

## Statement of Faith – Keenan Barber

I believe in God who is all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, and all-loving. I believe that God reveals Himself in the three persons of the Trinity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, distinct but also one. I believe God is the creator of everything seen and unseen, the sustainer of life, and the redeemer of the world.

I believe all men and women are made in God's image, humanity was created to be in relationship with God and created to worship God. Sin entered into the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Because we are mentally, physically, morally, and spiritually corrupted by sin, we worship things other than God and are incapable of faithfulness. In an attempt to draw humankind back to Himself, God made a covenant with Abraham to bless all nations through his descendants. However, God's people were powerless to keep the covenant or to fulfill the law.

I believe God is revealed through his one and only son, Jesus Christ, who was fully human and fully God. Jesus was born of a virgin, proclaimed the Kingdom of God, healed and performed miracles, was unjustly condemned and convicted, was killed by the authorities of his time, and was raised from the dead by the power of God. Christ, being perfect, was the ultimate sacrifice. His death atoned for the sin of all people. In the person and work of Jesus, God renews his covenant with humankind. And it is by grace through faith we receive the gift of salvation and the forgiveness of our sins. It is not by our own effort.

I believe Christ, seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, has given the Church the Holy Spirit. The Spirit acts as an advocate on our behalf, provides wisdom to those who seek, comforts those who mourn, brings justice for those who are persecuted, and heals those who are hurting. When we receive Christ, the Holy Spirit comes into us, dwells in us, and empowers us to live, both individually and corporately, as Christ calls the Church to live.

I believe the Bible is the living word of God and guides the Church. Scripture is God-breathed, infallible (in matters of faith and practice), and is illuminated by the Spirit. This revelation should serve as both authority and rule for the Church.

I believe the Church is called to proclaim the word of God and celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In baptism we participate in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we celebrate God's faithfulness. In the Lord's Supper, we are lifted into Christ's presence and remember and proclaim Christ's death and resurrection until Jesus returns once and for all. By participating in these sacraments, we actively receive from God the strength to live out our lives as God's chosen people for eternity.

I believe the Church is the Body of Christ, continuing his mission in the world. God calls the one universal Church into being, and gives the Church direction, instruction, and purpose. The Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, lives out its calling in a variety of ways. The Church worships God. The Church reaches inwardly to heal, encourage, discipline, and build up those who are in the body. Finally, the Church serves humanity by loving people in the world, sharing the life-saving message of Jesus, living by the example set by the person and work of Jesus, and by upholding justice throughout the world.