



## More About What We Believe

**We believe** in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church and in the literal Second Coming of Christ with His saints to rule the earth which will be personal and visible.

**We believe** the Church is the Body of Christ of which Christ is the head and all born-again believers are members.

**We believe** the Lord Jesus Christ gave two ordinances to the Church: baptism and the Lord's Supper, also known as Holy Communion. We believe in baptism by immersion and regular communion both of which are open to all believers in Jesus.

**We believe** in the laying on of hands for sending out pastors and missionaries and in conjunction with the anointing of oil by the elders for healing the sick.

**We believe** every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Horizon South Bay.

**We believe** God wonderfully and immutably created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

**We believe** the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:40). We believe God commanded no intimate sexual activity is to be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

**We believe** any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10).

**We believe** in order to preserve the function and integrity of Horizon South Bay as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Horizon South Bay members and the community, it is imperative all persons employed by or volunteering at Horizon South Bay in any capacity agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22)

**We believe** the church government should be simplistic rather than a complex bureaucracy and we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead rather than on fleshly promotion.

**We believe** the Bible clearly delineates that spiritual gifts are for the edification of the Body and they are to be exercised in love. We believe love is more important than the spectacular gifts and without love all exercise of spiritual gifts is worthless.

**We focus** on a personal relationship with God through worship, prayer and the teaching of the Word of God in our church services. We do not practice speaking in tongues during worship or while a Bible study is in progress because we do not believe the Holy Spirit would interrupt Himself. God is not the author of confusion. The gifts are encouraged in more intimate settings, e.g. afterglow services and small groups where their benefit can accomplish the purpose for which they have been given – the edification of the Body of Christ.

**We are neither** Five-Point Calvinists nor are we Armenians. We adhere firmly to the biblical teaching of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. We avoid theological systems of belief that go beyond the written Word and thereby divide the Body of Christ.

**We do not believe** in "positive confession" (the "faith movement" belief that God can be commanded to heal or work miracles according to man's will); human prophecy that supersedes the Scriptures; the incorporation of humanistic and secular psychology into biblical teaching; the overemphasis of spiritual gifts and experiential signs and wonders to the exclusion of biblical teaching; or that true Christians can be demon-possessed.