

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We hold the Bible as our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. We offer this Statement of Faith only as a basis of fellowship among us. The verbiage used is neither inspired nor contended for, but simply serves as our attempt to set forth in as concise a manner as possible those truths we hold essential to common practice and belief (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). We make no claim that it holds all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, having limitless knowledge and sovereign power. He is by nature holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22)

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21)

The Human Condition

3. We believe that man was created in the image of God, and was initially good and upright. However, in the Garden Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and willingly chose to transgress God's instruction. As the first Man, Adam's decision to transgress God's commands impacted all of mankind to come, leaving us with a fallen nature. That means that human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under God's judgment. It is only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ that we can be rescued from His judgment of sin, reconciled to a loving relationship with Him, and renewed in nature to become His children. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19)

Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. We believe that He willingly left His position at the right hand of God the Father to come to earth and live as a man, and that He did this by being conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit within the womb of the virgin Mary. Fully God and fully man, He is one Person in two natures. Jesus – Israel's promised Messiah – lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily, and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.