

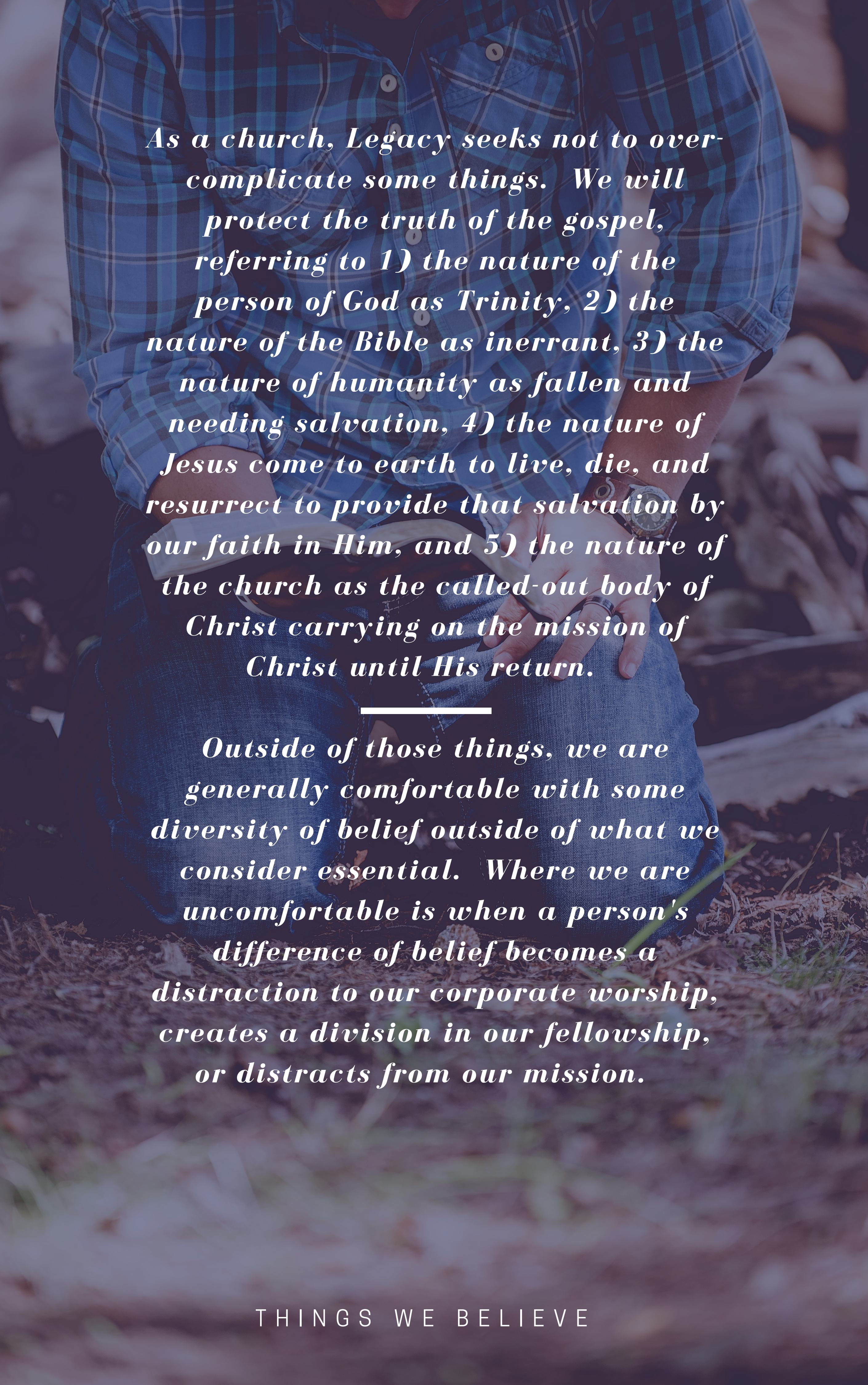
THINGS WE

# BELIEVE

A BRIEF GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING  
THE DOCTRINE THAT DRIVES US





A person wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and blue jeans is kneeling on the ground. Their hands are resting on their knees. They are wearing a watch on their left wrist and a ring on their left hand. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with dry leaves and grass. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

*As a church, Legacy seeks not to over-complicate some things. We will protect the truth of the gospel, referring to 1) the nature of the person of God as Trinity, 2) the nature of the Bible as inerrant, 3) the nature of humanity as fallen and needing salvation, 4) the nature of Jesus come to earth to live, die, and resurrect to provide that salvation by our faith in Him, and 5) the nature of the church as the called-out body of Christ carrying on the mission of Christ until His return.*

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*Outside of those things, we are generally comfortable with some diversity of belief outside of what we consider essential. Where we are uncomfortable is when a person's difference of belief becomes a distraction to our corporate worship, creates a division in our fellowship, or distracts from our mission.*



# The Essentials:

1

**God is Trinity.**

2

**The Bible is Inerrant.**

3

**Humanity Has a Great Need.**

4

**Jesus Was Sent to Provide Salvation.**

5

**The Church is God's People Carrying Out His Purposes.**



**"In essentials unity,  
in non-essentials  
liberty, in all  
things love."  
(St. Augustine)**

**More than a maxim, this statement has  
clear biblical roots:**

- In **John 17:20-23**, Jesus prays for the unity of the church to come, and the Apostle Paul constantly wrote to promote unity in Christ (1 Corinthians 12 is a great example of this).
- **Romans 14** displays that there are some matters of doctrine and practice that are important, yet there is room for differing interpretation and perspectives, but still, these should not divide us.
- Many passages, including **Colossians 3:14**, **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**, **Romans 15:5-7**, etc., encourage us to remain in love with God and His church.



# God is Trinity.

Essential

1

*"There is one God who eternally identifies Himself as triune, as the Father, as Jesus Christ, and as the Holy Spirit."*

**Deuteronomy 6:4** "The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

**2 Corinthians 13:14** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

**1 Corinthians 8:6** "yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

**John 10:30** "I and the Father are one." (Jesus)

**Acts 5:3-4** "But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to man but to God."





## ***God's Life As Trinity:***

*If we were to use math, it would not be,  $1+1+1=3$ . It would be  $1\times 1\times 1=1$ . At the beginnings of creation, the Father and Spirit, and Jesus are seen distinctly functioning as one. This Tri-Unity is seen again at Jesus' baptism and at His Transfiguration. What seems clear is that at the center of God's life as Trinity is an intimacy demonstrated unified purpose, work, and glory, and a constant giving of adoring love to one another.*

## ***God's Revelation As Trinity:***

*While the fullness of the Trinity is far beyond human comprehension, God has revealed Himself in this way to humanity that we might know Him in all of His glory, relate to Him in all of His character, and follow Him in all of His ways.*

## ***Read & Observe:***

*Look at Genesis 1:1-2 & John 1:1-5. Can you see the whole picture of the Trinity at work?*

*Compare Matthew 3:13-17 & Matthew 17:1-8. Do you see how the Father, Son, & Spirit demonstrate unity?*



# The Bible is Inerrant.

Essential

2

*The Bible is God's words written for humanity. It is completely true, without fault in its matter, because men wrote it under the providence, guidance, and superintendence of the Holy Spirit.*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

**Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”





### ***Inspiration:***

*The very words themselves are inspired, as they are “God-breathed;” the Bible’s words are God’s words.*

### ***Read & Observe:***

*"All Scripture is inspired by God (God-breathed) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

### ***Reflect:***

*Why is it important that the Bible's words are God's word?  
What place does the Bible have in guiding your thinking and  
your actions?*




# Humanity Has a Great Need.

Essential

3

*In the beginning, God (The Trinity) created and gave life to the world, and humanity as its centerpiece. The whole human is intended to reflect the image of God. Though God gave life and provided everything for life, the first humans chose death. The Bible calls this sin and says it is the root of all brokenness. There is nothing people can do to repair the damage of sin.*





**Genesis 1 & John 1:3-4** “Let Us make man in Our image...God created man in His own image...male and female He created them. God blessed the.” & “All things came into being through Him...In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”

**Psalms 8:3-5** When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

**Genesis 3** “The man said...I ate...The woman said...I ate...So He drove [them] out”

**Romans 5:12** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” Romans 3:10-18 “There is none who does good, there is not even one.”

**Romans 3:10-18** “There is none who does good, there is not even one.”

**Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

**Isaiah 59:2** “but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God”

### ***Sin & The Image of God:***

*Disobedience to God damages (though it doesn't destroy) the image of God in man. This broken image establishes a rift between God and people, which creates a broken relationship with God. Humanity has a great need!*



# Jesus was Sent to Provide Salvation.

Essential


4

*God, the Son, was sent to heal mankind's brokenness by taking on the penalty of sin and restoring mankind's relationship with God. Salvation is wholly the work of Jesus, and is experienced by men and women who trust Him for it.*

**John 3:16-17** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

**1 Corinthians 15:21** “For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.”





**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

**Romans 4:25-5:1** “Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”

**Acts 17:28** “For in Him we live and move and have our being”

### ***Salvation & The Image of God:***

*Jesus took on Himself, death, which is the punishment for human sin. Humans can be ‘in-Christ’ through His death and resurrection. The spiritual reality is that ‘in-Christ’ I perfectly reflect the image of God.*

### ***Christianity:***

*Christianity is Jesus Christ living in people. A Christian is one who says, “Jesus is my Savior, my Lord. I am His disciple.”*

### ***Reflect:***

*Where are you right now in a relationship with God through Jesus? What first got your attention about Jesus? How is Jesus changing your life?*



# The Church is God's People Carrying Out His Purposes.

Essential

5


*The people of God are called out to live as His image together. The church is God's missional force in the world. In this way, God does the ministry of Christ through the Body of Christ.*

**1 Peter 2:9-10** “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

**John 20:21** “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

**Ephesians 1:22-23** “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”





**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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**Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”

**Acts 17:28** “For in Him we live and move and have our being”



**"True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity."**

**(Malachi 2:6)**

**"Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."**

**(2 Timothy 1:13)**

**Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.**

**(1 Timothy 4:16)**

