

Chinese Congregational Church of Los Angeles

Our Distinctives

- **We are a God Worshiping Church:** we seek to make our services a vital and experiential worship in exalting God with our singing, praises, prayers, and offerings. It is worship that is based on God's revelation of Himself in His Word, Incarnate Son, and with the presence of the Holy Spirit in each believer to empower our expressions of worship (John 4:23-24). Thus, our worship must be expressive in terms of cognitive, emotional, and even physical responses towards the Triune God as He is working through the believers (His Church).
- **We are a Scripture Honoring and Teaching Church:** we are committed to the inspiration, inerrancy, and sufficiency of Scripture to give us a worldview that reveals God and makes Him central to our being and living (Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Thus Scripture is central in our Worship Services to *"Know Him, Exalt Him, and Make Him Known."*

Thus Scripture is central in our Christian Education Classes & small groups for all ages to provide Biblical knowledge for our spiritual understanding and growth; and to develop wisdom to live skillfully in our daily experiences and to make decisions / choices that honors God.

Thus Scripture is central to teach the great doctrines of God, Christ, man, sin, salvation, and the church.

- **We are a Disciple-making Church:** we understand and obey Jesus' mandate, *"Make disciples by . . . Baptizing them . . . Teaching them"* (Matthew 28:19-20). A discipleship emphasis to encourage, exhort, and enlist believers to pursue disciple-making in their lives with each other in the church. We seek to cultivate and develop the head (mindset & thinking), heart (passions & emotions), and hands (abilities & talents) extending belief to being Christ-like (Luke 10:25a).
- **We are a Loving Church:** we desire to build community with believers and unbelievers alike, but especially in the church. Jesus said that love for God and for each other are the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16). We are committed to pursuing friendship and fellowship with concrete acts of love, prayer, charity, kindness, and compassion by bearing one another's burdens. Involvement in a class or small group is essential to building relationships.
- **We are a Missional Church:** we seek to be used of God to penetrate the communities in which we live, work, and socialize; and extending outward to the world (overseas, cross-culturally) with the Gospel of Jesus Christ since there is no salvation apart from faith (Romans 10:9-15). Thus, we offer training in sharing and communicating the Gospel for local outreach; and support missionaries spiritually and financially overseas. We seek to plant new churches as necessary to broaden our local community outreach.
- **We are a Shepherding Church:** we seek to be committed to what God is doing in His Church through the leadership provided by godly men who are Elders of the church (1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-5) that

provide vision, guidance, care, teaching by precept & example, prayer, mentoring, and exercise church discipline. Elder leadership is not a position just elected by the congregation, but is acknowledged (affirmed) by the congregation to his God given desire to serve based on character, maturity, understanding of the Bible and doctrine, giftedness, and ministry experience.

Our Foundational Philosophy

The ministry of Chinese Congregational Church (CCC) is characterized by a commitment to:

- The authority and inerrancy of the Bible as the revealed Word of God.
- The importance of principled exegesis in studying to understand the Bible.
- The sovereign grace of God is at work in the world.
- The need for the reform of today's church to be based on sound doctrine.
- The application of a Biblical worldview to all of life.

At the heart of CCC's ministry are three fundamental goals:

1. *To help Christians learn to study, understand, and follow the Bible:*

We believe that reading the Bible is in many ways like reading any other challenging book; it requires skill and patience. CCC seeks to help students of the Bible learn how to read and study carefully, with due consideration to context, grammar, historical background applying sound hermeneutics intent on doing exegesis, that is, allow the meaning to flow from the text.

2. *To help Christians study, understand, and explain the Biblical Gospel to the World:*

We believe that every generation must re-examine the Scriptures to wrestle with the gospel for themselves. CCC is working to understand issues like: the sovereign grace of God; the problem of sin; the person & work of Jesus Christ, the nature of faith; the seduction of legalism and religiosity; the content of the Christian hope; and other doctrines and issues that comprises the heart of the Christian Faith.

3. *To help Christians understand, explore, and perceive life with a Biblical worldview:*

We believe that Christianity is true, and that it therefore has implications for every aspect of life. Our goal is to help people from various walks of life discover those implications for themselves. A worldview is a set of basic beliefs--about God, the world, human beings, history, death, knowing, as well as much more mundane things--that make up what a person assumes to be true. Out of one's worldview, a person evaluates, makes decisions, and makes meaning and sense of his or her life. A Christian worldview is a believer seeking to view life from God's perspective.