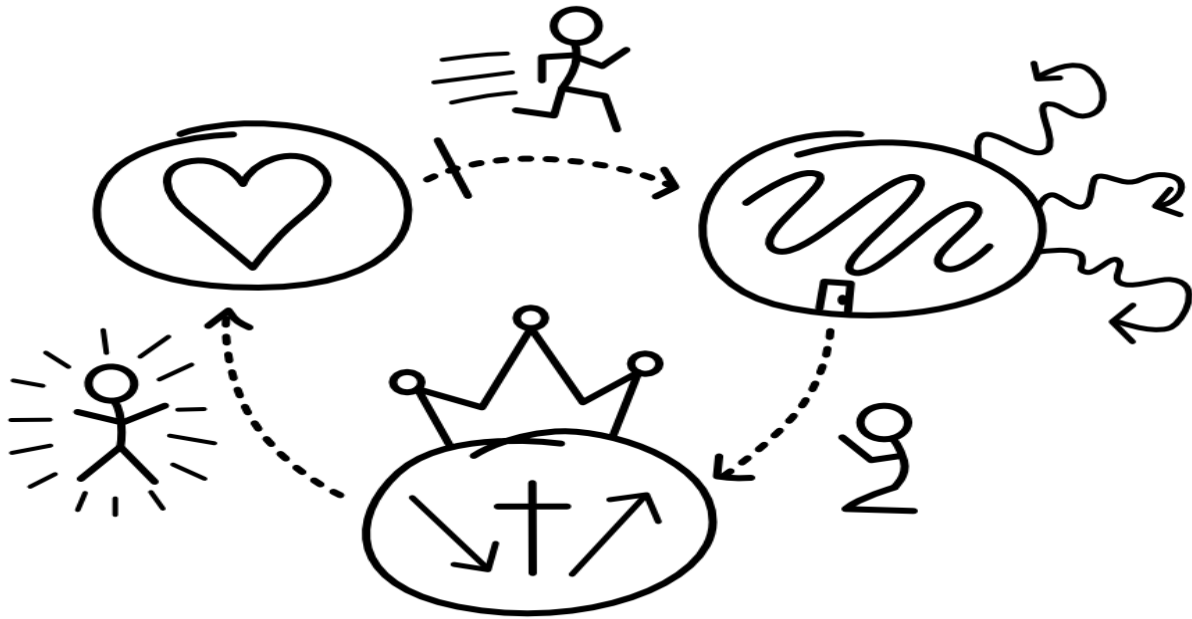
**The goal of this class is to help you discover  
what we share in common as a church.**

*"Now all the believers were together and had all things in common..." - Acts 2:44*

## We Will Discover Our Common:

- ✓ **Story** (pg. 3)
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- ✓ **Purpose** (pg. 8)
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# DISCOVER OUR COMMON STORY



## God's Design: Why Was I Created?

We see beauty, purpose and evidence of God's design all around us. The Bible tells us that God originally planned a world that worked perfectly, where everything and everyone fit together in harmony. God made each of us with a purpose, to worship and walk with Him.

*"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."* – Genesis 1:31

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands."* – Psalm 19:1

1. We were created by God to live in relationship with Him.

*"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. So, the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"* – Genesis 3:8-9

2. We were created by God to live for His glory and the good of others.

*"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory."* – 1 Corinthians 10:31

3. We were created by God to live like Jesus.

*"For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son..."* – Romans 8:29

## Sin & Brokenness: What happened?

Life doesn't work when we ignore God and His original design for our lives. We selfishly insist on doing things our own way. The Bible calls this sin. We all sin and distort the original design leading to brokenness and separation from God, in this life and for all eternity.

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." - Romans 3:23*

*"For the wages of sin is death." - Romans 6:23*

1. We have a natural desire to reject God's standards and live life our own way. The Bible teaches that yielding to such desires is sin.

*"We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way..." - Isaiah 53:6*

*"If we say, 'We have no sin,' we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us." - 1 John 1:8*

2. Sin breaks our relationship with God.

*"But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen." - Isaiah 59:2*

3. When our relationship with God is not right it causes problems in every area of life.

*"The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust." - Genesis 3:17-19*

4. When our relationship with God is broken, we often try many different ways of coping with the struggles of life before we turn to God.

*"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." - Proverbs 16:25*

## Gospel: What's the Solution?

At this point we need a remedy, some good news. Because of His love, God did not leave us in our brokenness. Jesus, God in human flesh, came to us and lived perfectly according to God's design. Jesus came to rescue us, to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. He took our sin to the cross, paying the penalty of our sin by his death. Jesus was then raised from the dead - proving He was God's Son and providing the only way for us to be rescued and restored to a relationship with God.

*"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son" - John 3:16*

*"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God." - 1 Peter 3:18*

1. God's solution is not a strategy or in following a list of rules. It is not found in being good or in trying harder to live according to His standards. You can't. God's standard is perfection. The solution is Jesus.

*"For whoever keeps the entire law, yet fails in one point, is guilty of breaking it all." – James 2:10*

*"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me!'" – John 14:6*

2. God took the punishment we deserve and poured it out on His Son so that our relationship with Him might be restored.

*"But He will not leave the guilty unpunished..." – Exodus 34:7*

*"He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." – 2 Corinthians 5:21*

3. God did this because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

*"But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" – Romans 5:8*

*"This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" – John 17:3*

## **Repent & Believe: What does God want us to do?**

Simply hearing this Good News is not enough. We must admit our sinful brokenness and stop trusting in ourselves. We don't have the power to escape sin and brokenness on our own; we need to be rescued. We must ask God to forgive us, turning from sin to trust only in Jesus. This is what it means to repent and believe. Believing, we receive new life through Jesus and God turns our lives in a new direction.

1. Admit that we are sinners in need of a Savior.

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." – 1 John 1:9*

2. Believe that Jesus is our only hope.

*"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." – Romans 10:9*

3. Turn from our sins.

*"The Lord knows those who are His, and Everyone who names the name of the Lord must turn away from unrighteousness." – 2 Timothy 2:19*

4. Receive God's free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." – Ephesians 2:8-9*

5. Be saved & baptized.

*"And with many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" So those who accepted his message were baptized..." - Acts 2:40-41*

## **Recover and Pursue: What then?**

When God restores our relationship with him, we begin to discover meaning and purpose in a broken world. Now we can pursue God's Design in all areas of our lives. Even when we fail, we understand God's pathway to be restored, this same Good News of Jesus. God's Spirit empowers us to pursue His design and assures us of His presence in the life and for all eternity.

*"For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose" - Philippians 2:13*

1. Live in the reality of God's love.

*"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8*

*"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of Him. This is how we know that we love God's children when we love God and obey His commands." - 1 John 5:1-2*

2. Grow in your relationship with Jesus.

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity." - 2 Peter 3:18*

3. Help others grow in their relationship with Jesus.

*"But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ.<sup>16</sup> From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part." - Ephesians 4:15-16*

4. Go to those still living in brokenness with the Good News.

*"We are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God.'" - 2 Corinthians 5:20*

# DISCOVER OUR COMMON FAMILY

## What is a Church?

A church is a body of baptized Christ-followers, gathered together and united by the Holy Spirit, who abandon themselves to passionately pursue the glory of God and the fulfillment of His mission to make disciples wherever they live, work and play.

**A church is not a place we go to. The church is a body of believers set apart for God and His service.**

1. The church is a family or body of people who want to live like Jesus. They are born again believers who have been baptized by immersion.
2. The Holy Spirit builds the church, calling believers to a particular local church for God's purpose. God expects every believer to be a contributing member of the church family, because living without a church family is a dangerous way to live.
3. The church is made up of people who live under the lordship of Christ, having crucified their flesh, and who choose to live for God's glory.
4. The church they are people who live out God's mission to make disciples together.
5. The church sees themselves as missionaries sent by God to declare and demonstrate the gospel (the Good News) of Jesus Christ wherever they live, work and play.

# DISCOVER OUR COMMON PURPOSE

The *purpose* of every New Testament church is the same. Our purpose is to glorify God.

**The Greek definition of the word *glorify* means  
“to magnify; to honor; to laud; to exalt.”**

## To glorify God:

1. We recognize His greatness and give Him honor by praising and worshipping Him, because He, and He alone, deserves to be praised, honored and worshipped.  
*“Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” – Revelation 14:7*
2. We do life His way by submitting to Jesus as Lord of our lives and living in obedience to Him. We should live in such a way that God’s activity is actually visible in our lives and not just in our words. We should live life in such a way that people see the greatness of God and acknowledge Him as Lord.  
*“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God’s glory.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31*
3. We learn to walk intimately with God and to rest in His presence, provision and strength.  
*“Mankind, He has told you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.” – Micah 6:8*  
  
*“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit...” – John 15:5*



# DISCOVER OUR COMMON MISSION

The church doesn't primarily exist to teach people the truths of Scripture, to encourage fellowship or even to serve its community. All of these are important activities of the church, but none of them capture how Jesus defined the focus or mission of the church. Jesus gave us our mission – often called the Great Commission – just before he ascended back to heaven. He said the focus of the church is to make disciples.

**The mission of the church is to make disciples who live like Jesus.**

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you." – Matthew 28:19-20*

## What is a disciple?

A disciple is an individual who strives to walk like Jesus.

*"The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked." – 1 John 2:6*

## The Attributes of Jesus (and His Disciples)

- Jesus was a man of compassion - He continually met the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others
- Jesus was selfless - He put aside His wants and desires for the Father's glory and the good of others
- Jesus was dependent upon His Father in all things
- Jesus was intentional - His mission defined how He lived His life
- Jesus was relational - He was a friend of sinners
- Jesus was Holy and believed that holiness was contagious
- Jesus was obedient to the Father's will

## Redefining Success

There are many misconceptions about how to define success within the church, such as a large number of people in worship, or in Sunday School, the size of the offering, or the number of baptisms.

**At Marble Springs, success is measured by the number of people who are living like Jesus.**

# DISCOVER OUR COMMON PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

The Bible teaches clearly that God's will for your life and for mine is that we live like Jesus (1 John 2:6). The Bible also teaches that transformation is accomplished when we, in the power of the Holy Spirit, choose to integrate into our lives three essentials for Kingdom living.

1. Living in communion with God. Come before God daily in prayer and in the Word.

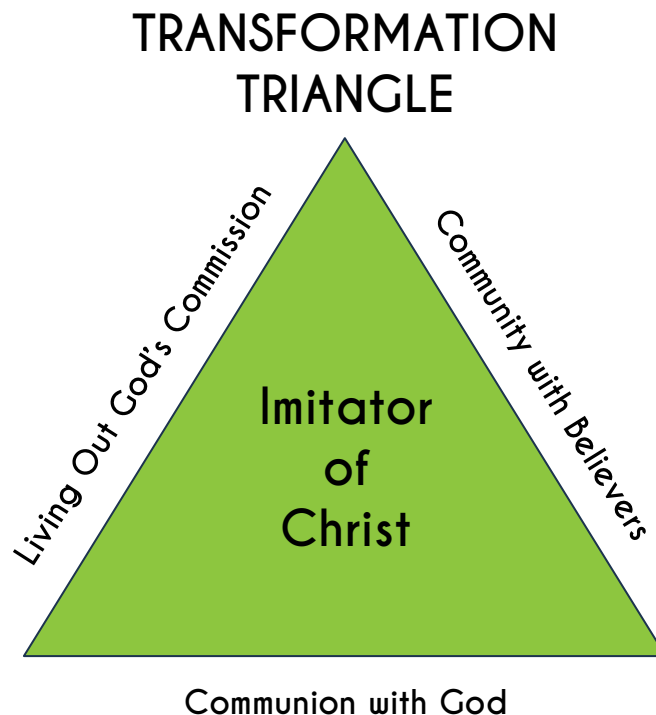
*"As the deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, God. I thirst for God, the living God.  
When can I come and appear before God?" – Psalm 42:1-2*

2. Living in community with like-minded people. Share life with a small group of people weekly.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.  
Now all the believers were together and held all things in common." – Acts 2:42 & 44*

3. Living out our mission and purpose. Invest our lives in God's mission 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-20*



# DISCOVER OUR COMMON VALUES

Values are the shared convictions that guide the actions of our church. They shape our culture, communicate what's important, and define who we are. They are the core practices of our church, which if applied, will change our way of thinking and impact our behavior. Therefore, when applied our values are transforming.

1. Connection – We want to have meaningful relationship with all kinds of people; unbelievers, the forgotten and with one another as the body of Christ
  - By practicing hospitality – making space in our lives and schedules for others
  - By creating environments that foster belonging and lasting connections
  
2. Intimacy – We aim to have a deeper relationship with and dependence upon God
  - By placing an emphasis upon prayer and obedience
  - By encouraging other followers of Jesus to practice His spiritual disciplines
  
3. Intentionality – We live with Gospel purpose among the lost and the forgotten
  - By intentionally investing our lives in others help them become followers of Jesus and to train them to walk like Jesus
  
4. Simplicity – We emphasize quality and consistency over quantity
  - By refusing to over-schedule the church with activities that divert from our mission to make disciples who walk like Jesus
  - By utilizing ministry teams and empowering them to do ministry with minimal oversight
  
5. Movement – We recognize the importance of growth and the danger of drift
  - By assisting individuals in understanding where they are spiritually and to help them develop and implement a personal growth plan that moves them towards Christlikeness
  - By providing opportunities for service which move us from our homes and campus out into the community
  
6. Generosity – We have been blessed in order to be a conduit of blessing
  - By surrendering our lives as a living sacrifice to God
  - By generously giving of our resources to advance God's Kingdom around the world

# DISCOVER OUR COMMON BELIEFS

Scripture plainly teaches that we must be *sound in the faith*--which is to say that doctrine (what we believe) *does* matter (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 4:2-3; Tit. 1:9; 2:1). The real question is not *whether* we have doctrine but *which* doctrine or *whose* doctrine will we have?

*"If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing." 1 Timothy 6:3-4*

**What you believe matters because it impacts how we behave.**

## Our Essential Beliefs

### About the Bible

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. The Bible is God's Word to us. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. (2 Tim. 3:15-17)

- There are a variety of versions or translations of the Bible available today – some better than others. At Marble Springs, we use the Christian Standard (CSB) or English Standard (ESV) versions of the Bible in our worship services and in our Sunday School classes.
- We believe that scripture, and not tradition, is our sole authority.

### About God

There is one and only one living and true God who reveals Himself in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three are co-equal and are one God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

- We believe that God can be known as our heavenly Father through faith in Jesus Christ. (John 14:6-13)
- We believe that God is sovereign, directing the flow of human history according to His redemptive purpose. He either causes or allows all things to happen. He is not the author of evil. (Psa. 135:6; Isa. 46:10; Eph. 1:11; James 1:13)

## **About Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was born of a virgin – fully God and fully man – lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (John 1:1, 14) Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. (Col. 1:13-22)

- We believe that Jesus Christ died for all sinners and by their free will they determine whether to receive or reject God's free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 5:6-21)
- We believe that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)
- We believe that all followers of Jesus should strive to walk as He walked. (1 John 2:6)

## **About the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is God. He is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration, He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; Ephesians 5:18; Luke 11:13; John 14:16-17; Acts 2:38)

## **About Human Beings**

People are created in the spiritual image of God and to be in a personal relationship with Him. We are the supreme object of God's creation and were created for the Father's glory and the good of others. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. Due to our sin nature and by free choice every person became sinful and therefore separated from God. Apart from the grace of God every person deserves death and to spend eternity separated from God. Only Jesus can restore the relationship between God and man. (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 3:8-24; 1 Cor. 10:31-33; Rom. 3:10-23; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:21-22)

- We believe that sin is a choice, but we also believe that man has a sinful nature inherited from Adam. (Rom. 5:12; Gal. 5:17)
- We believe that every believer has been shaped by God for His glory and the good of others and that they are to use their gifts and talents in the ministries of the local church and in the world. (Eph. 2:10)
- We believe that marriage is ordained by God to be the spiritual and physical uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive covenant commitment for their joint lifetime. (Eph. 5:31-33; Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:14-16)

## About Salvation

Salvation is God's gift to us, offered to those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and turn from their sins. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works, it is a work of God's grace. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 53:6, 59:2; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 16:20)

- We believe that salvation is only achieved through the person of Jesus Christ. There is no other way that man can be saved from his sin. (John 14:6)
- We do not believe God in His sovereignty arbitrarily decided who would be saved and who would be damned. He knows who will accept or reject the gospel. (Rom. 10:13)
- We believe that God's grace can be resisted and that this rejection of the gospel results in a person being eternally separated from God. (John 6:60-69; Rom. 10:13, 6:23; Isa. 59:2)

## About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" your salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. (Jude 24; Eph. 4:30; Rom. 8:38-39; John 10:28-29)

## About Eternity

People were created to exist forever in relationship with their Creator. We will either exist eternally separated from God because of our sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

- We believe that every person has two distinct but intimately related dimensions to their lives: the physical and the spiritual. (2 Cor. 5:1-2)
- We believe that at death the body will return to dust and that the soul will be either ushered into the immediate presence of God or for those who reject the gospel, to Hades. (Luke 16:22-24)
- We believe that all men, both living and dead, saved and unsaved, must give an account to Jesus Christ as to how they lived their lives. (Heb. 9:27; John 5:24; Matt. 16:24)
- We believe that at a point in time only known by the Father, Jesus will return to earth and our bodies will be resurrected. (1 Thes. 4:16-17; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:52)
- We believe that the final destination for believers is the new heaven and new earth and for those who have rejected the gospel, the lake of fire. (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 20:15)

## The Symbols of Salvation: Baptism and The Lord's Supper

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols, called ordinances, as reminders of His death and resurrection. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### Baptism: Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus.

*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." – Mark 1:9*

2. Because Jesus commanded it.

*Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." – Matthew 28:19-20*

3. It demonstrates that I really am a Christian.

*"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." – Acts 18:8*

### **Baptism: What is the meaning of baptism?**

1. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

*"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...And He rose again!" – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

2. It illustrates my new life as a follower of Jesus.

*"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

3. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian. It shows the world that you already are!

### **What is the Lord's Supper? - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

1. It is a simple act, not an elaborate ceremony.

*"On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread..." – vs. 23*

2. It is a remembrance.

*"... gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." – vs. 24*

3. It is a symbol.

*"In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." – vs. 25*

4. It is a statement of faith.

*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." – vs. 26*

**Who should take the Lord's Supper?** Only those who have been born again.

### **Regarding Our Beliefs**

- In essential beliefs we have unity.

*"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." – Ephesians 4:4-6*

- In non-essential beliefs we extend grace.

*"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. So, whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves." – Romans 14:1, 4, 12 & 22*

- In all of our beliefs we show love.

*"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." – 1 Corinthians 13:2*

## About Our Leaders

According to scripture, the New Testament church has two distinct offices – that of the pastor (sometimes referred to as elder, shepherd, or even bishop) and that of the servant leader (usually called deacons in the Bible). Each serves a unique role in the life of the church – pastors shepherd the flock. The servant leaders serve the congregation, pastors, and community. Their ministry allows the pastors and ministry teams to focus upon their primary ministry of making disciples.

- Pastoral Leaders – Provides oversight to the church and leads the church in the fulfillment of her mission to make disciples
  - Pastors must meet the Biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
  - Made up of the Lead Pastor, Lay Pastors, any paid Ministry Staff, and the Team Leader for the Servant Leaders
  - Lead & Lay Pastors are responsible for shepherding the church – includes faithfully teaching God's Word, discipling members, administering the ordinances, ministering in time of need, protecting the doctrinal purity of the church and seeking reconciliation of wayward members.
- Servant Leaders – Provides support to the Pastoral Ministry – freeing them up to be devoted to the preaching & teaching of God's Word and to prayer
  - Servant Leaders must meet Biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13
  - Servant Leaders offer support to Ministry Teams and meet various needs in church body and in the community.



- Ministry Teams – Self-directed groups who work in specific areas of ministry toward the fulfillment of the church’s overall mission to make disciples
  - Each team is made up of 3 or more people who are gifted and called to a specific area of ministry. Ministry Team leaders must be members of Marble Springs Baptist Church.
  - Ministry Teams work in partnership with the Pastoral Leadership Team to develop and implement a vision and strategy to make disciples in our church, community, and beyond.

## About the Church

A New Testament church is an autonomous, local congregation made up of baptized believers who live for God's glory and to make disciples who live like Jesus.

- Marble Springs Baptist Church is a Southern Baptist Church by choice and is associated with the North Carolina Baptist Convention and the Truett Baptist Association.
- We are in harmony with our denomination's confession of faith, *The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000*.
- We believe that when we use our gifts and talents together in ministry, we give the world a better picture of what it means to live like Jesus and therefore bring God greater glory. (R 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12)

## Who can become a member of Marble Springs Baptist Church?

Individuals wishing to become members of Marble Springs Baptist Church must meet the following qualifications:

- The individual must have been born again. (Those who have placed their faith in the work of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.)
- The individual must have been baptized by immersion after placing his/her faith in Jesus by Marble Springs or by a church with beliefs in alignment with ours.
- The individual must affirm the beliefs of our church as expressed in this document and in the *Baptist Faith and Message, 2000*.
- The individual must complete *Discover Marble Springs* - our new members class.
- The individual must strive to live out our Church Covenant as outlined in this document.

## Can a person lose their membership?

Yes. Individuals who consistently violate the commitments outlined in this document can lose their membership in the church. When the leadership of the church feels that an individual's actions warrant disciplinary action, they will do everything possible to restore the individual before taking formal action. (Matthew 18:15-17) Individuals who are unable to fulfill the commitments outlined in this document for physical or other reasons will lose their right to vote and be placed on "non-active" membership status by the leadership of the church.

# DISCOVER OUR CHURCH COVENANT

*This covenant aims to describe who we are as a body and what we affirm as a Christ-honoring lifestyle. Participation in the life of the church constitutes consent. These promises shall be used to define how God would have us live out our faith together and shall guide the church as it exercises church discipline and in the selection of people to serve in the church. Violations deemed to be severe by the church leadership and/or by members will be addressed in the spirit of restoration. When restoration and unity are unattainable, one's continued participation may be ended voluntarily or by vote of the members to shield the name of Christ from dishonor.*

Having been drawn by the Father and led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit we, the laity and leadership of Marble Springs Baptist Church, do now in the presence of God, and this assembly, enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

**In doing so, we commit ourselves to God and to one another to fulfill the following promises:**

- 1. To submit to God's Word in all matters.** We hold that God's word is true and will submit to its authority in all matters.

*"All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

- 2. To pursue personal growth & holiness.** We will strive to become like Christ by faithfully pursuing intimacy with God through private devotions and prayer, community with one another, and through faithful participation in corporate worship.

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." - 2 Peter 3:18*

See also 1 Pet. 1:16, John 15:5; Heb. 10:24-25; Matt. 22:37-40

- 3. To love one another.** We will spur one another on to love and good deeds, edify one another with our speech and conduct, and pray for one another. We will humbly and gently give and receive correction in a scriptural manner, as those under grace.

*"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:34-35*

See also Heb. 10:24; 1 Thess. 5:11; Gal. 6:1

4. **To submit to one another.** We will make every effort to protect the unity and peace within the church by praying for and by humbly submitting to one another and to the pastoral leadership of the church as they submit to the authority of God’s Word, the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and to this covenant.

*“Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don’t be foolish but understand what the Lord’s will is. And don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.” – Ephesians 5:15-21*

*“Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” – Hebrews 13:17*

See also Phil. 1:27; Eph. 4:1-6

5. **To seek the fulfillment of God’s will for our family.** We will maintain family and private devotions, participate in the life of the church as a family, and prayerfully and lovingly seek the salvation of our families and acquaintances. We will seek to glorify God, reflect His character, and as a family share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*“Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” – Matthew 22:36-40*

See also Prov. 22:6; Col. 3:18-21

6. **To be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by God.** We will properly manage the resources God has entrusted to us including our time, finances, and talents for His glory.

*“The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord.” – Psalm 24:1*

See also Pro. 3:9, Psa. 118:24; 1 Pet. 4:10

7. **To invest our lives in God’s mission of making disciples.** We will glorify God by making disciples of all nations and to use the gifts and talents entrusted to us by God to build up the body of Christ.

*“Then he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” – Mark 16:15*

See also Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8; Luke 10:2