



STATEMENT OF
FAITH

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Section 1. The Bible: We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and completely truthful in all it affirms. It bears witness to Jesus Christ, the Living Word and is infallible in its purposes. While reason, experience, and tradition together with the Bible serve to inform truth and life, the Scriptures are the primary authority in the rule of faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12)

Section 2. God: We believe in one God, creator of all things, who has revealed Himself in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one in eternity, deity, and purpose; everlasting, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. (Genesis 12:33; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Psalms 102:27; I Timothy 1:17; John 1:1-2; John 8:58; Heb. 1:8; I John 1:2; Micah 5:2; Revelation 1:8; Hebrews 9:14; Romans 1:20)

Section 3. Jesus Christ: We believe in the incarnation and virgin birth of Jesus Christ who came into the world to reveal the Father, and was the reflection of His glory and the express image of the Father; that Jesus Christ, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, was the Creator of all things. We further believe that in Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, that He was very God and very Man, and that He is our savior, the one perfect mediator between God and humanity. We acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord over all things in heaven and in earth, and under the earth. (John 1:1-2, 14; I Timothy 3:16; Acts 7:37-38; Hebrews 1:1-5; Philippians 2:9-10)

Section 4. Christ's Resurrection and Immanent Return: We believe in Jesus Christ's sinless life, miracles, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection and His ascension into Heaven. He will return in power and glory to judge all people. As His return may occur at any moment, the believer's response is joyous expectation, watchfulness, and diligence. We anticipate His return at which time there will be a new heaven and a new earth, a resurrection of those who are lost to eternal death and those who are saved to eternal life, and the enemies of Christ will be subdued and the reign of God will be established. (Acts 1:11, 3:19-21; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 20:4; Revelation 14:6, 21:3-8,

22:1-5, 17)

Section 5. The Holy Spirit: We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is being manifested in the Church through the fruit of the Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are operative in the Church today in order for the Church to experience the fullness of God and are imparted by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit that begins at regeneration. The Holy Spirit continually empowers a believer to live a holy life like Christ. The evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit is a person's obedient response to the Word of God, a Christ-like life of holiness, and manifesting the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. (John 15:26, 16:14; Galatians. 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:18-21; Galatians 5:22-23; I Corinthians 12:8-11; I Corinthians 12:11; Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6; Ephesians 5:18; John 16:13)

Section 6. The Creation of Humanity: We believe that humanity was created by a direct and immediate act of God, innocent and morally free with the responsibility to choose between good and evil, right and wrong. All people are created by Him and in His image have the same inherent rights regardless of race, gender, or color. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:4; Romans 5:17-19)

Section 7. The Fall of Humanity: We believe that through disobedience humanity fell from a state of righteousness and holiness into total depravity, a state of sinfulness, unable in their own strength to obtain a right relationship with God and restore His image within. (Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 15:1-4)

Section 8. Satan: We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, that he was defeated by Christ through His death, burial and resurrection, and that Christ has given authority over the works of Satan to His body, the Church. (Matthew 28:18-20; Job 1:7; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 2:15)

Section 9. Repentance: We believe that repentance is the result of the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and non-believers. The conviction of the Holy Spirit, which often accompanies the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will result in the revelation of one's sinfulness which should lead to Godly sorrow. Godly sorrow

causes us to turn away from sin and selfishness and to receive faith for change. (II Corinthians 7:10; Psalms 51; Acts 11:18; II Timothy 2:25; Genesis 6:3; Romans 1:18-32; Matthew 9:12-13.)

Section 10. Justification: We believe that repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ results in justification whereby the believer, through faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ, is accounted as righteous and made free from the guilt and the penalty of their sins. (Romans 5:1-9; Luke 22:20; Romans 3:21-26, 28, 5:8-9)

Section 11. Regeneration: We believe that by a new relationship with Jesus Christ one is born again and is a new creation. With a new life and a new spiritual nature capable of faith, love, and obedience to Christ, the old life is past and the new life is begun. (John 5:24; II Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:9-10; Titus 3:4-5)

Section 12. Sanctification: We believe that by grace every believer may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ, whereby they are cleansed in that moment of inward sin and empowered for service. The resulting relationship of righteousness and purity is attested by the Holy Spirit and maintained by faith and obedience enabling believers to love God with all their hearts, souls, strength and minds. Further, this work causes believers not to be conformed to this world and prepares them for greater growth in grace. (Jude 24; Romans 9:25; Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 4:1-5, 12:1-2; Leviticus 20: 7-8; Romans 5:3-5; Galatians 5:22 – 25).

Section 13. Restoration: We believe in divine restoration to the image of God for the whole person. This restoration was obtained through the atonement in Christ's sacrificial death and, by faith, brings healing and wholeness in mind, body, soul, and spirit. Although Christians may grieve the Holy Spirit without returning to the dominion of sin, God's grace is sufficient for those who humbly repent, accept the correction of the Holy Spirit, trust the advocacy of Jesus, and mend their relationships. (Acts 4:30, 19:11; Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14; I Peter 2:24-25; Isaiah 53:4-5).

Section 14. Baptism: We believe that water baptism is a sacrament, commanded by our Lord Jesus, administered to believers as a declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and a symbol of the new covenant of grace. (Romans 2:28-29; Colossians 2:9-13; Hebrews 6:2; Acts 2:38)

Section 15. The Lord's Supper: We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death. To those who rightly, worthily, and with faith receive it, the bread and the cup is a partaking of the body and blood of Christ. Though Christ is really present, no change is effected in the elements which are never to be considered objects of worship. The supper is also a symbol of the love and unity that Christians have among themselves. (Mark 14:22-24; John 6:53-58; I Corinthians 5:7-8,10:16, 11:20, 23-29)

Section 16. Faith and Works: We believe that faith without works is dead. Faith results in an accompanying and corresponding action. Personal holiness and social holiness are essential to a living, active faith. Right practice is as important as right belief. (James 2:14-26; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 7:24-27; Matthew 5:16; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 16:27; Revelation 2:23; Revelation 22:12)

Section 17. The Church: The Church is the body of Christ in the world. In worship the Church comes together to meet the holy God and to respond in obedience and love. In witness, the Church makes known the good news of Christ throughout the local community and to the ends of the earth, calling the lost to repentance and faith. In making disciples, converts are brought into the body, baptized, trained and equipped for service to Christ. In fellowship, redeemed people experience their oneness in Christ by sharing in one another's lives with love and concern. In service, the Church corporately cares for the needs of its own and others. (Revelation 4; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; Acts 2:42, 26:17)