



LAURELWOOD

# WHO WE ARE

Loving God • Loving People • Making Disciples

## Our Mission

### Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19-20 & Matthew 22:37-40

*We aspire to be a community who finds more joy being for something – loving God, loving people, and making disciples – than being against something. We are all flawed and therefore we want Laurelwood to be a place of grace. Some have been in a church their whole lives; others are just starting to discover where they can encounter God together. We are family through the best of times as well as the worst. We'd love for you to become part of our family. We are from all backgrounds. No matter who you are or what journey you're on, there is a place for you here at Laurelwood.*

## Our Beliefs

**God:** We believe there is one true God, creator of everything and existing eternally in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**God the Father** is the first person of the Trinity, and sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

**God the Son**, Jesus Christ, is God's only begotten Son who died on the cross, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will personally and visibly return to this world.

**God the Holy Spirit** indwells believers at the time of salvation and is progressively changing, instructing, and empowering them spiritually for service and godly living.

**The Bible:** We believe the Scriptures are inspired by God and complete. The Scriptures are without error. We base all we believe and do on the Scriptures without taking away or adding anything to them.

**Humanity:** We believe that humanity was created by God but because of originally choosing to sin, incurred a sinful nature causing physical and spiritual separation from God.

**Salvation:** We believe that mankind is saved from the eternal penalty of sin by confessing with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believing in their heart God raised Him from the dead. Every person's salvation decision is solely a matter between

themselves and God and they may approach God directly with their prayers for forgiveness of sins and petitions on behalf of themselves and others.

**The Church:** The church is made up of born-again believers gathering to grow in their relationship with God and each other; and, to proclaim the gospel of Christ. The offices of the church are Pastor (Elder, Bishop, Overseer) and Deacon or Deaconess depending on gender. The two ordinances of the church are the Believer's Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. The church has a clearly defined decision-making process. The church supports civil government but the church's establishment, control, beliefs, direction, conduct, affairs, and activities are under the authority of God. The church looks for who God has called and supplied with the spiritual gifts, passions, and resources to speak directly to the questions and misconceptions of our culture and minister to families of all generations.

**Eternity:** We believe in both the believing saved and the non-believing lost eventually living forever; the saved enjoying reward and the lost suffering punishment.

**Satan:** We believe that Satan is a fallen angel and the open, declared enemy of God and man.

**Visit [laurelwoodbc.com](http://laurelwoodbc.com) for scripture references to above beliefs**

## Following Jesus Together

Following Jesus includes disciples of Christ making disciples for Christ.

Some of the issues involved in making disciples are covered in the Discover Laurelwood Class and Leadership Classes. A sample of topics may include:

Basic Disciplines of the Christian Life

A Servant's Heart

Training Hard, Running Well and Finishing Strong

Who I Am In Christ

Peacemaker's Goal/Process

Sharing Your Testimony

My Identity

Sanctification

Spiritual Gifts

Local Church Membership

Bearing Much Fruit

Teaching Others

Reading the Word to Bear Fruit

Basic Discipleship

Humility

Discipleship

Come and See

Come and Follow

Come and Die

Go and Make

## Personally Following Jesus Involves

### Bible Study

Studying the Bible and regularly applying it to life with humility and grace.

### Worship

Participating regularly in personal worship and worship with others.

### Prayer

Recognizing that much prayer brings much blessing since God is the source of joy, peace, wisdom, and strength.

### Fellowship

Seeking the unity of the Spirit with others in the bond of peace.

### Stewardship

Using the time, abilities, and finances that God has entrusted to us to accomplish His purposes.

### Service

Helping others in our families and in the church grow as a disciple.

### Self-Examination and Confession of Sin

Examining our lives through the lens of the Word of God and agreeing with God about the transgressions we commit.

### Seeking Wisdom

Humbling ourselves and asking for all the wisdom we need from God.

### Witness

Sharing the Gospel with gentleness and respect at every opportunity.