



ringgold
church

core beliefs

updated February 2023

1. We believe that **Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah**, the Son of the Living God, God in human form. We believe that the virgin-born Son of God died for our sins, was buried, rose from the dead and is coming again. We believe He is both fully God and fully man. (Philippians 2:5-7; John 14:9; John 8:58; John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9)
2. We believe that the **Bible is the inspired Word of God**, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content and without any error in its teaching. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
3. We believe in the historical creation of man. (Genesis 1:27)
4. We believe in the **sanctity of life** and that life begins at conception. (Psalm 139:13-16)
5. We believe that all men are born with a sin nature. (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23)
6. We believe in the **sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman**. We believe that God created humankind in his own image, and created humankind as male and female (Genesis 1:26; 2:7). We believe that man and woman are sexually complimentary to one another and that God's expressed intention for sexual fulfillment is within the context of a lifetime covenant marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6).

Because we believe all of this, we believe that every person possesses dignity and value and deserves love and respect (Psalm 8; James 3:9), especially from the church. And we further believe that every kind of sexual activity outside of marriage between one man and one woman is against God's plan and furthers the brokenness of people including pre-marital and extra-marital sex, homosexual sex, lust and pornography (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Romans 1:25-27; Matthew 5:28).

Ringgold affirms, and stands for the traditional biblical picture of marriage and sexuality. However, as a church, **we choose to show love, to serve, and to demonstrate acceptance of people rather than anger, judgment, and condemnation.**

7. We believe in the **substitutionary death of Christ** on the cross to atone for the sins of mankind. (Isaiah 53:3-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:8)
8. We believe in the **literal, bodily resurrection of Christ** from the dead as prophesied. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

9. We believe in the **literal return of Christ** as promised. (John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 2 Peter 3:3-4, 10, 13)
10. We believe in the **assignment of all people to heaven or to hell** at their time of death or at the time of Christ's return. Hebrews 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
11. We believe that the **forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life** are promised to those who trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. (John 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:8-9)
12. We believe that those putting their trust in Christ should repent of their sins, confess their faith and be baptized into Him. (Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38-39; and Romans 6:3-4)
 - a. We **do not administer baptism to infants** or to children who have not confessed faith in Christ, nor do we baptize by any mode other than immersion.
 - b. We would ask any believer who has not been **baptized by immersion** to submit to that New Testament form before becoming a member of Ringgold Church. (Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 6:3-4)
13. We believe that those who receive Christ also receive the **indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit**: He marks them as the possession of God, manifests the fruit of righteousness in their character and endows them with spiritual gifts for ministry. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
14. We believe that a **spiritual gift** is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and thereby build up the Body of Christ. (1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
 - a. We believe that in New Testament churches which were led by Apostles or by those specially empowered by the laying on of the Apostles' hands, **miraculous gifts** were manifested. (Acts 2:43; Acts 8:18; 2 Timothy 1:6)
 - b. We believe that in New Testament churches which lacked direct apostolic leadership, non-miraculous gifts prevailed: The miraculous gifts were not present. (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17)
 - c. While we believe that God continues to answer prayer and work miracles, today, we do not expect to see the miraculous spiritual gift manifested in the church because of the lack of apostolic leadership.
 - d. We ask that those who seek the miraculous gifts (e.g. speaking in tongues) not practice those gifts within our worship services or promote the exercise of those gifts among our members.

15. We believe that the pattern of the New Testament was to observe the **Lord's Supper** each week. (Acts 20:7)
16. We believe that each believer should give a **generous, intentional, regular, proportional gift** of his or her income to God, through the local church, as a spiritual discipline. We believe that the tithe (one-tenth) is the standard by which Christians determine if they are giving generously. (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
17. We believe that **God answers prayer**, occasionally in miraculous ways. We believe prayer is a spiritual discipline that should be taught and learned within the Body of Christ. (Acts 1:14; Colossians 4:2; 1 John 5:14-15)
18. We believe the Church is a body of Christ-followers who should **live in community** and enjoy the connection possible in the fellowship of small groups. (Acts 2:44-47)
19. We believe the "**will of God**" is discerned through the direct teaching of the Scriptures as well as through prayer, wise counsel, and a careful consideration of circumstances. (Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 19:21; James 1:5; James 4:13-15; Romans 12:1-2)
20. We believe that we are "Christians only," but not the only Christians. (John 10:14-16)
21. We believe the Church should seek **unity with all believers** in matters essential to the universal Christian faith, and contend for liberty in all matters wherein the Lord has not spoken through His Word. Ephesians 4:2-6
22. We believe the **local church is an autonomous body** which cooperates with many Christian agencies but is regulated or dominated by none. (Ephesians 5:23b)
23. We believe **love is to be shown to all people** as the central trait of the Christian faith. (John 13:35; 1 Peter 4:8)
24. We believe the **mission of the church is to reach the spiritually lost for Christ**, to teach with the goal of "forming Christ in them" and then to mobilize believers to accomplish God's purposes in the world. (Matthew 28:18-20)
25. We believe that **full devotion to Jesus Christ** is normal for every Christian. (Matthew 16:24-27)

CAN YOU LOSE SALVATION?

Salvation is a **gift that is meant to be permanent and eternal.**

The apostle Paul writes about Christians that, “Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

It is therefore **impossible to lose your salvation** – however, the New Testament makes mention of the unlikely possibility that someone who is genuinely saved would **throw away his or her own salvation by permanently rejecting the Holy Spirit**, by turning his or her back on Christ permanently, or by turning his back on the gospel in favor of Old Testament law. Hebrews 6:4-6 reveals the possibility of this rare exception.

While we do not focus on this exception, and while we certainly do not pass judgment on those who have “backslidden,” we do take very seriously the **Scriptural mandates to “Stand firm to the end,”** “not put out the Spirit’s fire,” and “bring back those who have wandered from the truth.” (Matthew 10:22, Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13, 1Thessalonians 5:19, James 5: 19-20).

WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOU TAKE TO BE BAPTIZED AT RINGGOLD?

If you have **heard, believed, repented and confessed Christ as your Lord**, go forward during the invitation at any of our weekend services.

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE ARE OTHER FORMS OF BAPTISM ACCEPTABLE?

While we do not judge another's sincerity, we find that **baptism in the Bible was always done by immersion**. Since our goal is to practice "Bible things in Bible ways" we do not feel at liberty to accept man-made concessions that were not authorized or practiced by the apostles or the early Church. Every denomination, Protestant or Catholic, will accept immersion as valid Christian baptism. Other forms did not come into practice until much later. Baptism, as it is practiced in the Scriptures, cannot be visualized or portrayed in any form other than immersion.

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TELL US ABOUT BAPTISM?

- Baptism is **only for those old enough to believe**. No instances of infant baptism are recorded.
- Baptism is by **immersion**. (John 3:22-23, Acts 8:31-39, Romans 6:3)
- Baptism is for the **forgiveness of sins**. (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16)
- The act of **baptism does not save you**. Jesus does.
- Baptism is a **demonstration of our acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior**.
- Baptism – after hearing, believing, repenting and confessing – indicates **complete obedience of one who is following Scriptural counsel for receiving salvation**.
- It is completely **appropriate for one's baptism to be performed the same hour** or the same day that one surrenders to Christ. (Acts 8:26-40, Act 16:33)
- Baptism **should not be a subject of argument** or division among churches or believers.

BIBLE PASSAGES TO STUDY:

- Matthew 3:15
- Matthew 28:18-20
- John 3:16-23
- Acts 2:37-39
- Acts 5:29
- Acts 8:12 & 36
- Acts 10:48
- Acts 16:15 & 30-33
- Acts 18: 8
- Acts 22:16
- Romans 6:1-4
- Colossians 2:11-12
- 1 Peter 3:21, 1 John 2:4

Our Vision: ***To See Broken Lives Mended By Christ. Why? Broken Lives Matter. Broken Lives Are Welcome Here. Broken Lives Are Mended By Christ.***

Our Mission: ***To Connect People To Jesus And One Another.***

Core Values:

We Believe: ***Found People Find People***

We Believe: ***Growing People Change.***

We Believe: ***Saved People Serve People***

- *Children's Ministry*
Help children experience Jesus on their level. Serve kids up to the 5th grade in a safe, clean, and fun environment.
- *Student Ministry*
Help middle school and high school students grow in their faith and see lives changed as they follow Jesus.
- *Guest Services*
Help create welcoming environments for every Ringgold guest. Every first impression makes a huge impact!
- *Next Steps*
Help equip people to follow Jesus step by step. There are opportunities to serve with events, Baptism, Groups, and Care.
- *Production*
Help provide excellent services that engage everyone that attends. There are opportunities to serve with audio, visual, and lighting.

We Believe: ***You Can't Out-Give God***

God doesn't want something from you; He wants something for you. More than you could ask for or imagine.

Giving Opportunities:

- Giving using Envelopes.
- Giving Online
- Future — Giving App
- Future — Giving Kiosk

We Believe: ***You Can't Do Life Alone***

Ringgold Groups are people taking next steps together. Join a Group and you will learn why we believe you can't do life alone.

The goal of joining a group is to grow in your walk with Jesus around people that can support you in taking your next steps. We believe life is better when you live in community. Group options are available for Married, Coed, Men's and Women's. We want to help you find the best fit.