

# What We Believe

## The Three Principles

Growing churches are not usually filled with well-scrubbed Christians, but with a motley collection of sinners being saved such as us.

Some may argue that because salvation is by grace, not by works, why does it matter if sinners keep on sinning? But such thinking overlooks the fact that a new life in Christ results in a new lifestyle (1 Corinthians 6:11). Genuine salvation results in actually being saved from ongoing, habitual sin.

We must remember that we are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners, and therefore we act according to our nature. So if we are sinners who are trying to be good, we will inevitably fall. But if we are saints who occasionally sin, our nature is such that we hate sin and our habitual pattern of life is to walk in righteousness.

We strive to live lives free from habitual sin by practicing the following three principles:

- 1. Radical Amputation** - To remove completely and without reservation any source or access to sources that promote our sin or even temptation to sin.
  - *And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. (Matthew 18:8.ESV)*
  - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1.ESV)*
- 2. Radical Appropriation or Adoration** -To fill our lives and feast daily on the word of God and prayer seeking to be more like Jesus Christ in everything we say and do.
  - *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33.ESV)*
- 3. Radical Accountability** – To partner up with others that are living “healthy” lives free from habitual sin and to be completely transparent to them in all areas of our lives, giving them permission to be frank and honest with us, even if we find it painful or uncomfortable.
  - *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.ESV)*