

January 3, 2021

## Who Is Life Song Church?

This message series is more about our doctrinal beliefs than our history. We have the same set of beliefs and passions we have had for years, but as we grow spiritually, we grow in God's manifold wisdom. Perhaps the greatest spiritual maturity is standing on the **basic foundation of our faith**: Love God, love one another, believe the Bible is the Inspired Word of God. Jesus is the center of everything. Salvation is only found in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is no other way to our Father except through His Son.

**DOCTRINE:** Greek, Strong's #1319 *didaskalia* (did-as-kal-ee-ah); the act or manor of teaching and #1322 *didache* (did-akh-ay); what is taught. The word "doctrine" is used for both *didaskalia* and *didache*, but they differ in that one is the manor (disposition) of how we come across and the other is the content of what is being taught. We could have the correct content, but teach with the wrong disposition. If we teach through humility, love and compassion it will result in the demonstration of the Spirit and power (authority) of God. This is teaching through grace. If we teach through pride and self-glory the **spirit** on the message is law and control that will lead to "works," and works wars against grace because we do not receive anything from God through works. The traditions of man are based on works. **Eph 2:10** tells us we were **created** for good works, and not **saved** by good works. Works causes criticalness and division.

October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany. He listed his concerns with the Catholic church which eventually led to the **Protestant Reformation**. Church leaders thought Luther was a heretic, and a death bounty was put on his head. Luther had to go into hiding. Some believe Luther did not actually nail his Theses to the doors of the church and it is more of a metaphor, but the Ninety-Five Theses exists as a real document. Protestant comes from the term "to protest." Change never comes easy, even when it comes from God. "Out of the 2.4 billion Christians in the world, about 1.1 billion are Catholic, with another 800 million being Protestant. There are another 300 million or so other forms of Christianity, such as Orthodox" (fruitsofspirit.com).

Today we have all different types of denominations within the Christian faith. A **denomination** is a recognized autonomous branch of Christianity that differ by their practices and beliefs called doctrines. They have a centralized authority that determines the doctrine for their denomination. Even within certain denominations there are different doctrinal systems.

A **nondenominational** church is autonomous which means they have the final authority over their own church. Many belong to a church affiliation for fellowship, training-equiping, and unity, but remain autonomous. Their belief is to be led by the Holy Spirit and not by a hierarchy. Usually, the Lead Pastor has final authority, but always takes into account the wise counsel of his Elders, other leaders and their affiliations. This allows each nondenominational church to be unique in its gifting, calling, and purpose. These churches are more fluid and flexible in responding to current situations. A perfect example of this was how each church had to deal with coronavirus. Many denominational churches had no choice but to do what the hierarchy instructed them to do, while nondenominational churches decided on their own, most often with input from their affiliations as how to best move forward according to their community.

LSC is affiliated with the LINC association of churches (Linked in Network of Churches).

LSC is **nondenominational**, and yet we are made up of many denominations. Some of us were Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, Mennonite, Lutheran, and so on. LSC is led by a Lead Pastor who we pray and believe by faith is led by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God who is Jesus Christ. LSC has an inside board (Elders) and an outside board (Pastors from other churches). LSC also has a Leadership Team. All three groups help give input as to the direction of LSC and how to carry out what the Lord has called LSC to do. LSC also welcomes and contemplates input from the members of the church. Once a decision is made, it is only through a humility and grace, walking in love that we stay united.

LSC leadership style is called "**Servant Leadership**." All Leaders should be involved with carrying out the functions of the church. Their heart is to serve others and put their hand to the work of the ministry. LSC believes Leaders should not be able to form policy and direction if they are not willing to do the work. Our goal is to have a Leader over every area of ministry.

Currently those ministries are; Children's, Youth, Praise-Worship, Tech Team, Hospitality, Safety, Missions, Prayer-Altar, Ushers, Membership, Life Group, Welcome-Greeters, and Women's. Many times, the Leaders are the first ones to arrive at church on Sunday and the last ones to leave. Volunteers serve on the ministry teams and together with the Leaders, they are the hands and feet of LSC, the core of who we are, the love that holds us together through Jesus Christ. LSC has an amazing core group that expresses God's love to all people.

As far as aligning with doctrinal beliefs of other groups of churches, it is of the utmost importance which definition is applied. Evangelical churches can be defined many ways depending on who you are talking to, so being "**Evangelical**" to one person might mean something else to another. Simply put, Evangelical in the Greek means "good news" and so a person who spreads the good news of the Gospel is Evangelical.

A more thorough definition consists of 5 key elements:

1. You must be "born again" to be saved by putting your personal trust into Jesus Christ alone.
2. Believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the ultimate authority on every issue.
3. Salvation only comes through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross; His death, burial and resurrection. It is only by His grace that we are saved and not by works.
4. We are called to share our faith with others and be water baptized as an open display of our faith and conversion of our new life in Christ.
5. Most believe in the Rapture of the Church in the End Times.

**LSC is Evangelical as defined** by the 5 key elements above. Don't let someone else define who you are. Listen to your Father God. Even when lining up with different doctrinal terminologies, you might not agree with every aspect, but that should not stop us from being united against the forces of darkness. Remember, there are only two opposing kingdoms fighting for the souls of men; the Kingdom of Darkness (anti-word-of-God) and the Kingdom of Light (the Word of God).

**Let not a difference of opinion divide us.**

**Ecumenical** (Merriam-Webster) of, relating to, or representing the whole of a body of churches. promoting or tending toward worldwide Christian unity or cooperation.

Many theologians believe this concept started around 1910 due to Christian missionaries to foreign countries causing confusion about Christianity, such as water baptism being for infants or adults? The Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910 led to the formation of the International Missionary Council. Soon Catholicism was included and the World Council of Churches was held in Amsterdam in 1948.

"The **World Council of Churches** is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a community of churches on the way to visible unity in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and in common life in Christ. It seeks to advance towards this unity, as Jesus prayed for his followers, "so that the world may believe." (John 17:21) The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity.

The WCC brings together churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. There are now 350 member churches. [What is the World Council of Churches? | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/about-the-wcc)"

LSC is not a member of the WCC, but is willing to work with other churches to promote Christian principles and salvation in Christ alone. A perfect example is supporting and working with Right to Life of Sanilac County. The January 17th March for Life is at the Church of the Nazarian, led by a Catholic, with perhaps over 8 churches represented. LSC Not Ashamed Rallies and Ignite the Thumb Rallies are designed to bring different churches together to worship and praise our Lord Jesus Christ and enter into spiritual warfare as one in Christ. With this understanding, **LSC is Ecumenical**. Some people are concerned about Ecumenism because they believe it will lead to a one-world false religion. As soon as Ecumenism welcomes other faiths such as Islam, Hindu and Buddhist, that could happen. In fact, it has.

**On Feb 4, 2019** in Abu Dhabi Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb came out hand-in-hand after signing “**Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together.**” Al-Tayeb is the head Sunni Imam. This basically states that all religions are acceptable to God and are means of salvation. This Ecumenism we denounce!

The enemy will do everything he can to vilify any movement of God, especially the ones that bring unity. The Ecumenical movement started over 100 years ago to bring churches together, and Satan is doing everything he can to stop it and cause division.

If we say LSC is Ecumenical, what will people think? It depends on their perception of Ecumenism. This is one reason why there is so much division in the Body of Christ today; people make a broad brush stroke as to a certain terminology and vilify other Christians based on a lack of understanding.

February 25, 2018 the Sunday message was; “**Got Grace? We’re Good!**”

We as the Body of Christ have to stop letting doctrine divide us. Our question should not be “What is your doctrine on salvation?” It should be “Got Grace?” and if they say “Yes” our answer is “We’re good!” We are saved by grace through faith and not by a doctrine in itself; it is only possible through the Holy Spirit opening a person’s eyes to see the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are not compromising the Gospel; all of our hope and trust is in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

We should not let our doctrine define who we are, nor should we let it divide us. Our Father God tells us who we are in Christ, not our doctrine. We are children of God.

**1 Cor 2:2-5** *For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified.** 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power,** 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

Spirit filled preaching will give way to the demonstration of the Spirit and power of God. At LSC, we have experienced many miracles and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

**Heb 13:9** *Do not be carried about with various and **strange doctrines.** For it is good that the heart be established by **grace,** not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.*

“Not with foods” means not by the **traditions of man** which can make the Word of God null and void. God’s grace establishes our heart, not doctrine.

If doctrine defines who we are, it is likely we will be critical and divisive.

If God’s grace defined who we are, we will walk in humility, unity and love!

Do you have God’s grace?