

Statement of Faith

God

We believe that there is one true God eternally existing in three persons-- Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- who share equally all the attributes of deity and participate fully in the essence of the Divine God-Head. God has spoken to humanity, and the Bible is His Word, given to make us wise unto salvation. God is Lord and King over His world; He rules all things for His own glory, displaying His perfections in all that He does, in order that humans and angels may worship and adore Him. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 5:17; 14:16-17; Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 1:1-2; II Timothy 3:15; Daniel 4:34-37; Isaiah 6:1-5; Revelation 4:1-11*)

The Bible

We believe in the Bible, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as the sole basis of our faith. We believe the Bible is infallible, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, without error in the original manuscripts, and is the supreme and final authority in all matters of life and godliness. (*II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 17:11; Isaiah 8:19-20*)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God, who humbled Himself and assumed a human nature through the Virgin Birth. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of humanity by dying on the cross as Substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead, appeared to various of His followers, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and humanity, continually makes intercession for His own. (*Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14; Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 9:11-12; I Peter 3:18; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 2:9; I Timothy 2:5-6*)

Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and has come into the world to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts New Life, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth, seals, sanctifies and empowers them through His spiritual gifts for life and service. His fullness, power and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith. (*John 3:3-8; 15:26; 16:8-11; Titus 3:5; II Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:1-3; Romans 8:2; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:16; I Corinthians 2:1-4; 12; I Thessalonians 1:5*)

Humanity

We believe that all human beings are created in the image of God. The sin of disobedience, however, brought with it an alienation from the Creator which is humanly irreconcilable. In this fallen state, no one can please God since human nature is corrupt and in desperate need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. God, who is rich in mercy, provided a way by which relationship with Himself could be restored through the death of His only Son. God imputes righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Those whom God justifies repent of sin, bear fruit in keeping with repentance, and persevere unto glory. We believe, also, that one can be assured of this salvation the very moment Christ is trusted as Savior and Lord. This assurance is not based on human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the testimony and promises of God's Word. (*Genesis 1:26-27; 3:6-24; 32:16-17; Psalm 14:1-3; John 3:3; Acts 26:20; Romans 3:10-18, 23; 4:1-3; 5:1, 6-10; 8:9, 14-17, 29-30; Ephesians 2:1-8; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:23; I John 5:10-13*)

The Church

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that the Church, His Body, is composed of all those living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. We also believe that the Church is manifested locally through congregations of believers in Christ who assemble together regularly for worship, instruction, fellowship and prayer. (*Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; I Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 10:24-25; 12:1; Acts 2:42-46*)

The Sacraments

We believe that the Christian sacraments are outward rites instituted by Christ, not as means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of the facts and realities of salvation. Baptism is the public act of confessing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; it is a symbol of one's faith-union and identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection unto newness of life. The Lord's Supper consists in a faith-partaking of the bread and wine which symbolize the death of Christ for the remission of our sins and the continual dependence upon Him for our spiritual nourishment. The Lord's table is open to all who are in right relationship with one another and with the Lord. (*Matthew 5:23-24; 26:26-30; 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:11-12; Acts 8:36-39; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:1-33; 11:23-26*)

Our Command

We believe that Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of every nation. We also believe that the Gospel has to do with the whole person and therefore our responsibility entails an involvement in the social dimension of the human condition as well as the spiritual. All of this is done in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; Matthew 25:31-46; I John 3:17; James 2:15-17; Acts 1:8*)

Death

We believe that the one who trusts in Jesus Christ enters immediately, upon physical death, into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of the body to judgment and everlasting glory. The unbeliever enters immediately into eternal conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of the body to judgment and everlasting condemnation. (*II Corinthians 5:8; I Corinthians 3:10-17; Revelation 20:11-15; Acts 24:14-15; Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 9:27-28; 10:26-31; I Peter 4:17*)

Christ's Return

We believe in the visible dynamic return of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to complete His saving work and establish His eternal Kingdom. Maranatha! (*Matthew 24:29-31; 25:31; Luke 17:26-37; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-5:2, 23; II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Titus 2:13; Revelation 21*)