

Statement of Faith

Section 1: Statement of Faith

(A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbal, plenary, inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings and preserved by God that they might be found infallible in all matters of doctrine and principle, thereby making them the final authority for faith and life. We hold that The Scriptures contain thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven books in the New Testament, and combined are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. In regards to the interpretation of Scripture, all Scripture shall be interpreted according to its normal literal, grammatical, historical, and cultural meaning. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21)

(B) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God eternally existing in the three persons noted in Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is co-eternal in being and identical in character, power, and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:10, 26)

(C) The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

- (1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8)
- (2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, “died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:3-4) thereby providing redemption to man by paying the eternal debt of sinful man by way of Christ’s literal, physical death on the cross as the one and only perfect and acceptable sacrifice on behalf of mankind, and the justification of the believer unto eternal life is made sure by The Lord Jesus Christ’s literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; I Peter 2:24, Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 1:3-5)
- (3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father where, as our High Priest, Christ fulfills the ministry of Intercessor and Advocate on behalf of the believer. (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2)

(D) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- (1) We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14)
- (2) We believe that The Holy Spirit illuminates the believer's mind unto understanding of the Scriptures as they are read and studied and brings such to remembrance of the believer at various times as needed. (John 14:26, Ephesians 1:17-18; I John 2:20, 27)
- (3) We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit were necessary in the early Church to establish it as God's anointed ministry until the time of the Gentiles comes to an end. Upon the completion of the Scriptures and establishment of the Church, these gifts are not necessary or common for today and we are to seek those gifts which edify the Church such as, but not limited to, evangelism, prophesy (the proclamation of the Gospel – common to pastors), teaching, helps, and hospitality. (I Corinthians 12, 14:1-5; Ephesians 4:11-13)

(E) The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin, the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God, and man is totally depraved in and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-19)

(F) Salvation

We believe that forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation is provided through grace by the bloody death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and is available to any and all that shall confess the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in his heart that God hath raised Christ from the dead. We believe that this is the true and only way unto salvation. (John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10; I Corinthians 15:12-23; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; I Peter 1:18-19)

(G) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

- (1) We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8, I Peter 1:4-5; Jude 24)
- (2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of

Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 6:1, 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

(H) The Church

- (1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27)
- (2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
- (3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; I Corinthians 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4)
- (4) We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; I Corinthians 11:23-26)

(I) Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God. (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Galatians 5:16; I Peter 1:15-16; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11)

(J) The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return, with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the Nation of Israel. (Psalm 89:3-4; Daniel 2:31-45; Zechariah 13:4-11; I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

(K) The Eternal State

- (1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13)
- (2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord until the first resurrection. At which time, they will receive their glorified bodies and await the Judgment of the believer that he "may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done..." (II Corinthians 5:10;

Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6)

- (3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when, with soul and body united, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment and torment. (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15)

(L) The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the authority of sin, and the architect of the Fall of Mankind. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man and shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

(M) Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six, literal, twenty-four hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11)

Section 2: Authority of Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. However, we do believe the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible. Therefore, it is binding upon all members.

Section 3: Cultural Distinctions

Due to the human appetite for sin and its perversion of nature and the world we live in, we find it necessary to make distinct statements in accordance with our Statement of Faith based upon Scriptural principles regarding the following subjects:

(A) Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions:

- 1) The home
- 2) The Church
- 3) Civil Government

Every person is subject to these authorities, but all, including the authorities themselves, are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each

institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the civil government are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14)

(B) Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity is permissible outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5-13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

(C) Institution of the Family (Marriage)

Because marriage between a man and a woman is to be a reflection of Christ and his bride, the Church, we believe that marriage is to last until the death of a spouse. Because it is a spiritual union, it is therefore under the sovereign authority of God and not to be dissolved by man. (Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:8-9; Ephesians 5:22-33)

(D) Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. We exhort the choice of life. (Psalm 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5)