

Statement of Faith

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains --- but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.”
(1 Corinthians 13:2)

1. The Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and were given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, all Scripture is authoritative, infallible, and inerrant. The Scriptures are fully sufficient and are the supreme authority, in all matters of faith and conduct. Scripture is best understood by prayerfully trusting and applying the written words (literally in the context and the whole of Scripture). **Psalm 19:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31-32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32.**

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God who is without division of nature, essence, or being, but who eternally exists in three persons. These three are equal in every divine perfection, and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. **Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:5-6.**

3. God the Father

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He foreknows infallibly all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. **Isaiah 46:9-10; Luke 10:21-22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16, John 6:27; 1 Timothy 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6.**

4. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who is fully God and fully man, and is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law and suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. Christ will return again visibly and bodily. He is the only Prophet, Priest, and King, Sovereign of the universe. **Isaiah 53:10-12;**

John 1:1-14; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Galatians 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:1-3; Hebrews 7:25.

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration: baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. **John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26-27; John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 5:18.**

6. Man (God's Image, Sexes, Attire, Marriage, and Sin/Depravity)

God's Image. God designed and created two distinct, different, and complimentary sexes to work together in unity, reflecting both the image and likeness of God.

Sexes. The Bible states that mankind was created and innately exists as only one of two sexes, male and female, or man and woman. This binary sex is scientifically and biologically evidenced by sex specific reproductive organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Males have testicles to produce testosterone and have XY chromosomes in approximately 30 trillion cells in every male. Females have ovaries that produce estrogen and have XX chromosomes in every single cell. No chemical, hormonal, or surgical castration or alteration can fully change a person's sex. Any attempts to do so confuses and harms an individual physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Sex change attempts often lead to painful and expensive reversals, long-term life-long medical dependency, and future illnesses related to these alterations.

Attire. We believe everyone should dress modestly consistent with their sex.

Marriage. God instituted marriage exclusively between only 1-man and 1-woman for life, which reflects Christ's loving relationship with His true Church. We believe all sexual activity is only to occur between 1-man and 1-woman that are married to each other. All other sexual activity outside of God's institution of marriage is sinful and immoral.

Sin/Depravity. However, by Adam's sin, sin entered the world, and death passed upon all men. All have sinned, fallen short of God's glory, and become alienated from God. Man is depraved totally and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. **Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:18-25; 5:2; Deuteronomy 22:5; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6; Romans 3:22-23; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 5:21-23; 1 Timothy 2:9.**

7. Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift brought to man by the free grace and pleasure of God. Salvation was accomplished through Christ's substitutionary life and death and His resurrection from the grave, and it is received by personal faith (which always includes repentance) in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. **Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19.**

8. Sanctification

We believe that believers are saved into a life-long process of being made more and more like Christ which includes a progressive growth in the knowledge and understanding of God, good works, repentance of sins and a putting to death the deeds of the flesh, and a love for God and others. Because sanctification is progressive, no one will ever arrive at perfection before death, but every believer should be growing towards Christ likeness. **Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:13-25; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:1-17; 2 Peter 1:3-11.**

9. Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh. Assurance is based upon the person and work of Christ and upon the evidence of conversion in the life of a believer. **John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5; Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.**

10. The Church

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church which is composed of all His true disciples. Christians are to associate themselves into local bodies for the purpose of worship, work, and fellowship. To each local body, Christ has given the authority for administering order, discipline, and worship. The regular officers of a church are Elders (Pastors) and Deacons. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary tasks of evangelization and edification (giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world and spiritually making disciples teaching them to grow in obedience to God's Word). **Matthew 28:18-20; John 10:16; Acts 20:17, 28; Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 18:15-19.**

11. Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the wellbeing of his fellow men, that his conduct should be blameless before the world, that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions, and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of

maturity in Christ. We believe in the practice of church discipline as defined in **Matthew 18:15-17**. **1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9-10.**

12. Church Ordinances

We believe that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the local church: Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The practice of these ordinances is a regular part of our services. Neither are to be construed to eternally save anyone but are commands to all believers. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer into water after salvation in the name of the triune God. Water baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death, His body, and His blood shed for sin. Participation in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is to be taken seriously. It may be observed by those in attendance who have saving faith and have confessed any known sin. **Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 8:35-39; Acts 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Colossians 2:12.**

13. The Last Things

We believe in the imminent Pretribulational Rapture or that Jesus comes back in the air, bodily resurrecting the Church (living and dead), and takes them to heaven prior to the Tribulation. We believe in the visible, personal, and Premillennial 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ, where He returns to earth with the Church for Tribulation believers prior to His Millennium kingdom. We believe in the final Great White Throne Judgment, the eternal conscious blessedness of believers in heaven, and the endless conscious suffering of the wicked in Hell. **Matthew 16:27; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15:1-53; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:1-7, 11-15.**