

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 - The Holy Scriptures

We believe in the verbal (words) plenary (all) inspiration of the Bible. The Bible in the original writings are the complete, inerrant, and authoritative written revelation of God to man. The Bible is the supreme and final authority in all areas of faith and life. (Ps. 119:9,11,105 Matt. 5:17-18, John 17:17, I Cor. 14:37, Gal. 1:8-12 and 3:16, Eph. 2:20, II Tim. 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21, Jude 3)

Section 2 - The Godhead

We believe God is the unlimited, perfect Spirit who created, keeps, and brings all things to completion. God is one being who exists in three co-equal Persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no other God, nor anything, nor anyone exactly like God. (Luke 1:37, Deut. 33:27, Matt. 5:48, John 4:24, Col. 1:16-17, Eph. 1:9-11, Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 48:16, Matt. 28:19, Col. 2:9, Isaiah 46:9-10)

Section 3 - The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life and died a sacrificial death (shedding His precious blood) to pay the complete eternal penalty for the sins of mankind. He was bodily resurrected. He ascended into Heaven. He is the believer's advocate with the Father. He will personally and imminently return.

(John 1:1-2 and 14, John 3:16, Luke 1:34-35, I Tim. 3:16, I Peter 3:18, Heb. 10:14, II Cor. 5:21, I John 2:1-2, John 20, Acts 1:9-11, Heb. 9:24, I Thess. 3:13, Phil. 3:20)

Section 4 - The Creation and Fall of Man

We believe man was created in the image of God. Man sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and are totally depraved. By himself, man is totally unable to remedy his lost condition.

(Gen. 1:27, 9:6, and 3:1-19, Rom. 5:12, Ps. 51:5 and 58:3, Rom. 3:10, 23 and 6:23, Eph. 2:1-3)

Section 5 - The Provision of Salvation

We believe salvation is only received by grace through faith (trust) in the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in payment for the sins of mankind. Salvation is a gift of God. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. Salvation delivers a person from the penalty and the power of sin (although it does not eradicate the old sin nature). Once saved a person is eternally secure. (John 14:6, Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 3:11, I Tim. 2:5-6, Rom. 4:25, I John 2:1, John 5:24, Rom. 8:1, 6:13 and 16, Gal. 5:16, John 10:27-30, Phil. 1:6, I John 5:13)

Section 6 - The Christian Life

We believe a Christian should practice righteous living and good works as evidence and fruit of salvation. Good works are not a means of obtaining or keeping salvation. Positional sanctification occurs at the moment of salvation. Practical sanctification is progressive throughout the earthly life of the believer. Confession of sin, yieldedness to the Spirit of God, and obedience to the Word of God is necessary to maintain fellowship with God. God

corrects disobedient Christians. (I Peter 1:15-16, Eph. 2:10, Heb. 13:16, I Cor. 1:2, Phil. 1:6, I John 1:9, Romans 12:1-2, Gal. 5:16, I Cor. 5 and 11:30-32, Heb. 12:5-11)

Section 7 - The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the trinity of God. He convicts, regenerates, baptizes, seals, and indwells all believers at the moment of salvation. He fills believers as they yield to His control. He equips believers for service by giving them at least one spiritual gift. (Acts 5:3-4, John 16:7-11 and 3:3-8, I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 4:30, I Cor. 3:16, Rom. 8:9, Eph. 5:18, I Cor. 12:1,7 and 11) We believe certain spiritual gifts were foundational to establish the church (apostles and prophets), and other gifts were sign gifts to authenticate the message of the gospel (languages i.e. "tongues", the interpretation of languages, healings, and miracles), and that these foundational and sign gifts were temporary and are no longer in the church today. (Eph. 2:20, I Cor. 13:8, Mark 16:17-20, I Cor. 14:22, Acts 19:11-12, II Tim. 4:20, Heb. 2:3-4)

Section 8 - The Church

We believe the Church began on the day of Pentecost with the descent of the Holy Spirit. The Church is the body and bride of the Lord Jesus Christ of which He is the Head. The universal Church is made up of every born again person on earth. The local Church is a visible manifestation of the universal Church. The purpose of the Church is evangelization and edification. The practice of the Church is Bible study, fellowship, observing the ordinances, prayer, giving, and service. Church attendance and Church membership is important for every believer. (Matt. 16:18, John 16:7, Acts 1:8, 2:1-16, and 47, Eph. 1:22-23 and 5:23-24, II Cor. 11:2, I Cor. 12:12-13, Acts 13:1, Rom. 16:5, I Cor. 1:1-2, Matt. 28:18-20, Eph. 4:11-16, Acts 2:41-47, Heb. 10:24-25, Acts 5:12-13)

Section 9 - The Ordinances and Practice

We recognize two ordinances, which were commanded by our Lord to be observed by believers: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Water baptism is to be by immersion. It is to be practiced only by believers, and it is a step of obedience to the Lord as an outward sign of one's inner Trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. It need only be practiced once in each believer's life. The Lord's Supper is a memorial service remembering the broken body and shed blood of our Lord in payment for our sins until He comes again. It is to be observed repeatedly and only by believers. (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:41 and 8:31-38, Matt. 26:26-29, I Cor. 11:23-26)

We recognize feet washing as a practice in which individuals may participate, but we do not recognize it as an ordinance. Feet washing is to remind believers of the humility of Christ and of His love to His followers. Believers are to manifest the same type of love and humility to one another. (John 13:1-17)

Section 10 - The Second Coming

We believe in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will come in the air at the rapture to take all living believers and the bodies of all dead church-age believers back to Heaven with Him. The rapture is imminent and will take place before the seven-year tribulation. At the end of the tribulation the Lord Jesus Christ will return in bodily form to the earth in power and great glory with His saints to rule and reign in a one thousand year earthly kingdom. This part of His coming is known as the revelation of Jesus Christ. (I

Thess. 4:13-18, Phil 3:20-21, Titus 2:13, I Thess. 1:10 and 5:9-10, Rev. 3:10 and 6:16-17, Matt. 24:29-30, Jude 14 and 15, Rev. 19:11-20:6)

Section 11 - Dispensationalism

We believe in the basic dispensational view of the Bible which includes a recognition of at least three major dispensations (Mosaic Law, Grace or Church, and Kingdom) and implies others. The Bible should be interpreted in a normal literal way. A distinction should be recognized between the Church and Israel. Future prophecy will be literally fulfilled as has past prophecy. God will fulfill His promises to His covenanted people, Israel, including her future judgment, redemption, and regathering to the land of Palestine where she shall become the head of the nations and be personally ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Eph. 3:1-11 and 1:10, Col. 1:24-27, Luke 16:16, John 1:17, Rom. 10:4, Matt. 24:15, Deut. 29:29, I Cor. 10:32, Isa. 61:1-2, Luke 4:16-21, Rom. 11:25-29, Isa. 60:1-3)

Section 12 - The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Church saints at the rapture and of the rest of the saints at the revelation of Christ. The unsaved will be resurrected at the great white throne judgment. The saved are at death absent from the body and present with the Lord where they, in conscious bliss, await the first resurrection when their spirit, soul and body will be glorified and forever abide with the Lord. The unsaved at death remain in conscious misery until the great white throne judgment at which time they shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer eternal conscious punishment. That Heaven and Hell are literal places. (I Thess. 4:13-18, Rev. 20:4-6, Dan. 13:1-3, John 5:25-29, Rev. 20:10-15, II Cor. 5:8, Rev. 7:9-17, Luke 16:19-31, Matt. 25:41-46, Rev. 21 and 22, Mark 9:42-48)

Section 13 - The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, and the author of sin. He is the enemy of God and man. He will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:1-11, Eze. 28:12-19, Isa. 14:12-15, I Peter 5:8, Rev. 20:10)

Section 14 – Marriage and Gender

We believe that God has wonderfully created each person as male or female. These two distinct and complementary genders together reflect the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27). Rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning, which is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as described in Scripture at the beginning (Genesis 2:18 -24; Matthew 19:4 – 6). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2 – 4; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any other form of sexual activity (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18 – 20; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10).