

Intro: Every Church is unique – that’s good!
- Ex. **Baskin Robbins!**



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Today: What makes Rock Unique?

Look at Two Documents:

1. *Statement of Faith*
2. *Core Values (GCC)*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. The statement of belief for The Rock Church are the things we see as the **ESSENTIAL** truths of Christianity.
Summary: “Basic truths of Christianity”
- B. The Rock’s *Statement of Faith* contains the **SAME** truths that have been part of the Christian faith since the first century and would be very similar to doctrinal statements of other Christian churches in the world.
Described: “Conservative / Bible based / Non-denominational / Baptist / EV Free, etc.”
- C. We want you to understand what each of these means. Membership in The Rock Church includes **AGREEMENT** with this statement. Most of these points are discussed in other Base Camp sessions, so we won’t cover them here.
Currently: No official membership: “Vote with feet!” Utah stigma of “Membership”

CORE VALUES **NOTE:** These define us and make us unique in Christendom.

- A. The following are eight core beliefs and COMMONLY held values embraced by the individuals and churches, like The Rock, involved in the Great Commission Churches (GCC).

I. THE GRACE OF GOD.

1. God’s grace through Jesus Christ is our bedrock and power supply for our salvation, our life in Christ and our ministry, both individually and as churches (2 Corinthians 9:8).
2. Those who have been born again by the Spirit are eternally **SECURE** and will not lose their salvation. (1 Peter 1:3-5).
3. We believe in a balance between God’s grace and man’s responsibility. We believe the Bible teaches both the sovereign grace of God and the solemn responsibility of man to trust, obey and serve God. (Philippians 2:12-13).
Common Practices: 1) Don’t wallow in sin, 2) Leaders model grace & integrity. **Ex. Teach tithes** –let you and God figure out

II. COMMITMENT TO GOD AND HIS WORD.

1. Our supreme desire is to glorify God. Our love for God and devotion to Him must be our deepest passion and greatest motivation (Matthew 22:37; Philippians 3:7-8).
2. The Bible is our final **AUTHORITY** for doctrine and practice and our instruction manual for life. It is God’s inerrant revealed communication for life (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
3. Obedience to God’s Word is crucial to an accurate understanding of the Bible. (James 1:22).
CP: 1) Daily devotion w/ Word & prayer, 2) Extended times w/ God. **Ex. Prayer SG’s & NLC** –Devote ½ day to prayer

III. ALL NATIONS REACHED WITH THE GOSPEL.

1. Out of our love for God and people (The Great Commandment, Matthew 22:37-40), our **MISSION** as individuals and as churches is to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20.)
2. God’s desire is that every individual in the church personally embrace the Great Commission—to do their part in reaching their city, nation, and the world for Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:9).
CP: 1) Equip people to share gospel w/ friends 2) Focus on “Next Gen” outreach. **Ex. Outreach Class & Young Church plants**

IV. THE CHURCH.

1. God has commissioned and established the local church as His primary means of fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission (1 Timothy 3:15).
2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the **HEAD** of each local church and that each local church, once it has been established and elders appointed, has final human authority over its affairs under Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23).
3. We believe that the church should function as a family, as a body, and as an army (1 Timothy 5:1-2; Romans 12:4; Ephesians 6:10-18).

CP: 1) Emphasis on SG's 2) Members live life together. **Ex. \$\$ to family in need (>\$800 from SG!)**

V. CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

1. Recognizing Christ as the Head of the church, we further recognize that He has appointed certain men of character to be spiritual **ELDERS**, or pastors in the local church. These men have the final human authority in their church's affairs and decisions (Titus 1:5).
2. We believe that the terms "elder," "overseer," and "pastor" each refer to the same position (Acts 20:17, 28).
3. The New Testament model is that of a Christ-centered submissive **PLURALITY** of pastors rather than a single pastor leadership structure (Acts 14:23; Phil, 1:1).
4. Elder/pastors are to be appointed based upon the character qualities described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
5. We value and esteem women in the church and encourage their ministry in various roles, but in accordance with the New Testament, we reserve the office of elder/pastor/overseer for men alone (1 Timothy 3:1; 2:12).

CP: 1) Plurality – not "Senior pastor" 2) Women can lead ANYWHERE but pastor. **Ex. Pastor's raised up from within!**

VI. ONENESS (LOVE AND UNITY).

1. We strongly revere the "doctrine of love and unity" within all of Christendom. God desires **UNITY** between believers as a high priority and we strive to maintain a unity with every believer, both within and without our association (Ephesians 4:3).

CP: 1) Willing to let go of "Grey" areas" 2) We honor other Bible-believing churches! **Ex. Pastor's BofB group (15 yrs)**

VII. RAISING GODLY FAMILIES.

1. We believe that strong families produce strong churches and strong communities (Eph. 5:22-6:4).
2. We value both the husband and the wife mutually loving and honoring one another, in following Christ's supreme example. We also promote differing but complementary **ROLES** in the family with the husband as the head of the household, loving and leading his wife, and his wife honoring, supporting, and submitting to her husband wholeheartedly (Ephesians 5:22-33).
3. We believe that human sexuality is a gift and is to be celebrated and practiced exclusively within the marriage covenant between one man and one woman. Therefore, in accordance with the Bible, we consider homosexuality, adultery and fornication to be sin (1 Corinthians 6:9).

CP: 1) Home takes priority over ministry 2) Families on mission together! **Ex. Qualification of elder- family!**

VIII. EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER.

1. Rather than a clergy-laity system, we affirm the "priesthood of all believers." All Christians are "priests," according to 1 Peter 2:5-9, empowered with authority through the Holy Spirit to worship God and be workers in the church and the world.
2. The elders have the responsibility to train and **EQUIP** the members in ministry, but not to actually perform all of the ministry of the church (Ephesians 4:11-16).
3. God desires each member to utilize his or her unique spiritual gifts in ministry (1 Peter 4:10-11).

CP: 1) Leaders model spiritual disciplines 2) Volunteers encouraged! **Ex. Non-pastors can baptize!**