



## FIRST COLONY Church of Christ

### Our name says a lot about who we are:

**First Colony** — Our home base is here in Fort Bend County, although we have mission points in the Houston inner city, South America, and Africa. Our church started in June of 1985 and we relocated to our current facility in July of 2002. We seek to minister with excellence both locally and globally. We call our members to be a force for good and a force for God in our community.

**Church** — Our church family is a spiritual home to hundreds (weekly attendance approx. 1400) and we have an open door to those around us. As members of one body, we seek to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). As a light in our community, we're a place of peace for those in chaos, a place of forgiveness for the guilty, and a place of hope for the weary. We seek to be non-denominational, encouraging all believers to put aside man-made creeds and titles. We call ourselves "Christians" (Acts 11:26), and use the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

**Of Christ** — We boldly proclaim that all of God's best gifts are wrapped up in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the teachings of Jesus are the foundation to a stable life. We believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us peace with God and the promise of heaven. You'll find that the grace of Jesus Christ is a common thread that runs through every ministry and expression of praise.

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

Although we do not have a formal "creed", here are some Biblical truths we believe are foundational for our unity in Christ:

*We Believe* Jesus Christ is the head of His church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and that authority for life and doctrine rests in Him (Hebrews 1:1-14).

*We Believe* the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. We accept the Old Testament writings as the history of God's dealings with His people, preparing the world for His presence in the person of His Son, Jesus. We also accept the New Testament, in conjunction with revelations recorded in the Old Testament, as the sole authoritative source of information concerning the will of God manifested in the person, life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

*We Believe* there is one, true God who is the creator of the heavens and the earth. God is eternally existent in three personalities: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*We Believe* in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, atoning death on the cross, bodily resurrection, bodily ascension into heaven, and His personal return once again in power and glory.

*We Believe* that salvation cannot be gained by human effort, but only through God's grace in the redemption He provided in Jesus Christ, a redemption which is responded to by faith and which leads to a life devoted to obeying God.

In essentials, we have unity:

*"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, BAPTISM, and one God and Father of us all..."* Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essentials, we have liberty:

*"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...stop passing judgment on one another...each of us will give an account of himself to God... so whatever you believe about these things [non-essentials] keep between yourself and God."* Romans 14

In all things, we show love:

*"...If I have faith to move mountains but have no love, I amount to nothing at all..."* I Corinthians 13

*We Believe* in the ordinances authorized for the Church in the New Testament, namely BAPTISM (immersion in water) and the Lord's Supper. Immersion, as commanded and exemplified in the New Testament, is a burial in water with Christ and resurrection to a new life with Him in the Spirit (Romans 6:3-4). The Scriptures record that the early Church frequently observed the Lord's Supper as instructed by Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42; 20:7). We, therefore, take communion each Sunday.

*We Believe* in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. The Holy Spirit also empowers believers for service and seals them unto the day of redemption.

*We Believe* in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of condemnation.

*We Believe* that all who by faith are BAPTIZED into Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church, of which Christ is the head. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by building its members up in the faith, by instruction of the word, by fellowship, and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world. The formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ.

*We Believe* that we should cooperate in all possible ways in God's work with our fellow believers, being patient with one another in our differences.

## WHAT WE VALUE

*The* cross of Christ as the key message and model of Christianity.

*The* importance of congregational worship experiences that instruct, encourage, challenge and bless.

*The* Holy Scriptures as a foundation for Godly living.

*The* spiritual development of children and teenagers.

*The* importance of a Christ-centered marriage and family.

*The* power of Almighty God to radically change lives

*The* wonder of world-changing prayer as God responds to the faith of his people.

*The* beauty of a life lived in obedience to Jesus.

*The* power of God's grace to redeem and to protect us.

*The* importance of Godly masculinity.

*The* importance of Godly femininity.

*The* attractiveness of a healthy, harmonious, productive church.

*The* small groups and one another relationships in the church.

*The* excellence in all things for the glory of Christ.

*The* help for the poor and the needy.

*The* intentional pursuit of those who are now outside of Christ.

*The* authenticity in our walk with Jesus.