

# LBC Distinctives



Lakewood Baptist Church have some very distinguishing characteristics that we call distinctives:

# LBC Distinctives



- The glory of God is central
  - Biblical Church government
  - Expository, Christ-centered preaching is central
  - Congregational singing and praying are central
  - Christian Families are central
  - God-centered, Holy Spirit Regeneration Evangelism
  - Prayerfully and carefully one-anothering is central
  - Check out each distinctive in the left hand margin.
- "The sovereignty of God's love, the sufficiency of Christ's saving work, and the hopelessness of man apart from the gracious work of the Spirit, are key truths in an approach that keeps the focus of our hearts upon the great worth and glory of God!"**

# Glory of God is Central



•LBC seeks to cherish and uphold God's honor and reputation in all things--beliefs and practices.

*so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. Ephesians 3:10 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:21*

*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36*

- This can be seen in our statement of faith (Boyce's Abstract of Principles).
- This can be seen in our philosophy of ministry – **"The sovereignty of God's love, the sufficiency of Christ's saving work, and the hopelessness of man apart from the gracious work of the Spirit, are key truths in an approach that keeps the focus of our hearts upon the great worth and glory of God!"**

# Glory of God is Central



- We believe in and strive for regenerate church membership. We believe that only God can change the sinner's heart. And He does! By using a careful and prayerful approach to evangelism, believer's baptism, and church membership we are narrowing the gap that exists between professors and possessors. God's glory and reputation are the reasons.
- **LBC** sees the biblical need and mandate to exercise careful and prayerful church discipline according to Matthew 18. Again, God's glory and reputation are the reasons.

# Biblical Church Government



- **Elder/Pastor led**-- The church has a body of elders/pastors who teach and shepherd the flock. In accordance with Hebrews 13:17, they keep watch over the congregation as men who must give an account to God. According to the same text, the congregation is to obey them and submit to their authority so that their work will be a joy and not a burden. The elders must meet the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7, and they exercise authority over the church only to the degree that they teach and lead according to the Scriptures.
- **Deacon Served**-- According to the teachings of Jesus, the life of every Christian is to be marked by service (Mark 9:35). However, the New Testament also speaks of the specific office of deacon. The word deacon (gk: *diakonos*) denotes a helper or servant who serves (gk: *diakoneo*). Before a man may be appointed as a deacon, he must be tested for the qualifications found in I Timothy 3:8-13. The tasks of a deacon are primarily that of meeting the physical and material needs of individual believers and the congregation as a whole. If the deacon serves faithfully, he obtains for himself a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus (I Timothy 3:13).
- **Congregationally affirmed** – The duly appointed elders/pastors use patience and wisdom in decision making for unity's sake. Affirmation from the congregation is *sought* as God's confirmation on the matter. (Matthew 18:15-17, Acts 6:2-5, I Corinthians 5:4-5, II Corinthians 2:6).

# Expositional-Christ Centered Preaching



- This can be seen by the emphasis placed on the preached word. The sermons are unapologetically not short or shallow.
- We believe the best, time-tested way to read, hear, and understand the Bible is expositionally (verse by verse, book by book).
- **Luke 24:27, 44** lay the foundation for Christ-centered preaching. God is most glorified through the Person and work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. By His unrivaled character and work (merit), He has redeemed for Himself a people (the Church). As His church, we strive above all things to know Him, love Him, praise Him, and serve Him. It is by, through, and for Him that we exist. It is our goal to keep Him the honored center of all that we say and do! “In all things He must have the preeminence” (Colossians 1



# Congregational Worship

- Lakewood believes in congregational worship. This means that songs and music (along with musicians) should be chosen with this in mind. We will select songs that are not only rich in content, but simple in form.
- We seek to worship God reverently and joyfully, not flippantly.
- We seek to remember and cherish Christ and the Gospel through song.
  
- We meet every Sunday at 9:30 for congregational prayer. Jesus in Matthew 21:13 that His house would be called a house of prayer. Congregational prayer uses the pronouns “we”, “our”, and “us”. It is a way of praying not only *for* but *with* your brothers and sisters. During this time we seek to get all our hearts right, pray for the glory of Christ to be seen and savored, pray for The Church, the lost, the nations.

# Christian Families are Central



- Ephesians 5:22-6:4 provides the model taken after Christ to His church.
- The husband is to lead and love, protecting and providing both physically and spiritually, thus modeling Christ to His church.
- The wife is to submit to and respect her husband, as unto the Lord, modeling the church to Christ.
- The child/youth is to honor their father and mother, and prayerfully be led to Christ in this Christian home.
- As God adds to His church those without Christian families, we will seek to be the family of God to them, modeling Titus 2 in pulling them beneath our care and example.
- Those not married are to be reminded that all earthly marriages eventually end, giving way to the eternal marriage of Christ to His church.



# Prayerfully One-anothering

- We desire to lovingly and patiently hold our church family accountable, making sure that we each possess a genuine, warm, persevering faith.

## **Hebrews 3:12**

*12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.*

## **1 Timothy 4:15-16**

*15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.*

*16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.*

•Husbands/fathers are the pastors of their own home. Ephesians 6:4; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. **We encourage and expect this.**

•The pastor(s) and or duly appointed leaders will shepherd your soul through home visits. Each family will also have approximately 3 spiritual interviews each year. In these interviews, each family will give testimony of their love/devotion to Jesus Christ, their ongoing battle with sin, their personal quiet time and family worship, and what ministry God may be calling them into.

# Prayerfully One-anothering continued



- We encourage the men to build an accountability partnership with other men through GODWARD.
- We encourage the women to build an accountability partnership with other women through T.O.U.C.H. group and/or church.
- We encourage our young people to build an accountability partnership with other young people through T.O.U.C.H. group and/or church.
- TOUCH groups** are a vital means of one-anothering. **Be a part of one!**

# God Centered, Holy Spirit Regenerated Evangelism



**“The sovereignty of God's love, the sufficiency of Christ's saving work, and the hopelessness of man apart from the gracious work of the Spirit, are key truths in an approach that keeps the focus of our hearts upon the great worth and glory of God!”**

This means that we can eliminate two common pitfalls in evangelism— On the one hand we can eliminate guilt and pressure tactics from our preaching and evangelism (hopelessness of man apart from the gracious work of the Spirit). On the other hand we can eliminate laziness and carelessness in our preaching and evangelism (God uses the gospel, the foolishness of preaching, and the testimonies of the saints to save the lost).

# God Centered, Holy Spirit Regenerated Evangelism



God help us to preach the Gospel to every creature and to implore all people to repent and believe wholeheartedly upon Christ!  
At the same time, we recognize that neither repentance nor faith can be produced by manipulating emotions or coercing the will. They are the result of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Thus we preach, teach, and witness with great dependence upon the Holy Spirit to open hearts, remove scales from the eyes, change minds, bring spiritual life and light to those who are dead in their sins and in darkness, and grant the grace gifts of faith and repentance.

# God Centered, Holy Spirit Regenerated Evangelism



*Why does God command us to spread the gospel of His beloved Son, Jesus?*

**1. BECAUSE GOD LOVES HIS GLORY!**

*Ephesians 1:5-6--He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

*Ephesians 1:12-- to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.*

*Ephesians 1:14--who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

*Revelation 5:9--And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

**BECAUSE GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE!**

*Matthew 1:21--"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." John 3:16; Romans 5:8*

**3. TRUE GROWTH IS GOD'S DOING.** (Depth and width).

*"And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:47*

*"(Jesus) I will build my church." Matthew 16:18*

# HOW WE WILL REACH THEM



*Reaching: Our three-part strategy to reach people for Christ:*

1. Prayer: We will pray individually and corporately for those lost souls God has placed in our path. "Ask and it shall be given to you, Seek and you shall find, Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it shall be opened." Luke 11:9-10
2. Care: We will care for people by showing them the love of Jesus in word and deed. This will occur through relationships with unbelievers, T.O.U.C.H. groups, servanthood evangelism, and being sensitive to the needs of our "neighbor".
3. Share: Sharing involves giving our testimonies and sharing the gospel one on one as well as from the pulpit. This can/must happen throughout the week, in our neighborhoods, in T.O.U.C.H. groups, in corporate worship, and in a variety of other settings. "Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you." I Peter 3:15