

# echo church

## THEOLOGY

### PREFACE

*"Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your doctrine. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation."*

1 Timothy 4:16, The Message

The word theology is derived from two Greek words: "theos" meaning "God" and "logos" meaning "word" or speech. So theology is literally "God-talk." While the word "theology" can carry negative connotations for some, Echo Church is a hub of dialogue about God and His relevancy to the lives of all people.

What we intend to describe here are the theological absolutes (doctrines) that will be used to guide our church. This is by no means a comprehensive theology, as we believe that everything that happens on this earth can be considered to be an issue of theology. Additionally, there may be doctrinal issues with which believers in our community hold divergent views. Controversial issues about which the Bible is silent will be left for individual followers of Christ to sort out on their own, through the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Listed along with our statements are biblical references that serve as the basis for each doctrine.

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### GOD

Genesis 1 / Exodus 34:5-7 / Isaiah 43:10-1 / Matthew 3:16-17; 7:7; 12:50; 28:19 /  
John 14:16-17, 16:23-27 / Acts 17:24-28 / 2 Corinthians 6:18; 13:14 / Galatians 4:4-6 / Ephesians 4:6 /  
2 Timothy 2:4-5 / Hebrews 11:3

God is the center of our theology. We believe there is one God, the God of the Biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The One who created the Universe is all-knowing, all powerful, and present everywhere. We believe in the triune nature of God, in the forms of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, while still existing as One God.

### JESUS

Matthew 1:18-23 / Luke 24:1-8 / John 1:1-5,14; 3:16-18; 11:25; 14:6-7,9-11,16 /  
Acts 1:9-11 Romans 1:3-4, 3:24; 5:8-11; 6:23; 8:34 / 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 / 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 / Ephesians  
1:7 / Titus 2:13-14 / Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:24-25, 9:24 / 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24 / 1 John 2:1-2 / Revelation 19:20;  
20:15

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth, who lived 2,000 years ago, was not just a Jewish teacher or an important religious figure, but that He was God incarnate. We hold that, as the Son of God, he was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and literally and physically resurrected from the dead. Jesus ascended into heaven where he sits at the right hand of the Father. He will return one day to claim His own to eternal glory.

### HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:15-17; 25-26; 15:26; 16:5-15 / Acts 1:7-8 / Romans 8:9,26-27 /  
1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 12:4-31 / 2 Corinthians 3:6 / Ephesians 5:18 / 2 Timothy 1:14

The Holy Spirit is the presence of God in this world today. He dwells in the lives of His followers to empower them to do His will, to comfort them in times of need, and to guide them in His ways.

## THE SCRIPTURES

Psalms 119:105,160; 12:6 / Proverbs 30:5 / Matthew 5:17-18 / Luke 21:33; 24:44 /

John 16:12,13 Romans 15:4 / 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:15-17 / Hebrews 4:12 / 1 Peter 1:25 / 2 Peter 1:19-21

We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inerrant, infallible Word of God. Written by numerous authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we believe the original writings to be God-breathed. We accept the Bible as the final authority that God has given us for faith and living.

## PEOPLE AND THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Genesis 1:27 / Psalm 8:3-6 / Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2 / Romans 3:23

Human beings are God's most important creation, created "imago dei" [in the image of God], to exist forever. Sin caused separation between God and people so that they are not holy and not able to dwell in His presence.

## SALVATION

Psalms 51:4-5 / John 1:12, 3:16, 14:6 / Acts 2:42; 4:12, 10:43 / Romans 3:23,24; 5:12,16; 6:23 /

Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10 / Colossians 1:13-14 / 1 Peter 1:18-19 / 1 John 5:11-13

It is God's desire to redeem human beings so that they may dwell in His presence. Salvation is a gift from God, and we are granted His grace because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. There is no amount of good deeds that we can amass on this earth that will earn salvation. Those accepting Christ should repent of sin, confess their faith, and be baptized into Him.

## ETERNITY

John 3:16 / Romans 6:23 / 1 John 2:25; 5:11-13 / Revelation 20:15

Heaven and Hell are not allegorical or fictional places. They both are real and are the final destinations for all human beings.

## CHURCH

Matthew 28:18-20 / Mark 16:15-16 / Acts 2:38-47; 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28 / Romans 16:1,4 /

1 Corinthians 3:9, 5:4-7,13; 11:23-26, 12:12-14 / Colossians 1:18 / Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:25-27 /

Philippians 1:1 / Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:17 / 1 Timothy 3:1-7 / Titus 1:5-9 / 1 Peter 5:1-4

The church, the Bride of Christ, is under a missiological imperative to seek and save the lost. We believe in the autonomy of the local church to govern itself by a group of elders. We practice the Lord's supper and baptism. We believe that church worship should not be a scripted show for entertainment purposes but an authentic gathering of people seeking to meet with God in a deeply spiritual way.