

# DISCOVER CITYVIEW #1 – BACKGROUND & BELIEFS

## Cityview Story

Cityview Bible Church was planted in Round Rock, TX in Sept. 2007, as a part of a movement of churches who desire to impact Greater Austin with the gospel of Jesus Christ. With a core team of 100 adults, Cityview was commissioned by HCBC Pflugerville and launched in the Chasco YMCA. From 2009-2012 we commissioned 3 church plants, and by 2012 our attendance grew to more than 400 on Sundays. That year we purchased 20 acres in Northeast Round Rock. By 2014 Cityview paid off the purchase price of the land, and in 2016 we broke ground on our new church building which was completed in November 2017 and worship and ministry continued at our present location.

## Our Mission:

Cityview Bible Church exists to multiply disciples and plant churches that declare the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ to every man, woman, and child.

## Our Vision

By 2030, Cityview Bible Church will equip 1000 disciple-makers, plant 5 new churches, and celebrate 500 baptisms in Greater Austin. How is this vision *going to become reality in our lifetimes?* Three Multiplication Strategies: multiplying disciple-makers; planting strategically located, spiritually vibrant churches; partnering with like-minded ministries. This vision is rooted biblically in **Acts 1:8**: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Four Key ideas: Need for the Holy Spirit, Gospel Proclamation, Geographic Ownership, Personal Responsibility.

## Gospel Unity & Kingdom Diversity

As part of our vision of reaching **every** man, woman, and child in our community with the gospel, Cityview Bible Church desires to be a multi-ethnic, economically diverse local church that reflects the diversity of Round Rock and the unity of the Kingdom of God. This requires all of us to humbly set aside our preferences and embrace cultural forms that may be unfamiliar to us for the sake of the gospel and the glory of God. Why are we pursuing this goal together?

## Biblical Mandate

In line with God’s heart in Genesis 12:3; Envisioned by Jesus in John 10:14-16 and by His Prayer in John 17:20-23; Implied by Jesus’ Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8; Described by Luke in the Early Church in Acts 11:19-26 & 13:1 (Antioch); Supported Theologically by Paul in Ephesians 2:11-22; Prescribed Practically by Paul in Ephesians 3:6 and Galatians 3:28; Segregation Confronted in Galatians 2:11-12; Reflecting the Eternal Kingdom in Revelation 5:9-10 and 7:9-10

## Practical Reasons

Exalting Christ: we lift Jesus high through our unified worship; Spiritual Growth: we mature in our faith by learning from other traditions and cultures; Missional Impact: we can best reach every man, woman, and child in our city (proclamation); Corporate Witness: we testify to the unifying power of the gospel (demonstration); Changes Hearts: we confront sins of consumerism and favoritism (James 2:9); Addressing Injustice: we work together on creating a more just society; Reconciling Wounds: we experience the power of love and forgiveness together.

# Your Background

- 1. CITYVIEW & Other Evangelical, Bible-believing Protestants:** A difference in **organization** and **form**. CITYVIEW: organizationally: lay-elder-led; form: contemporary.  
OTHER CHURCH MODELS: congregational-led, bishop-led, pastor-led; forms: traditional, house-church.
- 2. CITYVIEW & Roman Catholicism:** A difference in **authority** and **means of salvation**:  
CITYVIEW: authority: Scripture over the church; means of salvation: grace alone by faith alone.  
RCC: authority: Church over Scripture; means of salvation: grace accumulated through sacraments.
- 3. CITYVIEW & Liberal Protestants:** A difference in **biblical trustworthiness**:  
CITYVIEW: The Bible is inerrant and fully trustworthy.  
LIBERAL PROTESTANTS: The Bible is a fallible, error-filled book of history
- 4. CITYVIEW & the Sects (Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc.):** A difference in the **person of Jesus**  
CITYVIEW: Jesus is eternal Son of God, fully-God & fully-man, crucified & raised  
MORMONISM: Father is a glorified man; Jesus is a created being, not eternal or fully God, example of how we can become gods through obedience and sacrifice.  
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: Jesus is a created being, the firstborn son of Jehovah, not divine, became the Messiah at His baptism, died as ransom on a stake, not cross
- 5. CITYVIEW & other religions (Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism):** A difference in **God's nature**  
CITYVIEW: God is Triune, Eternal, Holy, Just, Loving, and Good  
ISLAM: God (Allah) is Singular, Eternal, Holy, and Just  
HINDUISM: God is Ultimate Reality with multiple expressions (polytheism)  
BUDDHISM: God is Unknown, pursuit of Enlightenment Highest Goal
- 6. CITYVIEW & Atheism:** A difference in **God's existence**  
CITYVIEW: God exists eternally outside of space and time, Creator of all things  
ATHEISM: Naturalism explains everything, God unnecessary
- 7. CITYVIEW & Agnosticism:** A difference in **epistemology** (knowability of truth)  
CITYVIEW: Truth is knowable, and God's revelation in the Bible is foundational  
AGNOSTICISM: Truth is unknowable, and all religions have partial knowledge

## Primary Beliefs (members fully support)

**1 - The Authority and Inerrancy of Scripture.** We believe the Bible, as revealed to us in the Old and New Testaments, is our final authority and without error in its original manuscripts. (*Mt 5:17-18, 2 Tm 3:16-17, 2 Pt 1:20-21, Heb 4:12-13*)

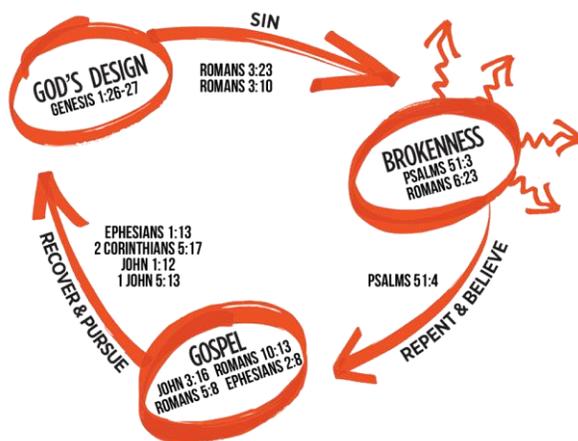
**2 - The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** We believe in One God who exists eternally as three co-equal, fully divine persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*Dt 6:4, Mt 28:19, 2 Cor 13:13*)

**3 - The Full Deity and Humanity of Jesus.** We believe that Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, both fully God and fully human at the same time and forever. (*Jn 1:1-18, Jn 20:28, Titus 3:4-6*)

**4 - The Dignity and Depravity of Humanity.** We believe that every person has inherent worth and value because they are created in the image of God, and yet that every person is a sinner by nature and by choice and unable to justify themselves before God based on their own good deeds. (*Gen 1:27, Ps 14:2-3, Rom 3:9-20*)

**5 - The Substitutionary Atonement and Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ.** We believe that Jesus died in our place for our sins, was buried, and then was physically resurrected to new life. (*1 Cor 15:3-4, 2 Cor 5:21, Rom 5:8, Rom 1:4*)

**6 - Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone.** We believe that people are reconciled to God and reborn to eternal life by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ and not as the result of any human efforts. (*Eph 2:8-9, Rm 3:21-31*). Salvation cannot be gained or lost by our own efforts.



**7- The Necessity of the Holy Spirit for the Christian Life.** We believe that ongoing dependence on the indwelling Holy Spirit is necessary for the believer to walk in holiness and fruitful ministry. (*Gal 5:24-25, 1 Cor 6:19-20, Rom 8:5-11*).

**8 - The Future Physical Return of Christ.** We believe that Jesus Christ will return to the earth in the future to finalize His work of redemption and restoration. (*Rev 1:7, 1 Thes 4:13-18, 2 Pet 3:1-13*)

## **Secondary Beliefs:** (members support – may not totally agree)

**1- Church Government - Cityview is an elder-led church.** We believe the local church is best served when led by a plurality of godly men who seek to follow Jesus together and provide spiritual care and guidance for the congregation. (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Acts 14:23, 20:25-31, 1 Timothy 5:17-20, 1 Peter 5:1-4, James 5:14-15)

**2- Gender Roles - Cityview is “Complementarian” in our view of gender roles.** We affirm the equal value/dignity/giftedness of men and women as created in God’s image (Gen 1, Acts 2:17-18, Gal 3:28) AND hold to distinct roles for men and women in the home and the church. (Eph 5:21-32, Col 3:18-19, 1 Tim 2:12-15, 3:1-7, and 1 Cor 11:1-13)

**3 – Spiritual Gifts - Cityview is “Continuationist” under the sufficiency of Scripture.** We believe that all the spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament exist today (none have ceased), but that we are not receiving new revelation today that is on the same level as Scripture. Scripture warns us not to add or take away Biblical text. We are called to humbly use our spiritual gifts to build up the Church. (Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12,14, Eph 11-16)

**4 – Baptism & Communion - Cityview baptizes people by immersion after they believe in Christ.** Baptism is the outward sign of an inward reality, and that the practice of the New Testament is “believer’s baptism.” Therefore, we don’t baptize infants at Cityview. We don’t require baptism by immersion to be a member, but we do encourage everyone to take the step of baptism if they have not been baptized after their conversion. The method of baptism is less important than the order of baptism. (Matt 28:19-20, Rom 6:4) [cityviewbible.org/baptism/](http://cityviewbible.org/baptism/)

**Communion** celebrates the Gospel: Jesus was broken for us so that we can be fixed by Him. Celebrating communion emphasizes the love of Christ for us: how He gave Himself completely to pay our sin debt and offer eternal life, and lived a perfect life and gave us the Spirit so we can live the abundant life.

**5 – Singleness, Marriage, and Sexuality - Cityview affirms that both singleness, marriage, sexual identity are gifts from God** (1 Cor. 7:1-40). Singleness is a way to follow Jesus and devote influence, time, energy, and relationships to serve God and help others in ways that married people can’t. Our Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul are great examples of the single life. Sexual relations are prohibited for the single person.

God created marriage so that one man and one woman would form an exclusive and lifelong relationship in experiencing the joy of sexual and personal union, and possibly the gift of children. Christian marriage is to serve as an earthly model of Christ’s love for His Bride, the Church (Eph 5:25-33).

God made humanity as physical and sexual beings, male and female, both reflecting God’s image. Healthy sexuality requires that we learn how deeply sin has damaged our understanding, desires, and expressions. We, therefore, rely on the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and the loving community of Christ to diagnose our brokenness and reveal God’s plan for healing and restoration.

## **6 – Divorce and Remarriage - Cityview defines the biblical grounds for divorce as the ongoing violation of the marriage covenant by a spouse who will not repent.**

God intends marriage to last a lifetime, but in some situations, divorce is the most God honoring option based on the hardness of a person's heart as it is expressed through ***unrepentant abandonment, abuse, addiction, and adultery.***

God has established the leadership of the local church to come alongside couples to help them apply Gospel truths (confession, repentance, forgiveness, amends, reconciliation). God can restore any marriage if both parties are willing to repent and follow Christ by dependence on the Spirit, the Word, and God's people.

Background: The OT marriage covenant reflected God's love to us through three categories within the provision for our basic needs (Ex 21:10-11). That each husband and wife commit to:

1. **Provide** (*not abandon*) for their spouse financially, relationally, and sexually.
2. **Protect** (*not abuse*) their spouse physically, emotionally, relationally, and in all areas.
3. **Be faithful** (*not adulterous nor idolatrous/addictive*) to their spouse emotionally, sexually, and in all ways.

Unrepentant violations of these marriage vows provided biblical grounds for divorce for OT believers (effectively dissolving the marriage covenant). God Himself divorced Israel and warned Judah of the same result if they continued to violate the divine marriage covenant between them (Jeremiah 3:8).

Jesus came to fulfill the Law not to abolish it (Mt 5:17) and thereby affirms the OT marriage covenant. Jesus addressed the unbiblical application of divorce in the religious culture in Israel (Mt 19:1-12) and specified adultery as a cause. Paul addressed divorce in the secular culture in Corinth (1 Cor. 7:10-15) and specified abandonment by an unbeliever as a cause. The whole counsel of Scripture is necessary to provide a thorough treatment of divorce and remarriage.

Jesus gave us a clear path to determine if divorce is the God honoring option or if the marriage can be restored by following the steps of Matthew 18:15-17. These commands provide the way to address sin in the marriage relationship and to achieve either resolution or reconciliation.

Divorce obtained unbiblically can be forgiven and the person can be restored to spiritual and relational health through following Gospel steps and the guidance of church leadership. This may result in reconciliation with the divorced spouse or confirmation that the person is biblically free to remarry.

Remarriage can also be a God-honoring option if it follows the Gospel path of healing, freedom, and the accountability of church leadership. Cityview seeks to apply Gospel truth to marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Jesus came to give us abundant life and He has the power to restore, heal, and transform our lives. (Jn10:10, 16:33)

## **Tertiary Beliefs:** (members show compassion & understanding – may not fully agree)

### **1 - Politics**

Cityview doesn't take official positions on political candidates because we have such a wide variety of political opinions within our church. While relevant political issues will be addressed from Scripture, the pulpit of Cityview will not be used for political purposes. We seek to represent Christ well in our public tone and debate of political issues, and to be careful to not alienate people who need the Gospel.

1. Jesus came to save sinners not to condemn them (John 3). The "Friend of sinners" came to save people not a political system. The Church is accountable now, not unbelievers. (1 Cor 5:12).
2. Jesus prayed that His followers would be unified. (John 17:20-21) Christian Americans are divided politically and racially because of our painful and segregated history. Restoration is still needed.
3. Jesus told us we cannot serve two masters (Mt 6:24). Christ made our mission clear: make disciples of all ethnic people groups (Mt 28:19-20). Are we serving Christ or a political agenda?
4. Jesus calls us to be the light and salt of the world (Mt 5). Being involved in politics requires that we elevate the grace and truth of Jesus and reject self-righteousness and partisanship.

### **2 - End Times**

Cityview is officially *premillennial* and *dispensational* in our eschatology, but our pastors and elders don't always agree on the finer points of end-times theology. Because of the difficulty of the Biblical passages and the diversity of historical positions, Cityview members have more diverse viewpoints.

- *Premillennial* - the belief that Jesus will physically return to the Earth before the Millennium, a literal thousand-year golden age of peace.
- *Dispensational* - an evangelical theological system that organizes sections of biblical history. Addressing time, the time periods of the covenants, Israel, the Church, and end times.

### **3 - Worship Style**

Cityview is contemporary in our worship style and open to using modern technology to enhance our experience of God's truth in worship. The style of our worship will continue to change as we adapt to diverse ethnic influences and new tools and means for encountering God. While the forms will change, the functions will remain the same in obedience to Scripture (public reading, preaching, singing, sacraments, confession, prayer, etc.).

### **4 - Philosophy of Education**

The families of Cityview use all kinds of strategies to educate their children. Some homeschool, others use private schools, and others use public schools. As church members, we have agreed to support each other in our schooling decisions. At the end of day, whatever schooling method parents use, they are still called by God to be the primary disciplers of their children.