

“STATEMENT OF FAITH”

Section 1. SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts, written by Godly men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We believe it is the supreme authority in all matters of faith, judgment, conduct, and eternal hope. (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:10-21)

Section 2. TRINITY

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God of the universe, Eternally existing in, and revealed as, three persons in one Godhead, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct, yet harmonious offices in the supreme work of creation and in the plan of redemption. (Isa. 43:10; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1-18; 1 John 5:7)

A. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, a perfect spirit in whom all things have their source, support, and end. He is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, everywhere present, never changing and ever loving. He hears and answers prayer, and accepts those who come to him through Jesus Christ the Son. (Ps. 99:9; 139:7-12; 147:5; Isa. 44:24; Mal. 3:6; John 4:24; John 14:6; I John 4:8)

B. God the Son

We believe in God the Son who was incarnated in Jesus as the Christ, begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, true God and true man in one person, absolutely sinless, who came down to earth to pay the penalty for the sins of man by death, who was resurrected and who ascended into heaven where he now intercedes for all believers at the right hand of the Father, and is the only mediator between God and Man, who shall personally and visibly return to earth. (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:27; 23:46, 47; John 1:14; Acts 1:3, 11; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 4:14, 15; 7:25-27; 1 Timothy 2:5)

C. God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father in the name of the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding comforter, helper, teacher and guide. (John 3:5; 14:16-26; Eph. 4:30; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)

Section 3. SATAN

We believe in the existence of Satan, who as the Scriptures represent, is an accuser of God's people and an adversary of God's program. He and his forces are organized to thwart God's purposes, but are destined for failure and judgment. (Matt. 4:1-11; 13:19; Eph. 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 12:10; Rev. 20)

Section 4. MAN

We believe that God created man in His own image, sinless and pure, that Adam voluntarily sinned through Satan's temptation, and thereby severed man's relationship to a holy God; that in consequence of this fall, all mankind is sinful by nature, and choice; is subject to God's judgment and deserves condemnation. (Gen 1:26-27; 3:1-19; Ps. 51:5; Rom 3:23; 5:12-13; 6:23; Heb 2:2-3)

We believe that life begins at conception in the mother's womb (Jer. 1:5). And all life, from conception to birth to death, is sacred.

Section 5. SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinful man is wholly by God's grace and not by man's works: that Jesus Christ came into the world to make full atonement for sinners by His shed blood, vicarious death on the cross, bodily resurrection from the grave, and ascension into heaven again to intercede for believers; that man must personally repent of his sins and accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior to receive eternal life, and power over sin, that believers are, upon faith in Christ indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who regenerates, making the believer a new creation, a child of God. (John 1:12; 3:1-21; 10:28-29; Acts 3:19; 4:12; Rom. 6:1-23; Eph 2:8-9; Heb 9:11-24; Heb. 10:10)

Section 6. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of his fellowmen, that he should strive to live a life separated from sin and set apart for God; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. We believe that absolute immunity from sin takes place only when believers are taken to be with the Lord; however, we underline the necessity of forsaking a habitual walk in sin. (1 Cor. 10:31; II Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:17; James 2:1-26; II Peter 3:18; Phil. 2:15; Mark 10:6-9; Eph. 5:30-33)

Section 7. THE CHURCH

We believe in the Universal Church which is the whole community of regenerate persons in all times and ages, in heaven and on earth. The Church in this universal sense is the living body of which Christ is the head, the organism to which He give spiritual life; in which He dwells, and through which he manifests the fullness of his power and grace. We believe in the local church consisting of a company of born-again believers, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship; and through which the Universal Church is revealed. (Matt. 6:18; Acts 7:38; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:24-25; 2:21-22; Col. 1:18; Heb. 12:23)

Section 8. ORDINANCES

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances unto the local churches.

A. Baptism

We believe that baptism is the immersion of the believer into water in the name of the triune God; that it is an act of obedience to the command of Christ; that it follows conversion; that it is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior. Likewise, for the believer, it should symbolize the experience of passing from death unto life. (Matt 3:13-17; 28:19; John 5:24; Acts 1:5; 2:41; 8:36-39; 10:47-48; Rom. 6:1-10; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21-22)

B. Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is an observation instituted by Christ to commemorate his death on Calvary, that it emphasizes the present relationship of the believer to Christ; that it reminds us of his return; that the provision of bread and the fruit of the vine are symbols of Christ's offered body and shed blood for the remission of sins, that the partaking is for born again believers only, and that faithful self-examination should proceed it observance. (Matt 26:21; 1 Cot. 11:17-34)

Section 9. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God in all matters of faith; that each church should be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

Section 10. CHURCH CO-OPERATION

We believe that local churches can best accomplish the commission of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the local churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise co-operate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary and independent basis.

Section 11. LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal, physical, triumphant and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. We believe in the establishment of His kingdom on earth. (Matt. 13:38-43; 13:47-50; Mark 13, Luke 21; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thes. 4:13; 1 Thes. 5:11; Rev. 19:11-16)

Section 12. SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND MARRIAGE

We believe that from the beginning God created human beings with two distinct genders, male and female. These genders are rooted in naturally-formed sexed bodies and are not subject to change according to human will or sentiment. We believe that from the beginning God designed the marriage relationship as the life-long union of one man and one woman. This union is symbolized, consecrated, and reinforced through sexual intimacy between husband and wife, which serves the purpose of procreation and pleasure. We believe that sexual intimacy is only appropriate within the marriage relationship between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. (Gen. 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Eph. 5:22-33).

We recognize that human fallen-ness affects our sexuality and sexual desires in many ways, resulting in various forms of inappropriate sexual expression including, but not limited to, fornication, adultery, pornography, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, polyamory, and gender alteration. We draw a distinction between the temptation for sexual sin and the actual pursuit of those desires: recognizing that many will experience sexual temptation, but the pursuit and embrace of sexual sin is what Scripture condemns. We affirm the potential for sexual healing and wholeness from all forms of sexual brokenness, which can result in a rightly ordered sexual relationship within marriage or a commitment to singleness and celibacy. We believe God affirms and blesses both. (Exodus 20:14, Romans 1:16-29, 1 Cor. 5-7, 1 Thess. 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4, 1 John 1:5-10)