

## Personal Bio/Doctrinal Statement/Philosophy of Ministry

Chris Chesley

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### About Me

I am 33 years old. I'm the eternally unworthy recipient of radical, incomprehensible, divine grace and love. I'm an incredibly blessed husband and father to an amazing family. I currently serve in ministry as the Pastor of LifePoint Church in my hometown of Beckley, WV. Prior to starting this church, In addition to a brief time as the Interim Pastor for New Hope Baptist Church in Covington, VA, I served for 6 1/2 years as the Associate Pastor of Faith Baptist church. I was a youth pastor for 4 years before that.

### Hobbies/Activities:

I have a variety of hobbies which include reading, listening to sermons and podcasts, watching movies, listening to music, taking photos, hiking, and playing with or reading to my kids.

### Personal Testimony:

My journey of faith in Christ for salvation began at 4 ½ years of age. It was a Wednesday evening. I was ill, and my mother was staying home with me while my Dad went to prayer meeting at our church in Beckley, WV. My Mom and I were having our family devotions from a kid's devotional book. The topic was Hell. In my own limited understanding, I knew that was not where I wanted to be. So, I asked my Mom how I could make sure I didn't go there. She told me that Jesus came to the earth from heaven and later died for all of us. If we accepted Him and His death as the only way to get rid of sins, asked Him to forgive us, we could be 100% sure that we would go to heaven to be with Him forever.

Though I was young, and although I do feel that this was mostly a child's version of spiritual "fire insurance," I did pray on my own, asking God to forgive me for my sins. I said that I believed that Jesus died for me to take away those sins. I then asked Jesus to be my Savior. At age 7, I publicly acknowledged my walk with the Lord through baptism. Several years later, out of a need to do so that I couldn't ignore, I re-affirmed and re-dedicated my commitment to Jesus Christ, believing that a prayer by itself was not enough to save you, unless the lifestyle was there to back it up. (James 2).

Upon affirmation of my personal, sincere confession of Jesus Christ as my absolute Lord, I committed to serve Him with the rest of my life however He saw fit. That continues to be my commitment, and I have seen Him do amazing things in and through my life. All glory and good goes to Him. I am continually humbled and overwhelmed that He sees fit to work through me, to bring others to Him.

## Doctrine:

- I believe the Bible is the actual, literal, 100 percent accurate and reliable Word of God, which He revealed to many human authors, guiding and directing them as they recorded His revelation. I believe the 66 books and letters contained in the Old and New Testaments are free from error of any kind, according to the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. I believe that from Genesis to Revelation, we find the answers to all our questions about life, the world, what God is like, and what He desires for, as well as requires of every person. I believe these answers are always, ultimately found in Christ Jesus, which the whole Bible continually points to in some way. (*2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:1, Luke 24:44*)
- I believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three separate, distinct, yet unified persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:19, Matthew 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 13:13*)
- I believe in the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe also in His full humanity and the mystery of His Incarnation and Kenosis. I believe in His miraculous, uniquely virgin birth. I believe in His total sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal eminent return in power and glory for His church, the Bride. (*Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-3,10,14; Mark 16:19; Romans 5:8-10; Philippians 2:5-8; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)
- I believe in the literal, active ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the true believer in Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit indwells each Christian individually. I believe that He guides the Christian in understanding and applying the Word of God, and empowers them to live in a biblical, godly manner in every aspect of life. I believe the Holy Spirit enriches the body of Christ as a whole, so that they may effectively minister to and love one another, as well as to boldly evangelize the lost, demonstrating Christ's love and grace to them whenever possible. (*Luke 12:12; John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 4:30; 2 Timothy 1:14; Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25*)
- I believe in the ongoing, eternal existence of both the saved and the lost, after physical death. I believe the true believer in Christ experiences an eternity free of any suffering and sin, with God in Heaven (*Matthew 7:21, 8:11, 10:32-33; Acts 1:11; 2 Cor. 5:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Heb. 11:16,12:22; 1 Peter 1:3-4; Rev.2:1-4*). Conversely, I believe anyone who rejects Christ as Lord and Savior in life, experiences an eternity of separation from God in endless torment and despair in Hell (*Psalm 9:17,55:15; Prov. 15:11; Matt. 5:29-30, 10:28, 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 20:15*)

- I believe in the spiritual unity of all true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that unity supersedes lines of ethnicity, cultural identity, socioeconomic status, past or present experiences, or certain denominational differences. ([John 17:20-26](#); [Romans 10:12](#); [1 Cor. 12:12-14](#))

### **Philosophy of Ministry:**

I believe that a pastor of a church has three main purposes, from which every other aspect of their ministry is meant to flow. The first purpose is to boldly, passionately, and accurately preach the whole counsel of the Word of God in clear and consistent ways through the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, they are to equip, strengthen, assist and lead (discipleship) the body of Christ so that each individual member in their care will know their spiritual gifts and will consistently and increasingly apply those gifts to carrying out the work of the ministry to both the saved and unsaved in their surrounding communities and the rest of the world. Finally, I believe the pastor should eagerly welcome serving as spiritual counselor and advisor to the individuals and families in his congregation. This means the pastor makes himself available to provide grace filled, loving, biblical council for all aspects of life whenever it is needed. ([1. 2 Timothy 4:2](#) [2. Eph. 4:11-12](#) [3. Thess. 5:14](#)).

I believe the best way to do this, and indeed the only way which makes sense, is to engage contemporary culture, using contemporary methods, approaches, styles and strategies; **so long as the timeless Word of God is the anchor, guide, and authority in all matters of faith, life and practice and that all is done under the direction and filling of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the will of the Father.** The message itself never changes, but our methods of delivery should change with culture, **without compromising** the objective Word of God or its timeless standards, principles, and commands.

### **Pastors/Teachers I regularly listen to and read:**

- Matt Chandler (The Village Church)
- Andy Stanley (NorthPoint Community Church)
- Craig Groeschel (Lifechurch)
- Louie Giglio (Passion City Church)
- Timothy Keller (Redeemer Presbyterian Church)
- Alistair Begg (Parkside Church/Truth For Life)
- Francis Chan
- John Piper
- John MacArthur

### **Favorite Authors:**

C.S. Lewis, A.W. Tozer, Andrew Murray, St. Francis, John Owen, John Piper, Jonathan Edwards, David Platt, Matt Chandler, Francis Chan, Andy Stanley, Tim Keller, Kyle Idleman, John MacArthur, Michael Card, K.P. Yohannan, Ted Dekker, Frank Peretti.

### **Educational Experience:**

#### **Greater Beckley Christian School**

Prosperity, West Virginia

September 1987- May 2000

Greater Beckley Christian is a biblically based, college preparatory, fully certified private school. I graduated with my diploma in May, 2000.

#### **Appalachian Bible College**

Bradley, West Virginia

September 1999-December 2002

A.B.C. is a non-denominational, fully accredited institution, with programs in vocational ministry preparation. I completed 2 years and 4 semesters in terms of hours in the Theology/Youth Ministries program.

#### **Liberty University**

Lynchburg VA

January 2007- May 2009

I graduated with honors from Liberty in May, 2009 with a Bachelor's in Religion with emphasis on church ministry.

### **Family:**

I have been married for 12 years to my high school sweetheart.

Leann has worked as an elementary school teacher in various public school systems for 10 years. She is a wonderful wife and an incredible mother. She is a constant source of encouragement to me in the life of ministry God has called us both to, and she is truly my very best friend.



**We have been blessed with two wonderful daughters, and a son. It still amazes us that we have been given these treasures!**



### **Closing**

I sincerely wish to thank you in advance for the time and thought you invest as you look at all my info. I thank you for your prayerful consideration of me for a position of service and ministry in your local church. Please feel free to contact me via Facebook, email, or by phone.

Thanks again, and I pray God continues to bless your ministry.

Sincerely,

Chris Chesley  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Deut. 31:8