



## **Statement of Faith**

We have a core set of beliefs that we adhere to. It is these core set of beliefs that are largely responsible for the unity we have as believers in Christ. However, we recognize, and allow for, differing opinions and convictions on issues not considered to be “core” to our faith.

### **About God**

We believe in the personal existence of one God, the Creator and Supreme Being existent in three persons (Father, Son and Spirit), who is infinite and perfect and has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind through His presence, His creation, His Word, His Spirit and His Church. By His sovereign will, wisdom, and power, God continues to sustain His creation and order the affairs of people and nations according to His eternal plan. The following are some of God’s eternal characteristics; He is unchangeable, all knowing, all-powerful, all-present, complete in holiness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy, and grace. God is the final authority for our faith and life.

**Supporting references:** Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 33:13-15, 135:6-7, 139:7-18; Isaiah 5:16; Jeremiah 32:17; Romans 1:20, 5:8, 8:38-39, 11:33-36; Hebrews 4:16, 1 John 4:8

### **About Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God. He became fully human through the miraculous process of the virgin birth and came to earth to defeat Satan and evil. Although He was tempted in all ways common to ordinary human beings, Jesus lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to His Father. He voluntarily suffered death on the cross, satisfying the demands of God’s justice and making full payment of sin’s penalty; thereby making reconciliation and restoration possible. Jesus physically and literally rose from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is now enthroned at the right hand of the Father as the mediator between God and humanity. He will return one day to take with Him all those who have accepted Him as Savior, and He will establish His Kingdom in the new heaven and new earth.

**Supporting references:** Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-4, 3:16-18; Acts 1:11; Romans 8:34, 9:5; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:15-17, 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Peter 3:10-13; 1 John 2:1-2, 3:8; Revelation 21:1-2, 22:1-7

### **About the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God. The Holy Spirit is active in convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and applies the saving work of Jesus Christ to the lives of sinful human beings who repent of their sin. The Holy Spirit provides assurance of salvation, strength, guidance into truth, comfort, and instruction for living. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and equips them for Godly living and service in the family, church, and world.

**Supporting references:** John 16:8-15; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:1-17, 22-27; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 3:16, 4:30, 5:18

### **About the Bible**

We believe that the Holy Bible, consisting of thirty-nine Old Testament books and twenty-seven New Testament books, is the inspired Word of God and without error as originally written. It is completely true in all that it affirms and teaches and serves as God's communication to mankind concerning His dealing with creation, the fall of mankind, and His plan for reconciliation, redemption, and restoration. The Scripture teaches us the truth regarding the realities of life, death, and judgment; and it teaches us that God's plan of redemption and restoration are ultimately fulfilled and accomplished through His Son Jesus.

**Supporting references:** Joshua 1:8; John 2:22, 5:39-40, 45-47, 7:42; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19

### **About Human Beings and Sin**

We believe that human beings were distinctly created in the image of God and uniquely designed to have relationship and fellowship with the Creator. As a result of our rebellion against Him in the Garden of Eden every member of the human race has inherited a sinful nature from Adam. Thus, through our thoughts and actions, we have been alienated from God and are therefore morally guilty before God. Human beings, apart from the power of God, are subject to sin's power, inclined towards disobedience to God, and deserving of sin's death penalty.

**Supporting references:** Genesis 1:26-27, 2:15-3:24; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9-18, 5:12, 18, 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:56-57; Ephesians 2:1-9; Hebrews 11:6

### **About Salvation**

We believe that salvation is made possible only by God's grace through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. This salvation is available to all people. Salvation means our debt of sin has been paid for by the death of Jesus Christ, and that the righteousness of Christ's life is applied to our lives. Salvation is deliverance from alienation,

guilt, bondage, and death; as well as restoration to freedom, fellowship, righteousness, and life. Those who receive salvation will eternally live in the presence of God and will joyfully receive his provisions forever. We become new creations in Christ and children of God. While salvation can in no way be earned through good deeds, it results in a life of increasing holiness, obedience, submission, love for God and for other people.

**Supporting references:** John 1:12-13, 10:7-10, 14:6-7; Romans 5:1-2, 6-11, 8:1-4, 9-11, 14-17, 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20-21; Ephesians 1:11-13, 2:4-10, Hebrews 9:11-22

### **About the Church**

We believe that the church is the body of Christ with Christ as its head. As a universal community of believers, the church is comprised of all those who have been united to Christ, and to each other, through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a local community of believers, the church is called to worship God in all that it does and bring the redeeming work of Christ to every aspect of life and culture. The church must seek to grow in love for each other and for the lost, to serve and encourage others, and to carry the gospel of redemption to every part of the earth. The church is being continually built by Jesus and there are no limitations or boundaries to the advancement of His Kingdom. God has chosen to use the church for His highest purpose; to bring glory to Him by influencing a lost and dying culture towards the complete wisdom and love of God.

**Supporting references:** Matthew 16:18-19, 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-47, 4:32-37, 5:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-23, 3:8-11, 20-21, 4:1-5:2; Col 1:18, 24; 1 The 1:3-10, 1 John 4:7-11

### **About Spiritual Gifts**

We believe that the love and wisdom of God is reflected in the gifting of Christ's body, the church. Spiritual gifts are given to members of Christ's body at the sovereign discretion of the Holy Spirit, used in accordance with opportunities provided for by Jesus, and made effective by the work of the Father. God's intent is for each person to utilize their gifts to serve others and demonstrate the grace of God in various ways. Rather than drawing attention toward one's self or providing cause for pride, the gifts are intended to bring glory and honor to God, strengthen the lives of believers, and draw unbelievers toward God.

**Supporting references:** Psalms 37:4; Romans 12:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13:3, 14:1, 12b, 18, 15:10; Ephesians 2:8-10, 1 Peter 4:10-11

### **About the Coming Age**

We believe that Jesus Christ will physically return to raise the dead, judge all people, and consummate His Kingdom. Jesus will take with Him to heaven those that have trusted Him as Savior and Lord. Those that have previously died who trusted in God will also be raised to eternal and everlasting life. Those, both living and dead, who have not believed in Christ and rejected God will be judged, and will be eternally separated from God's presence resulting in everlasting conscious torment in a place the Bible identifies as Hell.

**Supporting references:** John 5:21-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Revelation 20:11-15

### **About Baptism and Communion**

We believe that Baptism and Communion are two practices commanded by Christ that should be faithfully observed. Baptism is a public demonstration and pronouncement of our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Christ. Rather than procuring salvation, Baptism is an act of obedience to God that symbolically communicates that we have been cleansed by Jesus and that we belong to Him. We believe that Baptism through immersion is the best outward demonstration of this new inward reality. Whenever possible we shall baptize through immersion.

Communion is a memorial of Christ's death for us, a reminder that our sins are forgiven only through His work, and a symbol that our spiritual growth and life are sustained by His work. In addition, Communion reminds all followers of Christ that they will one day reside with Him eternally in His Kingdom. In the same manner as Baptism, participation in Communion is an outward representation of a spiritual reality and does not procure one's salvation.

**Supporting references:** Matthew 3:5-6, 26:26-29, 28:19; Acts 2:38-39, 8:12-13; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

### **About Marriage**

We believe that the marriage relationship was created and ordained by God as early as the first male-female relationship in human history between Adam and Eve. From its initiation, the marriage relationship was to reflect God's instructions that a man and a woman would come together and become "one flesh." This "oneness" was to be reflected through their life's purposes, their intimate understanding of each other's hearts, the raising of children which resulted from their marriage, their working towards the best interests of the family, and their sexuality. The marriage relationship between a man and a woman was supposed to represent the relationship of the three "persons" of God as well as the relationship between mankind and God.

It seems that, with respect to those people God has called to be married, they cannot be "whole" or "complete" outside their marital relationship. In that vain, God provided the man and woman to "complete" the other as they became more "one flesh" over time. It is also noted that whenever Jesus spoke of marriage that He only spoke of the marriage relationship in the

context of a man and a woman. The same is true for every single author in Scripture; marriage was always mentioned in the context of a man and woman.

In no way are those with the gift of being single “less than” or less valuable than those who don’t have that gift. Additionally, we do not feel that people gifted in this manner are any less valued in God’s Kingdom; either on this earth or in our future home. In fact, God’s Word teaches that those who are single have tremendous opportunities to serve God in ways that married people may not be able to.

**Supporting references:** Genesis 1:28, 2:18-25, Malachi 2:10-16, Matthew 19:2-12, 1 Corinthians 7:7-8; Ephesians 5:23-32