

Articles and Sermons :: Calvary Chapel Distinctives by Chuck Smith

Calvary Chapel Distinctives by Chuck Smith - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/2/28 23:39

I thought it would be good to share with everyone at SI this short book that curtails the basic beliefs in summary of what the Calvary Chapel movement believes www.calvarychapel.com

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[Image: <https://www.sermonindex.net/images/calvarychapeldistinctives.jpg>]

Preface

What is it that makes Calvary Chapel different from other Bible-believing, evangelical churches? It's always good to have a grasp of the unique work that God has done in our fellowship. If Calvary Chapel is exactly like the church across the street it would be better to simply merge the two. But, if there are distinctives that make us different, then we have a unique and special place in the plan of God. Certainly there are churches that share many of our beliefs and practices. We're not renegades. But God has done a wonderful work of balance in the Calvary Chapel movement that does make us different in many areas.

There are many who believe in the gifts and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but they don't have a strong emphasis on Biblical teaching, nor do they look to the Word to guide their experiences with the Holy Spirit. There are many who have a strong emphasis on teaching the Word of God, but they don't share the view that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available and valid today. In Calvary Chapel we find the teaching of the Word, and an open heart to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is this balance that makes Calvary Chapel a distinct and uniquely blessed movement of God. And so it's important to understand the Biblical principles that make up the picture of why God has allowed us to exist and grow.

This is not to say that all Calvary Chapels are identical. I'm always amazed at how God can take simple basic elements and create such variety out of them. Basically, all of us have two eyes, a nose, a mouth, and two ears, and yet how different we all look from each other! People also have different emotional make-ups. Now, God loves everyone. He loves the highly emotional and He loves the dull and unemotional. In the same way, wanting all men to be able to relate to Him, God created a wide variety of churches. Some churches appeal to those who are very emotional in their nature while others appeal to a more staid and formal personality. God, desiring to reach and bless all kinds of people, seems to enjoy having a wide variety of churches so that everybody's needs might be met, from the highly emotional to the very formal, and all those in between. Each of us has a part to play in God's plan, but we all need to know where we fit in this wide spectrum. That is why it's crucial for us to grasp what we call the Calvary Chapel Distinctives. As we see what makes our fellowship unique, we will also come to better understand our position in the body of Christ.

Chapters in this book:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14968>) Introduction: The Call to The Ministry
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14969>) 1. God's Model for the Church
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14970>) 2. Church Government
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14971>) 3. Empowered by the Spirit
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14973>) 4. Building the Church God's Way
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14974>) 5. Grace upon Grace
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14975>) 6. The Priority of the Word
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14976>) 7. The Centrality of Jesus Christ
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14977>) 8. The Rapture of the Church
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14978>) 9. Having Begun in the Spirit
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14979>) 10. The Supremacy of Love
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14980>) 11. Striking the Balance
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid14981>) 12. Ventures of Faith

Re: Calvary Chapel Distinctives by Chuck Smith - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/3/6 18:53

Here is an pdf version of the book you can download:

(<http://www.calvarychapel.com/library/smith-chuck/books/ccd.pdf>) Pdf version of the distinctives book

STATEMENT OF FAITH

by Chuck Smith

Calvary Chapel has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our supreme desire is to know Christ and be conformed to His image by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not a denominational church, nor are we opposed to denominations as such, only to their over-emphasis of the doctrinal differences that have led to the division of the Body of Christ.

We believe the only true basis of Christian fellowship is Christ's Agape love, which is greater than any differences we possess and without which we have no right to claim ourselves Christians.

We believe worship of God should be spiritual. Therefore, we remain flexible and yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our worship.

We believe worship of God should be inspirational. Therefore, we give great place to music in our worship.

We believe worship of God should be intelligent. Therefore, our services are designed with great emphasis upon the teaching of the Word of God that He might instruct us how He should be worshipped.

We believe worship of God should be fruitful. Therefore, we look for His love in our lives as the supreme manifestation that we have truly been worshipping Him.

We believe in all the basic doctrines of historic Christianity.

We believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, that the Bible, Old and New Testaments are the inspired, infallible Word of God.

We believe that God is eternally existent in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is the personal, transcendent, and sovereign Creator of all things.

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human, that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, provided for the atonement of our sins by His substitutionary death on the cross, was bodily raised from the dead, ascended back to the right hand of the Father, and ever lives to make intercession for us.

We believe in the personal, visible, and pre-millennial second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. He will return with His saints and set up a kingdom of which there will be no end.

After Jesus ascended to Heaven, He poured out His Holy Spirit on the believers in Jerusalem, enabling them to fulfill His command to preach the Gospel to the entire world, an obligation shared by all believers today.

We believe that all people are, by nature, separated from God and responsible for their own sin, but that salvation, redemption, and forgiveness are freely offered to all by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When a person repents of sin and accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, trusting Him to save, that person is immediately born again and sealed by the Holy Spirit, all his/her sins are forgiven, and that person becomes a child of God, destined to spend eternity with the Lord.

We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Scriptures, and that they are valid for today if they are exercised within the scriptural guidelines. We as believers are to covet the best gifts, seeking to exercise them in love that the whole Body of Christ might be edified. We believe that love is more important than the most spectacular gifts, and without this love all exercise of spiritual gifts is worthless.

Re: Calvary Chapel Distinctives.... - posted by sdb, on: 2005/3/10 10:12

I have listened to and attended several Calvary Chapel affiliates both locally and across the nation. Calvary Chapel does an excellent job of adhering to basic berean beliefs of knowing and studying the Word both inside and out. Its true that each Church is independent but follows the basic distinctives set forth by Chuck Smith. They seem to be very "middle of the road" when it comes to beliefs which is always been a blessing to me. with that in mind they also follow a very middle of the road approach when it comes to worship---Chuck Smith promotes a more "quieter?" approach when it comes to public worship for the individual --definitely no slain in the spirit experiences here - but nor do they deny any opportunity to worship openly but they definitely request a more subdued approach so as not to become the focus of worship as opposed to the Lord ... this Church would definitely be my suggestion for any new Christian looking for a well balanced experience in teaching. ;-)