



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 and to diffuse preference areas that may be divisive.

The following list is not comprehensive, but covers areas that presently seem to be of some concern.

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 Exposition of the Word of God

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.

Worship

Our elders have established our theology and style of worship. We encourage the entire body to enter into worship, 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. We also sing many passages of Scripture that we have put to music. Through our worship, we celebrate our God, ascribe attributes to

Him, and thank Him for His grace and mercy in our lives. We strive for our worship to be God centered, not man centered.

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 choose either to home school, private school, Christian school, or public school to educate their children.

Version of the Bible

Our teaching Pastor teaches from the NASB. We also encourage the use of the ESV, the HCSB, the NKJV, the Authorized KJV, and the NIV. We believe that the Word of God is inspired in the original Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic texts, and it is our desire to seek God's truth in each passage.

Student Ministries

The student ministry of Faith Bible Church exists to help believing students *grow* in their faith, *equip* students, their parents, and other adults for ministry, *connect* them with other Christians, *exhort* them to worship God, honor Him with their lives, and to *reach* non-believing students.

Since the founding of FBC, we have established an age-appropriate emphasis to our Student Ministry, providing for junior high, high school, and college-aged students.

This ministry is designed to work with parents and assist them in teaching their students. That we devote a staff pastor to oversee this ministry attests to the priority assigned to students here at FBC. We encourage parents to be involved in all aspects of our student ministries including Sunday Schools, Wednesday night gatherings, special events, camps, and retreats.

Children's Ministry

We provide age-appropriate classes for children on Sunday mornings. We encourage parents to involve their children in our Sunday School ministry.

AWANA

We have chosen AWANA as a tool to continue to teach children about God, His Word and world. Even though we do not endorse all that AWANA suggests, we follow this ministry where we believe it to be appropriate.

Emphasis on Volunteerism / Individual Ministry and Giftings.

We do not buy into the false 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.

Local Church-Based Ministry

We see clearly that the great commission is a corporate mandate given to the church and is to be accomplished by local churches. Therefore, our emphasis is that ministry effort and financial support should flow through the local church and non para-church organizations.

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 stewards, who take responsibility for tasks within the church.

We continually have men in elder and deacon training who, once they are ordained to serve in these capacities, may serve as long as they remain qualified.

We adhere to the 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 qualifications for elders and deacon.

Emphasis on Evangelism

We gather as a church for edification and instruction and leave for evangelism. We do not give a traditional invitation or alter call, but do admonish non-believers in attendance to meet a trained counselor after our gatherings for gospel-based discussion.

We provide and encourage a “Red Book” or “How to Know God Study” evangelistic tool to assist in sharing the Gospel. We recognize the sinful, helpless state of man and the calling of sinners to repentance by the Holy Spirit.

We also encourage world evangelism and have an active Missions strategy to direct this effort. Our Missions strategy includes support of foreign church planting missionaries, pastoral training opportunities, encouragement of short-term mission trips through our church, and local visitation of those in need of Christ.

We also see a need and support “Compassion Projects” which are projects that don’t necessarily fit our mission’s philosophy but still warrant our attention, and financial involvement. Examples of these projects include parts of our Haiti mission support and locally with our support of the Pregnancy Support Center.

We also encourage outreach to our community through a multitude of personal ministries and evangelistic events (Nursing Home, Community Fun Day, etc).

We are also committed to reaching out to the greater Canton area through such ministries as ROCK (Reaching out to Canton’s Kids) and our monthly outreach dinners.

Sunday Night Services

We believe that one day of the week should be set aside for corporate worship and have asked our body to set aside Sundays for this purpose.

In addition to our Sunday School electives and our corporate worship gathering on Sunday mornings, we encourage the body to participate in our small group ministry: FLOCKS. FLOCKS meet weekly, bi-monthly or monthly depending on the group.

We also encourage the fellowship with other church families on Sunday evenings.

In order to facilitate the fellowship of our body and allow our leaders time to minister, we have chosen not to have a traditional Sunday night service.

Our desire for this design is for more body life, not more leisure.

We do meet on the Sunday nights that the elders call the body together for special times of fellowship and encouragement.