



Statement of Faith

God

We believe in one God who exists eternally in three co-equal, fully divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is the one and only true and living God; holy, righteous, loving, and faithful. Having limitless knowledge and power as well as total sovereignty, he created all that exists out of nothing and is the living and active sustainer of creation.

Revelation

God has lovingly and graciously chosen to reveal himself to humankind, chiefly via the Word (the Holy Bible) and the Word incarnate (Jesus Christ- the fully divine, fully human Son of God). The Holy Bible is the fully inspired and inerrant Word of God. The books of the Bible were written by God through human authors via verbal-plenary inspiration. As such, the autographs are the very Word of God, fully inerrant and ultimately authoritative in every domain of knowledge to which they speak and fully sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do. While no translation is *technically* itself inerrant, any careful translation is a functional equivalent of the inerrant autographs and is therefore functionally authoritative and sufficient. Furthermore, God reveals himself personally to every believer via the Holy Spirit, who indwells all believers. However, the Holy Bible stands as the complete and ultimate standard by which we can judge the authenticity of any perceived personal/individual special revelation.

Humankind and the Human Condition

In the beginning, God created humankind, both man and woman, in his image. Man and woman were made to complement one another in a one-flesh union. Biblical marriage is the covenant union of one man and one woman and is the only context for healthy and appropriate sexual intimacy. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. However, God also leads some to abstain and remain single. Those who have received this call have an opportunity for unique devotion to the Lord (1 Cor. 7:8,32-35). In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption. When tempted by Satan humankind fell into sin. Thus, all humans are born sinners by nature and live sinful lives by choice. Sin stains, depraves, and corrupts every aspect of all people and all creation. All sickness, death, tragedy, and evil are the consequence of the collective sin of humankind. As sinners, all people are alienated from God and are the rightful recipients of God's perfect and righteous judgment and wrath. It is only by



Statement of Faith

the grace of God, through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ that humans are saved from this just punishment; all those who have faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ are saved, renewed to right relationship with God, and are recipients of the blessed sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit who dwells in all believers. Furthermore, God equips/gifts and enables all believers for good work. Every believer is a member of the Body of Christ, the church, and thus is graciously privileged to have a role to play in the life of the church and in the redemptive project of God for the ultimate purpose of his glory.

Jesus Christ

Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, was the incarnation of the eternal Son of God, fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary. He lived a perfect, sinless life and was crucified, though innocent, under Pontius Pilate. He arose from the dead bodily and ascended into heaven where he is seated in glory at the right hand of God as our eternal high priest and advocate.

Salvation and Sanctification

According to God's love, mercy, and grace, he determined to make salvation available through Jesus Christ. Christ, being fully God, fully man, and without sin, is our perfect sacrifice and substitute. By his life, death, and resurrection, Christ has conquered sin and death and has made salvation available to all who might have faith in him. Salvation is available by the grace of God alone, through faith in Christ alone. Those who have faith in Christ are saved from the ultimate and just consequence of sin: eternal separation from God and eternal conscious torment. Furthermore, believers, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, are restored to right relationship with God wherein the Holy Spirit indwells, gifts, equips, and sanctifies believers. However, it is only in the context of right relationship that believers are equipped and sanctified. Therefore, as temples of the Living God and with Christ as our high priest and advocate, believers must boldly approach the throne of God for his faithful and abundant provisions of all that we need.

The Body of Christ

Since Adam and Eve sinned and fell, God has been actively redeeming a people for his name's sake. The church is the redeemed people of God in the new covenant established by Christ; the universal body of believers comprised of all who have been saved by grace through faith in Christ and of whom Christ is the head. The first coming of Christ marked the coming of the kingdom/reign of God under which the church now lives. Christ's imminent return will mark the consummation of that kingdom/reign. The body of Christ, the church, is made up of believers who are created by God to play unique roles in his project of redemption and in the life of the church. Members of this body are called to spread to gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed and to serve and



Statement of Faith

love one another as led, equipped, and gifted by the Holy Spirit. While God does not need any human person to accomplish his purposes, according to his grace and mercy he invites all believers to take part in his project. Participation in this project according to the leading, gifting, and equipping of the Holy Spirit glorifies God and thus is the purpose of the life of every believer.