



Doctrine Matters—part 1  
Distinctives  
From sermon 7.13.19

Read *1 Timothy 4:6*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: New Heights has changed much over the years (almost decades). Some things we used to believe/practice, we no longer do. Some things we never believed/practiced, now we do. It's important to know what we believe and why.

11 Distinctives

1. New Heights believes and presents Jesus Christ as He is revealed in Scripture. We believe Him to be fully God—the second member of the Trinity. When He came to earth, He was 100% God and 100% man at the same time. His substitutionary death on the cross fully paid for the sin of the elect and satisfied God's righteous wrath. We believe He rose from the grave on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Salvation is found in no one else. Because of this believe, we say New Heights is distinctively: Christian. Why would we need to formally list what we believe about Jesus?  
See *Romans 10:9, Acts 4:12, & Galatians 1:9*

2. We are distinctively Protestant. What does that mean for us? We are not a part of the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Church and much of their beliefs. We adhere to the return to Scripture by the 16<sup>th</sup> Century reformers. Where they line up with Scripture, we agree with Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, and others. We believe a person is saved by God's grace alone, not by works or any mixture of grace and works. See *Ephesians 2:8-9*

3. Because we believe the Bible to be the exclusive, inspired God-breathed Word, we are distinctively Fundamental(ist). See *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

- Inerrant: The Bible, in its original text, is free from any errors.
- Infallible: because it's God's Word, like Him, the Bible is trustworthy and faithful.
- Verbal: We believe God gave the human writers the exact words to use. No more. No less.
- Plenary: the Bible is equally inspired from cover to cover. It is complete and closed.

4. New Heights adheres to the 5 Sola Statements and 5-point Calvinism. These are not new doctrines (or newer—from 16<sup>th</sup> century), but found clearly in Scripture. Because of this belief, New Heights is distinctively Reformed.

Yet, we are not a part of the Reformed Church denomination.

5. We are distinctively Baptist? Does that mean we belong to a Baptist/the Southern Baptist denomination? No. We still hold that the Bible teaches 1) A believer's Baptism only. And, 2) that baptism is done by Immersion.

6. New Heights is no longer a part of a denomination. We do not answer to a council, synod, or any outside authority. We elect, call, and ordain our own Elders. Therefore, we are distinctively Independent.

7. New Heights' Leadership structure is that of a Presbytery. Yet, we are not Presbyterians. What, then, does this mean for us? Not only do we call and ordain our own leaders, but the Church is to be led and managed by Elders.

- Biblically Qualified: 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Male: 1 Timothy 2:11-12
- Plurality: Titus 1:5 & Acts 14:23

8. New Heights believes that God has broken down redemptive history into segments, eras, or ages. Each came with new revelation about God, new commands or expectations, blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. We call this distinctive Dispensationalism  
We are currently in the Age of the Church or the Age of Grace. See *Ephesians 3:2-5*  
In its final conclusive meaning, Dispensationalism teaches that:

The Church is the Church. And, Israel is Israel.

9. New Heights is Creedal. There have been great statements of faith compiled and written over church history to answer heresy that has arose and clarify doctrine. Whereas many of these agree with Scripture, New Heights uses and teaches them as aids to faith and growth. One example is the Apostle's Creed. Someone read:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church\*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

10. New Heights believes that the charismatic gifts (healing, tongues, miracles, & prophecy) ceased at the closing of the writing of the Scriptures and the end of the Apostolic Age. Therefore, we are distinctively Cessationist.

11. New Heights believes the New Testament clearly teaches—therefore, we will practice when necessary—Church Discipline, up to and including removal from the membership and participation in the church. The biblical guidelines of the Scripture must be followed with restoration as the supreme goal. See *Matthew 18:15-20*