

Statement of Faith

The Scripture

We believe the Bible, and only the Bible, is the inspired, authoritative Word of God. We believe it is the product of holy, God-appointed men who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. As recorded in the New Testament, we accept the Bible as our inerrant guide in matters pertaining to doctrinal truth and conduct. (*2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

The Trinity

God eternally exists in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, and there is one God.

God the Father

We believe that God the Father is the ultimate authority who created the heavens and the Earth and everything in it. God is eternal and gives eternal life through our repentance and acceptance of His gift of Jesus. He loves us more than we can comprehend. He is full of compassion; He cares for us, hears us, provides for us, and is full of glory and great love. He disciplines, yet delights in us. He is greater than all. (Gen 1; John 17:24; John 16:23-28; Ps 103:13; 1 John 3:1; Prov 3:11,12; Matt 6:26; John 10:28-30; Matt 7:7-11; Luke 15: 11-32)

Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is 100 percent God and 100 percent man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, performed miracles, died on the cross for humankind and, thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again to earth in power and glory to establish His kingdom of a new heaven and a new earth from which He will reign forever. (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1,14; 20:28; Eph 1:22,23; Philippians 2:5,6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 3:16)

Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and is one with the Godhead and that He is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He is our guide and intercedes for us. He baptizes believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption; He is sent by Jesus Christ as Comforter to all believers. We believe that all the redeemed have the Holy Spirit resident in their lives to build and sanctify the church. The Holy Spirit brings renewal, refreshing,

deeper knowledge, an increased desire for holiness, understanding of Scripture, empowerment to preach to the lost, and provides power in the spiritual gifts. We believe that all the gifts mentioned in Scripture are present and available today. They are distributed as the Spirit desires to build up the body and impact the lost world. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. (John 16:8-1; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18; Joel 2:28; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4, 17, 38-39; 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 12; Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10)

The Church

By following the example of Jesus Christ that He modeled to the disciples, the local church is a group of people participating in God's plan to love Him, to live the gospel and love our neighbors. This is accomplished practically by gathering, praying, encouraging one another and doing good works. Therefore, Christians are to become committed participants with other local believers, in maturing His people, making disciples and reaching sinners with the Gospel. (John 13:35; John 17: 20-23; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10: 24,25; Eph 1:22,23)

Man's Fall

We believe mankind are created beings made in the likeness and image of God. Through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world, and death was the result. Man is spiritually dead and separated from God. We believe that all men are lost and face the judgment of God. We believe that man, by himself, is totally and utterly unable to remedy his lost condition and that Jesus Christ is the only way of Salvation. (Romans 5:12, Romans 5:14; Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 3:8;)

The Gospel: Eternal Life & New Birth

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sent to give His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God by providing us with salvation. His death was a substitutionary sacrifice to God for our sins, satisfying the demands of God's holy justice and appeasing His holy wrath on our behalf. In order to be saved, Jesus said every person must be born again. The new birth is necessary to all men and women, and when experienced, produces eternal life. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts. Because of Christ, every person who repents of their sin and believes in and accepts Christ alone as Savior shall be saved and spend eternity in Heaven with God, and will be saved from the punishment of Hell. (John 3:3-5; Acts 16:31; Romans 8:1; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; 3:8; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 5:12)

Growth in Christ

All believers in Christ are progressively transformed into his image. This lifelong process of growth is a work of grace as the Spirit empowers us to abide in Christ and pursue growth and holiness in every area of life, with joy, while being confident in Christ's finished work.

Communion

Communion is a celebration for all believers. It symbolizes our participation in the new covenant that was sealed by Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. The elements are representative of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and God ministers to His people through these elements. (1 Cor 11:23-28; Luke 22:14-22)

Baptism

We believe Jesus commanded all believers to be baptized. Water baptism is a public declaration of the inward transformation of the new birth for a believer. We are not saved through baptism; yet it demonstrates that we have received a new life in Christ. By immersion in water, this is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39)

Marriage

We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within marriage. God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complement each other and instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19: 5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9)

Prayer

Prayer is a believer's way of communicating with God, thereby establishing a two way spiritual relationship. Intercession and prayer are essential and foundational to spiritual growth of the church. (Matt 6: 9-13; 2 Cor 10:3-5; Romans 8:26-28; Phil 4:6)

Sanctity of Life

We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; and we must have concern for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our fellow man. (Psalms 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22: 37-39; Romans 12: 20-21; Galatians 6:10)