

We Believe:

## **2. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to give us life-eternal:**

- God breathed life into a piece of dirt (us) and made us living, thriving, relational, decision-making people. He made us to walk with Him (enjoy Him) and to care for (cultivate) the world (garden) He placed us in (Genesis 1-2).
- But man decided that God's will, way and timing was not sufficient for his desires, so man ate of the very fruit God commanded him not to eat, believing it would make Him more like God (independent, powerful and free to have what he wanted, when he wanted it (Genesis 3).
- From that moment on, man was born in selfishness, outside the will and grace of God (Genesis 5:3, Romans 5:12ff). Man begins life under the domination of sin, evil and destruction (Ephesians 1:1-3).
- Before God created the world, He had a plan to restore it. He chose us sin-filled, helpless people as the object of that plan. He chose to make us His children (through adoption), by personally paying the price for our sin (through redemption) and forgiving our sin through His personal sacrifice of love (on the Cross) (Ephesians 1:4-8).
- God sent the greatest gift of love in all of history, His only begotten Son (John 3:16), to personally sacrifice Himself (Philippians 2:7-8), dying the most physically, emotionally and relationally painful death in history, to give us eternal life. He did not come to "get us" (catch us doing something stupid); He came to set us free from the forces that destroy our lives (Romans 6:7).
- Jesus Christ came to restore us to the life He created us for in creation. He came to give us life abundant and free (John 10:10). He came to give us the ability to live in the image we were created in- His (Romans 8:29). The life of the Christian is driven and defined by God (love, power, wisdom), not evil (destruction, frustration and despair). We are now in Him, and He is in us (Galatians 2:20).