

## **Redeemer Community Church Affirmation of Faith**

### **Concerning the Scriptures**

We believe that the written Word of God reflects the Living Word of God.<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh.<sup>2</sup> He is divinely perfect and fully human.<sup>3</sup> Thus, we acknowledge the written Word to be both divinely perfect and fully human in its origin. As such, we affirm the perfection, inerrancy, and authority of the original documents. We also affirm that the written Word came through human means as the Spirit carried the authors along.<sup>4</sup> For this reason, the Scriptures are inspired equally in all parts. Through the teaching of Christ mediated by the Spirit the written Word is sufficient to equip all believers for every good work.<sup>5</sup>

We believe that the written Word of God contains two Testaments - old and new consisting of a total of 66 books - commonly known as the canon of Scripture. The Scripture serves as the foundation of our Christian faith. Nothing can be added or taken away from this foundation.<sup>6</sup> We believe that the written Word of God is the final authority for His people for all issues of faith and practice.<sup>7</sup> Thus, the Scripture is the true basis for Christian unity, and the supreme standard by which all church teaching, tradition, creeds, and opinions should be judged.

We believe that the Word of God presents a unified message centered on the person and work of Christ.<sup>8</sup> We believe that the written Word is properly understood by the regeneration and illumination of the Spirit, prayer, and the diligent and humble study and application of God's Word by the use of normal literary analysis centered on Christ.<sup>9</sup>

### **Concerning God**

#### **• God, The Trinity**

We believe that there is one<sup>10</sup> living<sup>11</sup> God who exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As such, God is completely sufficient within Himself,<sup>12</sup> eternal throughout all ages,<sup>13</sup> and infinitely joyful within Himself.<sup>14</sup> Each Person is equally divine in all His glorious perfections, but each Person executes a particular function in creation,<sup>15</sup> providence, and redemption.<sup>16</sup> We believe God to be the supremely valuable Being over all of the universe – worthy alone of all love, adoration, service, and praise.<sup>17</sup>

#### **• God, The Father**

We believe that God the Father is neither begotten, nor proceeds from any other person. We believe that God, from all eternity,<sup>18</sup> in order to display the full extent of His glory<sup>19</sup> for the eternal and ever-increasing enjoyment of all who love Him,<sup>20</sup> did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His will, freely and unchangeably<sup>21</sup> ordain<sup>22</sup> and foreknow<sup>23</sup> whatever comes to pass. We believe that God upholds and governs

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<sup>1</sup>John 1:1; Hebrews 4:16

<sup>2</sup>John 1:18

<sup>3</sup>Colossians 2:9-10; Philippians 2:6-11

<sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:19-29

<sup>5</sup>2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

<sup>6</sup>Revelation 22:18-19

<sup>7</sup>Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:15-17

<sup>8</sup>Luke 24:44-46; John 5:39

<sup>9</sup>Ephesians 1:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 2 Corinthians 3:14-16

<sup>10</sup>Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4

<sup>11</sup>Deuteronomy 5:26; Matthew 16:16; John 5:26; John 6:57

<sup>12</sup>Acts 17:25

<sup>13</sup>Isaiah 40:28; 57:15; Revelation 1:4

<sup>14</sup>Proverbs 8:27-30; Matthew 12:18; John 15:11; John 17:26

<sup>15</sup>Genesis 1:1-3 with Colossians 1:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>17</sup>Revelation 4:11

<sup>18</sup>2 Timothy 1:9

<sup>19</sup>Romans 11:36; John 12:27-28

<sup>20</sup>Matthew 25:23; Revelation 21:4

<sup>21</sup>Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Hebrews 13:8

<sup>22</sup>Isaiah 46:9-10; Proverbs 19:21

<sup>23</sup>Isaiah 41:21-23; Isaiah 42:8-9

all things<sup>24</sup> in accord with His eternal and perfect purposes ending in His glory and the good of His people.<sup>25</sup> God freely and assuredly accomplishes His purposes in such a way that He never sins nor punishes one unjustly.<sup>26</sup> The manner in which God ordains and governs never violates the moral accountability of all persons.

We believe that the salvation of mankind is a primary theme in God's purposes for His own glory. God has chosen from eternity past those whom He would save.<sup>27</sup> God's election is an unconditional act of free grace,<sup>28</sup> which was given through His Son Christ Jesus before the world began,<sup>29</sup> and which is solely on the basis of His most wise and holy counsel.<sup>30</sup> By this act God chose, before the foundation of the world, those who would be delivered from bondage to sin and brought to repentance and saving faith in His Son Christ Jesus.

#### • God, The Son

We believe Jesus is the true and sinless Son of God.<sup>31</sup> As the second Person of the Trinity, Jesus possesses all the divine excellencies, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father.<sup>32</sup> We believe that, when the eternal Son became flesh, He took on a fully human nature,<sup>33</sup> so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one Person, without confusion or mixture. In His incarnation, Christ freely surrendered only the certain prerogatives of deity as "to the cross,"<sup>34</sup> but nothing of the divine essence - either in degree or kind.<sup>35</sup> Thus the Person, Jesus Christ, was and is truly God<sup>36</sup> and truly man,<sup>37</sup> yet one Christ and the only Mediator between God and man<sup>38</sup> representing both humanity and deity in indivisible oneness. It was the purpose of the incarnation to reveal the Father,<sup>39</sup> redeem man,<sup>40</sup> and to establish Christ as ruler of God's Kingdom.<sup>41</sup>

We believe that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary under the Law,<sup>42</sup> and was the only human ever to fulfill the demands of the Law.<sup>43</sup> By the plan of the Father and responsibility of both Jews and Gentiles,<sup>44</sup> He was crucified and buried. After three days in the grave, Jesus rose again.<sup>45</sup> Through His perfect fulfillment and obedience to the Law, His sacrificial death, and His victorious resurrection, He became the righteousness of all who believe, the only fitting substitutionary atonement for the sins of mankind, and the rescuer of His own.<sup>46</sup> Because of this act, the Father granted the Son to be King of kings and Lord of lords,<sup>47</sup> and He will return<sup>48</sup> in His glorified body to consummate His rule over all things.<sup>49</sup>

#### • God, The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.<sup>50</sup> We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality

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<sup>24</sup>Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; Ephesians 1:11

<sup>25</sup>Romans 11:33-36; Romans 16:27; Romans 8:28,32; Psalm 104:24

<sup>26</sup>Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 John 1:5; Romans 1:20; 2:11-12

<sup>27</sup>Ephesians 4:3-6

<sup>28</sup>Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>29</sup>John 17:1-5

<sup>30</sup>Deuteronomy 7:7-10; Ephesians 1:4

<sup>31</sup>Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5

<sup>32</sup>John 10:30; 14:9

<sup>33</sup>John 1:18; Philippians 2:8; Romans 8:3

<sup>34</sup>Philippians 2:6-8

<sup>35</sup>Colossians 2:9

<sup>36</sup>Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:6-8; John 8:58

<sup>37</sup>Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5

<sup>38</sup>1 Timothy 2:5

<sup>39</sup>John 1:14, 18

<sup>40</sup>John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>41</sup>Philippians 2:9-11

<sup>42</sup>Galatians 4:4

<sup>43</sup>Matthew 5:17; Romans 8:1-4; Romans 10:4

<sup>44</sup>Acts 2:23

<sup>45</sup>1 Corinthians 15:1-4

<sup>46</sup>Romans 3:19-26

<sup>47</sup>Philippians 2:6-11; Revelation 5:9-11

<sup>48</sup>Acts 1:11

<sup>49</sup>Philippians 3:20-21

<sup>50</sup>John 16:8-11

and deity.<sup>51</sup> In all the divine excellencies, He is coequal, coeternal, and consubstantial with the Father and the Son.<sup>52</sup> We believe that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. The Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ.<sup>53</sup> Through His work, sinful men are born again to new life<sup>54</sup> and empowered to attain the full riches of their union with the Son.<sup>55</sup> The present work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who are in Christ is both the sign and seal of the New Covenant.<sup>56</sup>

#### • **God, The Creator**

We believe that God created the universe and everything in it by the word of His power.<sup>57</sup> Each member of the Trinity was active in creation, each having a particular function.<sup>58</sup> This creation was not due to any deficiency within Himself,<sup>59</sup> but rather as a sovereign display of His glory to His creatures: a sovereign display of justice to the wicked, and a sovereign display of grace to the redeemed.<sup>60</sup> We believe God will one day destroy this creation, and He will create the new heavens and new earth.<sup>61</sup>

#### **Concerning Man**

We believe that the first man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness,<sup>62</sup> and thus man was the pinnacle of all creation.<sup>63</sup> Mankind was created morally upright with intelligence, volition, and moral responsibility to God.<sup>64</sup> Mankind was created to glorify God by enjoying fellowship with God, fellow man, and ruling over all creation.<sup>65</sup>

We believe that God created man and woman equally in His image,<sup>66</sup> and that without each other the image of God would not be fully displayed through humanity within creation. We also affirm distinctiveness between the genders. We affirm that God created man as the head and woman as the helper, as most clearly displayed within the marriage relationship.<sup>67</sup> We believe both equality in essence and distinction in role are to be maintained in the home and the church.<sup>68</sup>

We believe that through genuine choice,<sup>69</sup> and by the subtle coercion from Satan,<sup>70</sup> mankind rebelled against the revealed will and Word of God and plunged into a fallen state whereby his ability to reflect the image of God was corrupted and his fellowship with God was ruined.<sup>71</sup> Thus, mankind is unable to delight in God. Mankind also incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death,<sup>72</sup> became subject to the wrath of God,<sup>73</sup> and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace.<sup>74</sup> We believe that, as the head of the human race, Adam's fall became the fall

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<sup>51</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 4:30

<sup>52</sup> Matthew 28:19

<sup>53</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:13

<sup>54</sup> Titus 3:5-6

<sup>55</sup> Ephesians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:18

<sup>56</sup> Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5

<sup>57</sup> Genesis 1:1; Psalm 104:24; Isaiah 42:5; Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20; Hebrews 11:3

<sup>58</sup> See fn. 15

<sup>59</sup> Exodus 3:13-14; Acts 17:25

<sup>60</sup> Proverbs 16:4; Revelations 20:10; Isaiah 35:10; Ephesians 2:7

<sup>61</sup> 2 Peter 3:6-7; Matthew 19:28

<sup>62</sup> Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 15-25

<sup>63</sup> Psalm 8; Hebrews 2:8

<sup>64</sup> Genesis 2:7, 15-25; James 3:9; Revelation 21:1-4

<sup>65</sup> Genesis 1:27-31

<sup>66</sup> Genesis 1:28; Galatians 3:28; 1 Peter 3:7

<sup>67</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 2:1

<sup>68</sup> Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Corinthians 11:5; 1 Timothy 2:11-15

<sup>69</sup> Hosea 6:7; 1 Timothy 2:14

<sup>70</sup> Genesis 3:1-6

<sup>71</sup> Genesis 3:22-24; Isaiah 59:2; Colossians 1:21

<sup>72</sup> Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 6:23

<sup>73</sup> Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:3

<sup>74</sup> Romans 3:9-18

of all his posterity, in such a way that corruption, guilt, death, and condemnation belong properly to every person.<sup>75</sup> All mankind are sinners by nature,<sup>76</sup> by choice,<sup>77</sup> and by divine declaration.<sup>78</sup>

We believe that through the God-man, Jesus—the exact image of God,<sup>79</sup> a new humanity, marred by the fall is being restored progressively into the image of God.<sup>80</sup> This restoration culminates when those in Christ receive their new bodies and populate the new heavens and new earth.<sup>81</sup>

### **Concerning Salvation**

We believe that all men are depraved sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration.<sup>82</sup> Man has experienced radical moral corruption, separation from a Holy God, and possesses no ability or strength in himself to overcome his depravity.<sup>83</sup> Man stands to receive just, eternal punishment for his rebellion against the Creator.<sup>84</sup> With no recuperative powers to enable him to recover himself, man is hopelessly lost. As such all men stand in desperate need of salvation from their sin and its terrible consequences.

We believe that salvation belongs to God:<sup>85</sup> it is of him, to Him, and for His glory.<sup>86</sup> We affirm that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. We believe that salvation is wholly a work of the Triune God, centered in the person and work of Christ.

We believe that the Father planned the redemption of those whom He has chosen in eternity past for His glory.<sup>87</sup> Thus, God foreknew, in a relational manner, all those He would redeem, and He chose them before the foundation of the world in Christ.<sup>88</sup> He also predestined those same ones to be conformed to the image of His Son.<sup>89</sup> Those whom God has chosen, He will assuredly and necessarily call unto Himself, for none of these will be lost or rejected.<sup>90</sup> To protect the glory of God the Father and to meet the demands of God's righteousness, holiness, and justice, God justifies all those whom He called through Christ.<sup>91</sup> With the gift of the Son, the Father also gives and works every facet of our lives for our transformation into the image of His Son<sup>92</sup> through the gift of His Spirit and the gift of His Word.<sup>93</sup> Then, in order to demonstrate the glory of His mercy He determined to glorify forever with His Son all those whom He justified.<sup>94</sup>

We believe that the Son accomplished redemption in accordance with the wise and eternal plan of the Father.<sup>95</sup> With the promise that He would be exalted above all and receive a people for His Name, the Son took on Himself humanity and was born of a virgin.<sup>96</sup> Having lived a perfect and sinless life,<sup>97</sup> He offered His life freely as a substitutionary sacrifice for those chosen of God,<sup>98</sup> whereby, His eternal, spotless righteousness is imputed to their account,<sup>99</sup> the due punishment and wrath for their sin was poured out on Him,<sup>100</sup> and their abundant sin was paid for in full through His suffering.<sup>101</sup> In this way God is both just

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<sup>75</sup>Romans 5:10-14

<sup>76</sup>Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>77</sup>Romans 5:12

<sup>78</sup>Romans 3:23

<sup>79</sup>Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3

<sup>80</sup>Ephesians 2:15; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 3:18

<sup>81</sup>1 Corinthians 15:44-49

<sup>82</sup>See the section "Concerning Man"

<sup>83</sup>Ephesians 2:1; Romans 3:9-18

<sup>84</sup>2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Revelation 20:13-1

<sup>85</sup>Psalms 3:8; Jonah 2:9; Revelation 7:10

<sup>86</sup>Romans 11:33-36

<sup>87</sup>Ephesians 1:11-12; Ephesians 2:7

<sup>88</sup>Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

<sup>89</sup>Romans 8:30

<sup>90</sup>Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:9; John 6:37-39

<sup>91</sup>Romans 3:25-26

<sup>92</sup>Ephesians 2:10; Romans 8:28-32

<sup>93</sup>2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 17:17

<sup>94</sup>Romans 8:30; Colossians 3:4

<sup>95</sup>Ephesians 1:7; Titus 1:2

<sup>96</sup>See the section "God, The Son"

<sup>97</sup>See the section "God, The Son"

<sup>98</sup>John 10:11, 15; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25-27; John 6:33-40, 44

<sup>99</sup>Romans 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>100</sup>Isaiah 53:3-6, 10

<sup>101</sup>Romans 5:20-21

and justifier of the ungodly through Christ.<sup>102</sup> He rose from the dead three days later validating all His claims as Savior and Lord.<sup>103</sup> He ascended on high where He rules as Priest and King, continually making intercession for His people and reigning at the right hand of the Father.<sup>104</sup>

We believe that the Spirit applies salvation to the lives of the elect. The Spirit mediates the effectual call of the Father through the free proclamation of the gospel<sup>105</sup> by convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.<sup>106</sup> All those ordained for eternal life<sup>107</sup> are regenerated by the Spirit.<sup>108</sup> At that time the Spirit unites the believer with Christ by baptizing them into the body of Christ.<sup>109</sup> The Spirit teaches and applies the Word of God in the life and mind of the believers so that he continually is becoming more like Christ. This progressive work of sanctification by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers is an on-going separation from sin to God through the regular use of the appointed means – especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, prayer, watchfulness, and Christian fellowship. The Spirit is also the guarantee through which the believer will persevere to the end, sealed in Christ, and, thus, be finally saved.<sup>110</sup>

We believe that God has woven into His redemptive plan the responsibility of mankind to believe and obey the gospel.<sup>111</sup> Thus, God has ordained that in salvation man must repent<sup>112</sup> of his sin and exercise faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ on his behalf.<sup>113</sup> We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God.<sup>114</sup> Whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, sin, and helplessness, we turn to God with sincere contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ in His mediatorial offices as our Prophet, Priest, and King and relying on Him alone as the only all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in Christ is not merely assenting mentally to facts about Jesus. Faith in Jesus goes beyond that to being satisfied by those truths.<sup>115</sup> Biblical faith, like repentance, results in demonstrable fruits and good works.<sup>116</sup> We also believe that true faith necessarily and assuredly perseveres to the end.<sup>117</sup> We believe that only true believers endure in faith and holiness unto the end, and that persevering faith distinguishes them from false professors of the faith.<sup>118</sup> We believe that God has ordained these two responses from men because they are means by which the glory of God is displayed.<sup>119</sup> Repentance demonstrates the unrighteousness of man, and faith demonstrates that the solution for that problem looks away from self to God for satisfaction.

### **Concerning The Church**

We believe that the church in its essence is all the elect of God in every age who have been called out by God and who have demonstrated faith in Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church,<sup>120</sup> and thus the ultimate and final authority in the church. The church exists as the supreme display of the wisdom and glory of God.<sup>121</sup> The church's purpose is to come to the full knowledge of Christ, and to be completely conformed into the image of Him who is its Head. As a called out body of worshippers, the

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<sup>102</sup>Romans 3:25-26

<sup>103</sup>Luke 24:5-7; John 20:14-18; Romans 1:4; Romans 4:25; 1 Timothy 3:16

<sup>104</sup>Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1

<sup>105</sup>1 Thessalonians 1:5 with 2 Thessalonians 2:14

<sup>106</sup>See the section "God, The Holy Spirit"

<sup>107</sup>Acts 13:48

<sup>108</sup>Titus 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:11

<sup>109</sup>1 Corinthians 12:13

<sup>110</sup>Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:5

<sup>111</sup>John 6:29; Acts 16:31; 1 John 3:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17

<sup>112</sup>Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30

<sup>113</sup>Acts 16:31; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 3:22; Galatians 2:16

<sup>114</sup>Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29

<sup>115</sup>John 6:35

<sup>116</sup>James 2:14-26

<sup>117</sup>Hebrews 11; Romans 1:17

<sup>118</sup>John 10:26-30

<sup>119</sup>Romans 3:27-28; Ephesians 2:8-10

<sup>120</sup>Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18

<sup>121</sup>Ephesians 3:10

fellowship and instruction within the church is a means of evangelism, sanctification, and perseverance.<sup>122</sup>

We believe that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the Scriptures<sup>123</sup> and that the members of the one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies.<sup>124</sup> In order to build the body up into the image of its head, Christ gave gifts to His people through the Spirit.<sup>125</sup> He also gave gifted men to the church to help each member do its part within the ministry.<sup>126</sup> We believe the Scriptures teach that local assemblies are to be led by a plurality of male elders<sup>127</sup> who meet the appropriate qualifications.<sup>128</sup> A healthy assembly will have Godly, diligent leaders<sup>129</sup> and submissive, Christ-like followers<sup>130</sup> with both groups recognizing the Lordship of Christ in all things in His church. The elders are to rule, teach, pray, protect, and care for the body even as Christ loved the body.<sup>131</sup> The body is to submit and care for its elders.<sup>132</sup> We believe that deacons are servant-leaders within the church.<sup>133</sup> As such, they do not rule the body, but they are authorized to perform and lead certain ministry tasks to free the elders to focus on the Word and prayer.

We believe that the church practices two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe in the water baptism of believers.<sup>134</sup> Baptism depicts an individual's union with Christ: they were buried with Him in baptism and raised to new life in Christ.<sup>135</sup> It serves as a testimony of one's fellowship and identification with the body of Christ. We practice baptism in fulfillment of Christ's command in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.<sup>136</sup> We believe the Lord's Supper to be extremely important to the life and health of the church. We believe the Lord's Supper is a symbolic depiction of our ongoing union with Christ<sup>137</sup> and our union with one another.<sup>138</sup> The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination.<sup>139</sup> Whereas the elements of Lord's Supper are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, participation in the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ, who indwells every believer, and so is present, fellowshiping with His people.<sup>140</sup>

We believe that the church is to practice church discipline.<sup>141</sup> Church discipline is a means of protecting the purity of the church,<sup>142</sup> instructing and guarding other believers,<sup>143</sup> and restoring one to the faith.<sup>144</sup> Ultimately, it is the glory of God and his body that is at stake in the matter of church discipline.

### **Concerning The Christian Life**

We believe that once a person experiences true salvation through union with Christ, he will then desire to live a life that bears fruit for the glory of God.<sup>145</sup> These good works are the consequence of saving faith and, though they gain us no merit or favor, are a necessary part of true salvation.<sup>146</sup> They are not meritorious because with saving faith, all good works were planned by the Father,<sup>147</sup> accomplished through Jesus

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<sup>122</sup>Ephesians 4:1-6; Hebrews 3:12-14; Acts 18:1-11

<sup>123</sup>Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1

<sup>124</sup>1 Corinthians 11:18-20; Hebrews 10:25

<sup>125</sup>Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

<sup>126</sup>Ephesians 4:6-16

<sup>127</sup>Acts 11:30; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:2; Titus 1:5; James 5:14

<sup>128</sup>1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9

<sup>129</sup>Romans 12:8

<sup>130</sup>Hebrews 13:7

<sup>131</sup>Hebrews 13:7; Acts 6:4; John 21:15

<sup>132</sup>Hebrews 13:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Corinthians 9:11-14

<sup>133</sup>Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

<sup>134</sup>Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12

<sup>135</sup>Romans 6:3-4

<sup>136</sup>Matthew 28:20

<sup>137</sup>1 Corinthians 10:16

<sup>138</sup>1 Corinthians 10:17

<sup>139</sup>1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>140</sup>1 Corinthians 10:16

<sup>141</sup>1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Matthew 18:17-18; Titus 3:10

<sup>142</sup>1 Corinthians 5:6-7

<sup>143</sup>1 Timothy 5:10; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7

<sup>144</sup>Matthew 18:15; Hebrews 12:10-13

<sup>145</sup>Philippians 2:12-13

<sup>146</sup>Hebrews 12:14; James 2:26

<sup>147</sup>Ephesians 2:10

Christ,<sup>148</sup> and empowered by the Spirit.<sup>149</sup> As such God receives all the glory for every good work done. The chief of these commands is to love God supremely<sup>150</sup> and to love others as Christ loved us.<sup>151</sup>

We believe that Christians can differ in conscience and conviction over certain matters of conduct.<sup>152</sup> In such matters, we are not to slander or pass judgment on one another,<sup>153</sup> but instead we are to seek unity in the Spirit and embrace one another in Christ.<sup>154</sup> In so doing, might we always seek the spiritual health of others<sup>155</sup> and receive the admonition and instruction of those who are a gift of God for our perseverance,<sup>156</sup> so that in genuine love and humility we may worship the Lord with one voice.<sup>157</sup>

We believe that faith is awakened, strengthened, and sustained by God's Spirit through His Word and prayer. The good fight of faith is fought mainly by meditating on the Scriptures<sup>158</sup> and praying that God would apply them to our souls.<sup>159</sup> We believe that the promises of God recorded in the Scriptures are suited to save us from the deception of sin by displaying for us, and holding out to us, superior pleasures in the protection, provision, and presence of God.<sup>160</sup> Therefore, reading, understanding, and savoring the promises of all that God will be for us in Jesus are primary means of the Holy Spirit to break the power of sin's deceitful promises in our lives.<sup>161</sup> For this reason, corporate worship will center on the gospel-saturated Scriptures.

### **Concerning The Last Things**

We believe that at the Last Day the Lord Jesus Christ will descend from heaven and will be visibly manifested as the Lord victorious to the whole world.<sup>162</sup> At His coming, the Lord Jesus Christ shall usher in the Age to Come and shall finally and completely establish His everlasting Kingdom in the new heavens and new earth.<sup>163</sup> At that time, He will execute final judgment,<sup>164</sup> and every person's destiny will be forever fixed in heaven or hell, based on his standing with Christ.

We believe that those who are not covered by the atoning death of Christ will consciously experience the wrath of God justly poured out for all eternity in the torments of hell.<sup>165</sup> We believe that for those covered by the atoning death of Christ, the cross has absorbed the wrath of God. Thus, we will spend eternity in the unending joys and pleasures of heaven.<sup>166</sup> We believe that heaven is the abode of God.<sup>167</sup> At the end of the age when God recreates the heavens and the earth, the abode of God will descend to the earth.<sup>168</sup> We believe that the primary and ultimate inheritance of the people of God is God Himself.<sup>169</sup> Thus, the greatest pleasure in heaven is the uninterrupted fellowship of the elect with the fullness of God,<sup>170</sup> for then we will see Him face-to-face and behold his glory.<sup>171</sup> We confess our confidence in these things with the prayer, "Even so, Come, Lord Jesus!"

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<sup>148</sup>Hebrews 13:20-21

<sup>149</sup>Colossians 1:29

<sup>150</sup>Matthew 22:37-40

<sup>151</sup>John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:7-8

<sup>152</sup>Romans 14:1-5

<sup>153</sup>James 2:12-13; Romans 14:10-13

<sup>154</sup>Romans 14:1; 15:7

<sup>155</sup>Romans 14:13-19

<sup>156</sup>Romans 15:14; Hebrews 3:12-14

<sup>157</sup>Romans 15:5-6

<sup>158</sup>Ephesians 6:17-18; Hebrews 4:12

<sup>159</sup>Ephesians 1:18-19; 2 Thessalonians 1:11

<sup>160</sup>2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>161</sup>Psalms 119:11; 37:4; 34:8

<sup>162</sup>Zechariah 14:4; Matthew 24:37; Acts 1:9-11

<sup>163</sup>Daniel 7:27; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Corinthians 15:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

<sup>164</sup>John 5:27-30; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Hebrews 9:27

<sup>165</sup>Isaiah 66:24; Daniel 12:1-2; Revelation 20:10; Luke 16:23-25

<sup>166</sup>Psalms 16:11

<sup>167</sup>Psalms 89:11; Psalm 115:16; 1 Chronicles 29:11

<sup>168</sup>Revelation 3:12; Revelation 21:1-2

<sup>169</sup>1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 66:18; Psalm 27:4, 8; John 17:24; Revelation 21:7

<sup>170</sup>Revelation 22:17

<sup>171</sup>John 17:24

## **Concerning The Spirit of This Document and The Unity of God's People<sup>172</sup>**

We do not believe that all things in this affirmation of faith are of equal weight, some being more essential, some less, in as much as we do not believe that every part of this affirmation must be believed in order for one to be saved.

Our aim is to encourage a hearty adherence to the Bible, the fullness of its truth, and the glory of its Author. We believe Biblical doctrine stabilizes saints in the winds of confusion and strengthens the church in her mission to meet the great systems of false religion and secularism. We believe that the supreme virtue of love is nourished by the strong meat of God-centered doctrine. And we believe that a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ is sustained in an atmosphere of deep and joyful knowledge of God and His wonderful works.

We believe that the cause of unity in the church is best served by elevating the value of truth, stating the doctrinal parameters of church or mission or ministry, seeking the unity that comes from the truth, and then demonstrating to the world how Christians can love each other across boundaries rather than by removing boundaries. In this way, the importance of truth is served by the existence of doctrinal borders, and unity is served by the way we love others across those borders.

We believe the Redeemer Community Church Affirmation of Faith to be true, though in no way exhaustive. We do not claim infallibility for this affirmation and are open to refinement and correction from Scripture. Yet we do hold firmly to these truths as we see them and call on others to search the Scriptures to see if these things are so. As conversation takes place, it may be that we will learn from each other, and the boundaries will be adjusted, even possibly folding formerly disagreeing groups into closer fellowship.

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<sup>172</sup>Taken almost entirely from Bethlehem Baptist Church Elder Affirmation of Faith with only minor adjustments.