



What We Practice Our Practical Distinctives

Evangelizing | Establishing | Equipping

Faith Bible Church

What We Practice – Our Practical Distinctives

Preface

In an attempt to identify the distinctives of Faith Bible Church, we want to communicate our position on areas that may be different from other churches in our community.

Our elders, through much research, study, prayer, and discussion, have developed these distinctives.

Our goal in presenting this information is to promote unity where sincere believers in Christ may come to different conclusions based on their application of the Word of God.

While the following list is not comprehensive, our prayer is for each of us to have an upward focus and an outward emphasis. We will strive for continued improvement and excellence in each area.

Verse-by-Verse Expository Preaching

We are committed to contextual reading, explaining, and applying of the Scriptures (Nehemiah 8:8; I Timothy 4:13).

This means that we will study passages and doctrines that some churches pass over because of the difficulty or concern regarding difficult passages. In this way, we may proclaim the whole council of God.

Congregational Singing

Since we realize that all our life is considered worship (Romans 12:1-2), along with every part of the corporate gathering (preaching, giving, etc.), we prefer the term “congregational singing” for the time we worship through singing.

Our elders have established our theology and style of music. We encourage the entire body to enter into congregational singing, which should be participatory. Worship is not something to be observed, nor is it entertainment. God is the audience, and we are His worshipers. Hence, the part of the building we worship in is not called a Sanctuary or Auditorium, but a Worship Center.

We are committed to singing songs that are theologically accurate whether they are hymns, psalms, or spiritual songs. Through our worship we do the following: celebrate our God, ascribe attributes to Him, thank Him for His grace and mercy in our lives, and teach and encourage one another. Therefore, we strive for our congregational singing to be God centered (not man centered) and suitable for the corporate setting.

In order to maintain the integrity of our worship, each member of our worship team is accountable for his or her walk with Christ. Our instruments are supportive of our singing and the style we have chosen.

Schooling of Our Children

We believe that parents have options in educating their children and that one option is not godlier than another.

We recognize that parents are responsible to superintend the development of their children and may prayerfully choose from a

variety of options for education (home school, private school, Christian school, or public school).

Student Ministries

Student Ministries at Faith Bible Church exists to work with parents and assist them in raising their children in the training and admonition of the Lord. While we have regular studies, retreats, camps, and events, we encourage students to integrate into the entire body along with their families. While we have a student ministries director and volunteer staff focused on student ministries, we encourage parental involvement in all aspects of the ministry.

Emphasis on Volunteerism / Individual Ministry and Giftings.

We do not buy into the notion of “professional ministers financed by lay spectators”. We strongly believe that the church in its entirety must do the work for which God has ordained it. This requires that each believer employ his or her spiritual gifts in the service of the Lord through His local church. Therefore, we often rely on members to provide services that other churches may pay professionals to do (cleaning, maintenance, etc.).

Local Church-Based Ministry

While parachurch ministries are valuable in assisting the church, we see clearly that the great commission is a corporate mandate given to the church and is to be accomplished primarily by local churches. Therefore, our emphasis is that ministry effort and financial support should flow primarily through the local church and not para-church organizations.

Church-Based Missions

Through our study of the Pauline Cycle of missions (Acts 13-19), we see that the local church is to play a central role as the origin (in sending), the means (in doing), and the goal (the outcome) of missions. Therefore, the kind of missions work we support with church funds will focus heavily on planting and/or strengthening of local churches and their leaders. In doing so we have a working relationship with all our supported missionaries (some being members of our church).

Leadership

The offices of Elder and Deacon for men are two areas that we officially recognize at Faith Bible Church, although many godly men and women lead in other areas of ministry. We function with a plurality of elders, with qualified men leading the church in unanimity. We make no distinction between elders who make their living through the church and those who earn their income elsewhere.

The Elder Board is the only board that influences the philosophy of ministry. Councils are established to carry out ministries and give input to the elders for final decisions.

Our deacons assist the elders in many tasks and are invaluable to the life of the church. Assisting the deacons are deacons' assistants, who take responsibility for tasks within the church.

We continually look out among our membership to identify qualified men who are already shepherding and serving to appoint to these offices. We adhere to the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 for elders and deacon.