

OPEN-HANDED ISSUES

The following are issues that we consider “open-handed,” meaning that while individuals within our leadership and church may have convictions about them, they are secondary issues and freedom should be given within our church to hold different beliefs as long as the beliefs remain within the spectrum of biblical Christianity. We have simply named the issues below and given a clarifying statement to ensure that we are clear about what we would not consider to be within the spectrum of biblical Christianity.

BAPTISM

At Anchor Church, we practice “believer’s baptism” administered only to those who give a thoughtful profession of faith in Jesus Christ. However, we realize other believers hold to infant baptism and that members or leaders who hold this view will not allow this non-essential issue to cause division in the church contrary to Anchor’s practice of “believer’s baptism.” We do not believe in baptismal regeneration or that baptism is necessary for salvation.

SIGN GIFTS

While we believe “spiritual gifts” to be an open-handed issue, we do not believe that the gift of tongues (or any other individual spiritual gift) is required as an evidence of salvation.³

³ While we, the leadership of Anchor Church, are Continuationists, we have deliberately and with conscious intent, distanced ourselves from two extremes: we have on the one hand distanced ourselves from the extremes of the Word of Faith, health-and-wealth nonsense of the far reaches of the so-called ‘Charismatic’ world and we have also distanced ourselves from the cynical, angry, dogmatic spirit-quenching approach to life and ministry at the other end of the spectrum. That doesn’t mean that we’re going to try to find some bland balance in the middle. No, what it means is that we are going to be biblically robust and intentional in our pursuit of the experience of the Spirit. Not everybody agrees on what gifts still operate and how they express themselves; we recognize diversity there. But we do acknowledge their importance and our responsibility to cultivate them.

END TIMES

While we believe “the timing of the rapture and millennial reign” to be an open-handed issue, we do not believe that Jesus has already returned. We anticipate his future coming.

AGE OF THE EARTH

While we believe “the age of the earth” to be an open-handed issue, we do not believe atheistic or naturalistic evolution is biblical.