



Foundation Series

Week 2 – New @ SVC

New @ SVC to establish a fundamental baseline on what SVC believes and how it operates. This is so we all have a common foundation as members of a larger body known as "the church".

Enduring Truths are closed handed items (things we will not waiver on) compared to **Open Handed** items where there are different viewpoints that can be debated where or things we can agree to disagree

History of Summit View

We are glad you have chosen to find out more about the family of Summit View Church. The purpose of this class is to acquaint you with what we believe as a church, as well as our approach to ministry. It is our hope that by the end of the class, you will have enough information to pray about making an initial commitment to Summit View Church.

Summit View Church was started in 1993 by about thirty people who were longing to reach the unchurched population of Vancouver. For the first ten years, Sunday gatherings were held at Mt. View High School in East Vancouver. We purchased our current property in 1999; and since December 2003, we've been meeting in our current facilities.

By God's grace, we've had the privilege of seeing hundreds of people come to know Christ personally. Our continuing effort is to bring everyone in our church to a deeper experience of life in Christ as shown in the Bible, which is our foundation for truth and practical living.

We Exist . . . to bring glory to God and to help people become more like Jesus.

Enduring Truths

God

There is one true God (Dt. 6:6) who is separate from his creation as the creator of the universe and every living thing (Genesis 1:1). He is one in essence and exists eternally in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2; Matthew 28:19) as a spiritual being (John 4:24). He is infinite, and unchangeable in all of his attributes (Malachi 3:6) and is intimately involved in human affairs (Acts 17:26; Matthew 10:30) and governs all of history by His divine power and sovereignty (Isaiah 46:10)

The Father

The Father is the first member of the Trinity who possesses all the attributes and perfections of the Godhead. He is the source, from whom the Son eternally generates (John 1:18; 5:26; 1 John 4:8-9). He is sovereign (Eph. 1:9-11) and His primary purpose is to bring glory and praise to Himself (Rev. 4:9-11). He was active in the work of creation (Ps. 33:6), election (John 6:44), and redemption (2 Cor. 5:18-19). It was His eternal love that motivated Him to send forth His Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross for the sins of mankind (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Hebrews 1:2) and eternally exists as equal to the Father in all the attributes of Deity (John 1:1-2). He was virgin born as God incarnate, yet fully human (Romans 1:3) and is the only way to salvation (John 14:6). He was crucified and physically resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:3-6). He ascended to the Father (Acts 1:9-11) and is seated at His right hand (Ephesians 1:20) where He now performs the intercessory aspect of His high priestly work for believers (Hebrews 4:14-15). He has dominion over all heaven and earth (Hebrews 1:3) and will physically return at the appointed time (Matthew 24:30) to receive His church unto Himself (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, co-equal with the Father and the Son (Acts 5:3-4). He indwells all believers (1 Corinthians 3:16), placing them into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13), and seals them for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30). He gives spiritual gifts to each believer (Hebrews 2:4) for the purpose of building up his body (Ephesians 4:11-12) which are not bound by time or tradition and are essential for effective ministry (1 Peter 4:10). The Holy Spirit also convicts humanity of sin (John 14:16) and is involved in the regenerating and transforming work of the believer (2 Corinthians 3:18). He is the agent of Spirit baptism which incorporates believers into the church at their conversion (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The Bible

The Bible is God's word to us (Deuteronomy 30:11-14). It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20). It is inspired by God and the final authority for what is true and how we are to live our life (2 Timothy 3:16). It is without error (Psalm 119:160). The Word of God is alive and active and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). We believe it is to be taught and read in corporate gatherings (1 Timothy 4:13), personally meditated on (Psalm 2:1) and memorized (Psalm 119:11).

People / Salvation

Human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and are destined to know Him (Genesis 2:8). Because Adam and Eve acted as our representatives in their disobedience (Romans 5:12), we all are marred by sin, unable to save ourselves and under God's wrath (John 3:36). Though humans are capable of doing good (Luke 11:13), we are unable to win favor with God (Romans 8:8). Only by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4) through faith in the work of Christ (Romans 10:9-10) can our sins be forgiven and our relationship with God be restored (Colossians 1:22).

The Church

The universal church, of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22) is comprised of all true believers (1 Corinthians 12:27). The local church is a community of believers who meet regularly (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:24-25), have a governing body of elders (Titus 1:5) whose particular geographical location and union with Christ (Philippians 2:1) make them the people of God (Ephesians 2:19) and the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13). The church is governed by qualified elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7) who are responsible for preaching, teaching, prayer and discipline in the body.

The Enemy

Satan and his demons were created as angelic beings (Ezekiel 28:13; Revelation 12:4) who rebelled and against the rule of God (Isaiah 14:13) whose goal is to destroy the relationship between man and God (Revelation 12:17). He attempts this through lies (John 8:44) and temptations (1 Thessalonians 3:5). He masquerades as an angel of light, yet is the deceiver of mankind and there is no truth in him (2 Corinthians 11:14). Although Satan was defeated at the cross and his final destiny will be the lake of fire, (Revelation 20:10) he continues to be the ruler of this world (1 John 5:19) and the enemy of God and man.

Ordinances of Baptism and Communion

Because of the clear biblical teaching of Jesus, Summit View Church observes the two commands Jesus gave his followers of Baptism and Communion. These simple acts were given to us by Jesus as outward signs of inner realities.

Baptism

Baptism comes from a Greek word which means to immerse or to dip something in water. By being baptized, we proclaim to the watching world in a physical way what has happened inside us spiritually. When Christians are baptized, they fulfill the command of Jesus (Matt. 28:19–20) by being immersed underwater to identify with the death of Jesus, and then rinsed out of the water to identify with his resurrection (Rom. 6:1–10; Col. 2:12).

This is how a new Christian “goes public” with their faith in Jesus. Baptism is the identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is similar to our cultural tradition of wearing a wedding ring when married because it shows our union, by faith, with Jesus.

Communion

Communion or “the Lord’s Supper” is only for those who are followers of Jesus. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Jesus body on the cross and the shedding of His blood for the forgiveness of sins and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as an outward sign of continued belief in the atoning benefits of Jesus’ death. At Summit View Church, we come to the table with an attitude of faith and self-examination; as we partake in the simple elements we remember and proclaim the death of Jesus, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls and stand together with others signifying our unity as Jesus’ body.

Leadership Structure

Summit View is a non-denominational, independent, elder-led, bible-believing local church.

What is an Elder?

Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be, not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-4

The elders are members of the body who provide general watch care and oversight. They continually evaluate the teaching ministry of the church and review major ministry decisions and strategic initiatives. They use their wisdom, discernment and shepherding gifts to ensure the church remains on a true course biblically and that the life of the church is being well managed with the assistance of other competent and godly leaders. Scripture indicates that the ultimate decision-making authority in the church rests with the elders.

Scripture also states the role of elder is equal to that of an overseer. Paul tells us, “if anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1). Elders are to care about the spiritual and physical well being of members, regularly praying for the sick. They are to guard the body against harmful influences, confronting those who are contradicting biblical truth or who are continuing in patterns of sinful behavior. In doing so, they are to close potential entrances for Satan, so that the truth of Christ will remain credible to both the congregation and the community (1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9; James 5:14).

Life Groups

Discipleship is the process of becoming like Christ in both His character and His mission. The discipleship path is a measurable and distinguishable evaluation of where we are in this process. The next question of course is how do we get there? In other words, what is the best means or vehicle to move us forward in our process of maturity in Christ?

Consider Jesus’ main approach to disciple making:

- It was not through public _____, though He gave many.
- It was not through an endless display of _____, though He performed them wherever He went.
- It was not through weekly _____ at religious meetings, though He was regularly found in the synagogue.
- His main plan to grow people spiritually was through _____.

Jesus never envisioned His church to be just a resource center or a spiritual gas-station for His people. He cast a vision for a community of people who deeply love Him and view themselves as His family. It all started with Jesus calling a few men to follow Him. Over the course of three years, His purpose was to share His life with them so that after He returned to the Father, these men would bear witness to His life and teaching and carry on the work He began. His commission to these disciples at the end of His life was clear,

*“...go and make disciples of all nations...Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you”
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

In other words, they were to do the very thing that Jesus had done for them.

The bottom line is simple:

We are to make disciples AND we are to go about doing it the _____ Jesus did.

Website

Our website is a great way to stay in the loop on everything happening around Summit View Church. On the next page is a screen shot that will help you get acquainted with our website



Commitments

Belonging to a church is serious commitment and should be entered into with a sense of gravity. Committing yourself to a body of believers is weighty but it's also wonderful! When someone joins Summit View they commit to a loving, caring, close-knit, spiritual family that provides encouragement and support. They will be called to a biblical degree of responsibility for this family as well which includes service and sacrifice to their brothers and sisters. Our elders and leaders also pledge to assist you with care, counsel, prayer and biblical teaching. Becoming a part of Summit View Church family is a weighty responsibility and wonderful joy. Below are eight specific commitments you make in becoming part of the Summit View Church family.

1. I commit to actively pursue spiritual growth in my personal relationship with God.
(2 Tim 3:16, Hebrews 11:6, 2 Peter 3:17-18)
2. I commit to remain under the authority of Summit View Church and its leadership.
(Hebrews 13:17-18)
3. I commit to pray for Summit View Church, its leadership and the body.

(James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

4. I commit to keep a lifestyle consistent with the Bible's teachings.
(Ephesians 4:1-3, Ephesians 5:1-2)
5. I commit to work together at all times to protect the unity and community of Summit View Church.
(John 17:20-23, Galatians 5:22-26, Matthew 18:15-20 and Ephesians 4:25-32)
6. I commit to faithfully participate in regular gatherings of the body, both large and small gatherings.
(Hebrews 10:24-25)
7. I commit to faithfully give my tithe as an act of worship.
(Malachi 3:6-10, Matthew 23:23, Mark 12:41-44)
8. I commit to faithfully give of my time and my talents for the Kingdom.
(Matt. 20:25-28, Colossians 3:23-24).