



What We Believe

I. The Holy Trinity

We believe in one living and true God, eternal and of infinite power, wisdom, goodness and righteousness. He is a loving and faithful God who is the Creator and preserver of all things (Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 10:10; I Timothy 1:7). In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons of one substance with identical qualities and attributes: the Father (God), the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (John 1:1,2; 4:24; 5:18; 10:30).

II. The Son of God

We believe in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. Christ was both fully man and fully God. He walked our earth, suffered at the hands of men, was crucified, died and was buried as a sacrifice for the sins of all men and women everywhere.

The purpose was to restore our relationship to God which is broken by sin (disobedience) (Luke 1:27; 31:35; John 3:16; Romans 5:10; Ephesians 5:2). Christ rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven in full victory over

Satan and sin. He now intercedes for the body of believers to God the Father (Matthew 28:5-9; Luke 24:4-7).

III. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the person of the Holy Trinity who lives within us, giving us the power to live a life that brings glory to God and guides us to all truth (Romans 8:9; Galatians 4:6).

IV. The Authority of Scripture

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments combined constitute the Holy Bible; no books added or deleted. The Holy Bible is inspired and inerrant (that is, without error or failure of basic contents and meaning in the original manuscripts). The Holy Bible contains all of the necessary truth to lead men

and women into salvation (Psalm 19:7; John 17:17; Romans 15:4; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Timothy 3:15-17).

V. Man

We believe that mankind was created by God in His own image (Genesis 1:27), but because of Adam's sin (disobedience) man inherits a corrupt nature that inclines him to do wrong (Genesis 3:6; 6:5; Romans 5:12).

Man is not capable of achieving a life without sin on his own (Proverbs 20:9; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16).

Because

man is created in God's own image, we have a "God-likeness" which includes knowledge between right and wrong,

the ability to choose which course we will take, and the responsibility of our actions, or our choices

(Joshua 24:15; I Kings 20:40; John 7:17).

VI. Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, was given by God as a sacrifice for the sins of all men. Christ died on the cross to mend the broken relationships, which were caused by man's sin of disobedience. Three days after His crucifixion, Christ rose victorious over death, providing once and for all the necessary atonement for eternal life (John 1:29; 3:6; I Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:2; I Peter 1:19).

We believe that when man repents of his sins and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ he, in the same moment, is justified, regenerated, and adopted into the family of God and assured of his salvation through the witness of the Spirit.

We believe that we are accepted as righteous before God only on the basis of the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, being justified by faith alone, and not on the basis of our own works (Acts 13:38-39; 15:11; 16:31; Romans 1:17).

We believe that regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the pardoned sinner becomes a child of God. This new life is received through faith in Jesus Christ, and by it the regenerate are delivered from the power of sin which reigns over the unregenerate, so that they love God and through grace serve Him (John 1:12-13; 3:3; 5:8; II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:26).

WHAT ABOUT SINS COMMITTED AFTER SALVATION?

We believe that after we have experienced regeneration it is possible to fall into sin, for in this life there is no such height or strength of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God, one who has fallen into sin may, by confession and true repentance, find forgiveness and restored fellowship with God. At no point does God reject the believer but by continuous sin in the believer's life they have evidenced their rejection of Christ's teachings and we believe there comes a time when God will release them to the consequences of their own choices which may result in loss of salvation. We believe no man can truly know the hearts or motives of other men therefore we believe God alone is the final judge of where we will spend eternity and we are committed to leaving that in His hands (Matthew 18:21-22; I John 1:9; 2:24-25).

VII. Good Works

We believe that even though men and women cannot receive salvation by good works, they are still pleasing to God and show evidence of a true faith in God, and Jesus as Lord of their life (Matthew 5:16; 7:16-20; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; James 2:18, 22).

VIII. Sanctification (Total Consecration)

We believe that sanctification is the work of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, making the believer pure in heart and totally committed and dedicated to God. This work is both instantaneous and gradual (or progressive). It begins when a person is saved and continues throughout life; but there is a second definite work of grace after salvation, a time when the believer is convicted of a "lukewarm" Christian life and looks to Christ with a total commitment and dedication to "Christ-like" living. There is no black and white time line involved; for some this occurs soon following salvation and for others much time elapses; but for all believers, sanctification is the will of God (I Thessalonians 4:4). Sanctification is the point in life when a believer renounces the desire to live for self and desires to live totally for the glory of God. The believer is then empowered by the Holy Spirit, making him able to live a life of holiness. This does not mean perfection of the believer, but purity of heart, soul, and mind (Deuteronomy 30:6; Luke 1:74-75; Acts 15:8-9; I Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:13, 24; I Thessalonians 4:3, 7; James 4:8).

IX. Gifts of the Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and bringing glory to God. The gifts are to emphasize the need for unity and to be exercised in love (I Corinthians 12:4, 11, 18, 21-25; Ephesians 4:11-16).

We believe in the miraculous use of languages and the interpretation of languages in its biblical and historical setting. That is, languages were an evangelistic tool used for the purpose of spreading the Gospel. The languages were unknown to the speaker, but known by the hearers (Acts 2:4-8). But, it is contrary to the teaching of God's Word to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue, or the gift of tongues, is evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24).

The unity of the body of Christ is of utmost importance. Therefore, only language readily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship (I Corinthians 12:1; 14:40).

X. Sacraments

We believe that God ordained two sacraments: The Lord's Supper and Baptism. The Lord's Supper is received in remembrance of Christ's death for our sins - the bread representing His body and the wine, His blood. It is in remembrance of God's love and grace toward us, and the love we must share with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; I Corinthians 10:16). Baptism is an outward symbolic act signifying salvation and cleansing of sin (Numbers 8:7; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:26). We baptize by immersion.

XI. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior and are unrepentant will be judged by God in His perfect justice and doomed to eternal punishment (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 25:31-46; II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16). We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to receive His believers into heaven and eternal life. The time of His return is unknown, but may be at any moment. This is the glorious hope of all God's children (John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:1-3-18; James 5:7-8; Revelation 22:12, 20).