

OUR VISION

Our vision at Oasis Covenant Fellowship is to build a faith community of gospel-centered people.

Our church exists to proclaim the mercy and grace found in the good news of Jesus Christ's death on the cross for our sins. We seek to carry out this vision in two ways:

- by actively pursuing the ongoing transformation of our own lives by the grace of God found in the gospel, and
- by actively proclaiming the gospel in our community to those who do not believe.

OUR DEFINING VALUES

Belief requires a response. The values that shape and define us as a church are our particular response to the biblical truths that we embrace. Simply put, our values are the practical expression of the things we believe, and are summed up in the following points:

- A love for the Gospel
- A pursuit of the active presence of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- An emphasis on sound doctrine
- A pursuit of the active presence of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- A pursuit of godliness through application of Biblical truth
- A commitment to relationships as a channel for God's grace in our lives
- A love for serving
- A heart for sharing the Gospel – individually and corporately

OUR MISSION

God has equipped us to accomplish the vision through:

1. Sunday Celebrations

God-centered worship ■ Biblical exposition ■ Ministry of the Holy Spirit

2. Care Groups

Personal care ■ Biblical fellowship ■ Application of Scripture

3. Ministry Teams

Gift identification and deployment ■ Service to the church ■ Outreach to the community

OUR DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES

Although labels can be misunderstood, there are distinguishing characteristics of our church that provide a window into the truths that define us.

- We are **evangelical**. This basically means two things: (1) we believe that the Bible is the essential, inspired and infallible record of God's self-disclosure and is therefore our final authority in all matters of life and doctrine, and (2) we believe people need to be saved by responding to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We are essentially **reformed** in our theology. This means that we embrace and exult in the sovereignty of God over all things, and that we place the emphasis on the activity of God and the glory of God in the salvation of sinners.
- We are **charismatic**. This means (1) that we are active in our pursuit and practice of all the gifts of the Spirit as found in the New Testament, and (2) that our worship is expressive and passionate.

At Oasis Covenant Fellowship, we are committed to sound doctrine and a passionate pursuit of the presence of God. It's what we call "impassioned orthodoxy."



Our Sunday Celebration

Our lives have been changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. In expressing our heartfelt gratitude and love for our Savior, we can't overstate the importance of **Sunday Celebration**. Our meeting at **11am** each Sunday provide a context where we worship God together and hear the word of God proclaimed and taught as we grow in our mission as a church.

What can you expect?

First, we come together with grateful hearts to worship and glorify God. So you can expect to join us as we lift our voices through song and prayer in passionate worship to God.

Second, we come together to be refreshed by His presence, encouraged by His promises, and transformed by His truth. So you can expect to encounter God with us in worship and in the preaching of God's word.

Third, we come together to encourage one another. So you can expect to see people caring for each other through prayer, words of



encouragement, sharing Scripture, and other ways.

Care Groups

Oasis Covenant Fellowship *is* small groups. One of the joys of membership in the church is participating in a group with eight to fifteen other church members. We call these groups "Care Groups" because their primary purpose is to help each other walk with God in the situations we face in our daily lives. We ask each other about our challenges and seek to find, through prayer and Bible study, how God is working in us and through us as we face the tests of life. This not only involves prayer and counsel and encouragement, but also helping each other with practical needs—such as meals for a family with a newborn or networking help to find a job—so that we can live as a community which displays the love of Christ.

Ministry Teams

Why do we encourage Oasis Covenant Fellowship members to serve on Ministry Teams?

According to Scripture, serving in the local church is important for at least three reasons.

1. We serve to fulfill a key purpose of our salvation.

Paul writes that Jesus "gave himself for us to ... purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14).



Serving with zeal advances the work of the gospel and completes the purpose for which we were saved.

2. We serve to express obedience to God and good stewardship of our gifts.

Peter writes, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pet 4:10). God has personally given to each of us gifts that allow us to serve one another. Investing these gifts to serve the church is both our joyful privilege and God-given responsibility.

3. We serve in order to follow our Savior and demonstrate true greatness.

Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). This is the very heart of the gospel. Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf was the greatest demonstration of God-honoring service. When we serve others, we follow his footsteps, honor his gospel, and bear good fruit.

Our mission as a church is to build a community of gospel-centered people. A true mark of a life centered on the gospel is serving others for the glory of God. We invite you to join us as we participate together in the joy-filled adventure of serving one another through God's church.



Statement of Faith

THE SCRIPTURES

We accept the Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament, as the written Word of God. The Bible is the only essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Being given by God the Scriptures are both fully and verbally inspired by God. Therefore, as originally given, the Bible is free of error in all it teaches. Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord who speaks through it in living power. All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives. The Scriptures are the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice, and doctrine. They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation, or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession, or theology must be put to the test of the full council of God in Holy Scripture.

GOD IS TRIUNE

There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty, and perfect in holiness, truth, and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity. One God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is the foundation of Christian faith and life.

GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth. By His word and for His glory, He freely and supernaturally created the world of nothing. Through the same Word He daily sustains all His creatures. He rules over all and is the only Sovereign. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love Him, and in His unfathomable grace gave His Son Jesus Christ for mankind's redemption. He made man for fellowship with Himself, and intended that all creation should live to the praise of His glory.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He was perfect in nature, teaching and obedience. He is fully God and fully man. He was always with God and is God. Through Him all things came into being and were created. He was before all things and in Him all things hold together by the word of His power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation and in Him dwells the fullness of the godhead bodily. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world having shed His blood and died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. By His death in our place, He revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, the third day He rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness and for a period of forty days appeared to over five hundred witnesses performing many convincing proofs of His resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all. He is the Head of His body the Church and should be adored, loved, served, and obeyed by all.



THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth, and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son who in turn came to glorify the Father. He will lead the Church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored, and worshipped as God the Third Person of the Trinity.

MAN

God made man - male and female - in His own image, as the crown of creation, that man might have fellowship with Him. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. Being estranged from his Maker, yet responsible to Him, he became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ.

THE GOSPEL

Jesus Christ is the gospel. The good news is revealed in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel, His resurrection is the power of the gospel and His ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases His holy wrath. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men must be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the Cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have of glorifying God because of what He has accomplished. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches and ministries to proceed from and be related to the Cross.

MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Man's response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. It is also true that the message of the gospel is only effectual to those who genuinely repent of their sins and by God's grace put saving faith in Christ. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple.

MAN'S INHERITANCE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and looking to Christ and His substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as a free gift. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin an individual is reconciled to God as Father and becomes His child. The believer is



forgiven the debt of his sin and via the miracle of regeneration liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Spirit.

SANCTIFICATION

The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce His fruit in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though indwelling sin remains a reality, as we are led by the Spirit, we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping His commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve His people until the end which is most certain.

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.

THE CHURCH

God by His Word and Spirit creates the Church, calling sinful men out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ's Body. By the same Word and Spirit, He guides and preserves that new redeemed humanity. The Church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, the Church universal is made up of those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ and have personally appropriated the gospel. The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It also exists to serve Him by faithfully doing His will in the earth. This involves a commitment to see the gospel preached and churches planted in all the world for a testimony. The ultimate mission of the Church is the making of disciples through the preaching of the gospel. When God transforms human nature, this then becomes the chief means of society's transformation. Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church in which they devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer. All members of the Church universal are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. In this context they are called to walk out the New Covenant as the people of God and demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God. The ascended Christ has given gift ministries to the church (including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) for the equipping of Christ's body that it might mature and grow. Through the gift ministries all members of the Church are to be nurtured and equipped for the work of ministry. In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men (Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 11:2-16; 1 Tim. 2:11-15). In the context of the local church, God's people receive



pastoral care and leadership and the opportunity to employ their God-given gifts in His service in relation to one another and to the world.

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Water baptism is only intended for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become His disciple. Therefore, in obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to God, the Church, oneself and the world; a believer should be immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death and vividly depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin.

As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of his blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body.

THE CONSUMMATION

The Consummation of all things includes the visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the Consummation, Satan with his hosts and all those outside Christ are finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment, but the righteous, in glorious bodies, shall live and reign with Him forever. Married to Christ as His Bride, the Church will be in the presence of God forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise and glory. Then shall the eager expectation of creation be fulfilled and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God who makes all things new.



Church Covenant

Our Commitments to One Another in the Sight of God

The basis for our joining together as members of Oasis Covenant Fellowship is our relationship with God the Father through the work of his son Jesus Christ communicated to us by the Holy Spirit. As a member of Oasis Covenant Fellowship, I joyfully agree to walk together with the members of this church making the following commitments:

- I will rejoice in the grace of God, privately and corporately giving thanks to our heavenly Father for the sacrifice of his son Jesus, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to believe and to live for the glory of God.
- I will live together with my brothers and sisters in love, just as God has loved us. I will seek their good through forming relationships that promote holiness, discipleship, worship, and sound doctrine.
- I will, as God enables me, care for my brothers and sisters in Christ in distress, sickness, and poverty.
- I will not neglect to meet together in corporate worship and in small group fellowship in those settings that the church provides.
- I will devote myself to the study of Scripture and to prayer both privately and through group contexts.
- I will seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ through seeking progressive growth in holiness through the application of the means of grace as taught in Scripture.
- I will seek to advance the proclamation of the gospel through those relationships God has afforded me in my family, my workplace, and my community, and support those whom the church sends to proclaim the gospel beyond our locale.
- I will seek to serve the church's ministries through regular giving of my time, effort, and money.
- I will pursue conciliation when offense occurs between myself and another member, and I will reject all opportunities to speak or to hear gossip or slander.
- I will watch out for church members and admonish anyone whose practice of sin requires it. If one of our number requires corporate discipline, I will support the efforts and direction of the church, as led by its elders, to call that member to repent of his sins. I agree with the church's doctrine and practice of church discipline. I support the church's teaching on conciliating disputes and agree to abide by the church's "Statement on Conflict, Disputes, and Lawsuits."
- I will promote marriage as a reflection of Christ's relationship with his church and bring up any children God gives me in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. I support the church's understanding of the Bible's teaching on divorce and remarriage.
- I will, if I move from this place, unite with some other church where I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the teaching of God's Word.