



## Statement of Faith

We believe the following statement of faith, though not exhaustive, is an accurate representation of the teaching of the Bible which provides the doctrinal foundation for faith and life.

### 1. The Scriptures

We believe the Bible is the living<sup>1</sup> and inspired Word of God<sup>2</sup> and is without error in the original writings. Divine inspiration extends equally to all parts of the sixty-six Old and New Testament books of the Bible. Scripture has the authority and is sufficient as the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be evaluated.

<sup>1</sup>Hebrews 4:12 <sup>2</sup>Timothy 3:16-17; <sup>2</sup>Peter 1:19-21

### 2. The One True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God<sup>1</sup> co-existing as three persons: The Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead differs in their role, having the same nature and attributes, and is worthy of the same worship and honor.<sup>2</sup> This one true God created and sustains all things, seen and unseen, and has complete knowledge of all things.<sup>3</sup> He is the sovereign ruler over all creation and works out his purposes both providentially and miraculously.

<sup>1</sup>Exodus 20:2-3; <sup>2</sup>Matthew 28:18-20; <sup>3</sup>1 Corinthians 8:6; <sup>2</sup>Corinthians 4:18

### 3. The Father

We believe the Father is the ultimate source and cause of all things<sup>1</sup>, including divine revelation<sup>2</sup>, salvation<sup>3</sup>, and Jesus' human works<sup>4</sup>; the Father initiates all of these things.

<sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 8:6; <sup>2</sup>Revelation 1:1, 4:11; <sup>3</sup>John 3:16-17; <sup>4</sup>John 5:17; 14:10

### 4. The Son, Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is eternal as both Creator God and fully man.<sup>1</sup> He is the promised Messiah (Christ) sent by the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.<sup>2</sup> He died for the sins of humanity<sup>3</sup> on the cross, was buried, rose again on the third day, and was seen by many witnesses.<sup>4</sup> In the same body with which he was crucified, Jesus Christ was glorified and ascended to heaven where he now intercedes on behalf of his people and is preparing a place for them.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hebrews 1:1-3; John 8:58; Colossians 2:9; <sup>2</sup>Matthew 1:18-25; Philippians 2:5-11; <sup>3</sup>Isaiah 53;  
<sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 15:3-7; <sup>5</sup>John 14:1-6

## 5. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person who is co-equal with the Father and the Son while fulfilling his unique role.<sup>1</sup> He shared in the creation of all things<sup>2</sup> and inspired the writing of Scripture.<sup>3</sup> He convicts the world of sin<sup>4</sup> and regenerates and sanctifies believers. The Holy Spirit seals, secures<sup>4</sup>, and indwells<sup>5</sup> each believer from the moment of their salvation and gives them gifts for ministry.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>John 4:24; 14:26; 15:26; <sup>2</sup>Genesis 1:2; <sup>3</sup>2 Peter 1:21; <sup>4</sup>John 16:7-14; <sup>4</sup>Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30;  
<sup>5</sup>1 Corinthians 6:19; <sup>6</sup>1 Corinthians 12:4-11

## 6. Spiritual Beings

We believe that angels are spirit-beings created to serve and worship God.<sup>1</sup> While all angels were originally good when created, there were a large number who followed Satan (the devil) and rebelled against God.<sup>2</sup> The work of Jesus Christ on the cross defeated Satan and all of the fallen angels, making certain their judgment and eternal punishment.<sup>3</sup>

Satan (Devil) is the evil god of this age, the ruler of all the powers of darkness, and the adversary of God and his people. His influence over God's people is limited to external influences which can be resisted by the believer who is empowered by the Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 29:1; Hebrews 1:6 <sup>2</sup>2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 12:1-12 <sup>3</sup>Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14; John 16:11; Revelation 20:10 <sup>4</sup>Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-18

## 7. Mankind and Sin

We believe that mankind is the product of the direct creative act of God. Mankind (male and female) is made in the image and likeness of God.<sup>1</sup> Mankind fell through sin, when Adam and Eve defied God and consequently became dead in sin, and subject to the power of Satan. Sin has been transmitted to the entire human race so that all mankind is born into the world with a fallen nature and is powerless to recover oneself from this condition.<sup>2</sup>

We believe in the sanctity of human life, which begins at the point of conception.<sup>3</sup> Mankind is created to be in community. Some will be single, and others will choose to marry. Marriage is for a male and a female joined together to share life and to bear children as God blesses.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; <sup>2</sup>Romans 3:1-24; 5:12-14 <sup>3</sup>Psalm 139:13-14 <sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 7:8-9; Genesis 1:28; 2:18

## 8. Salvation and Sanctification

We believe that salvation is entirely of God, by grace, through each individual's personal faith in Christ and his sacrifice, apart from any human merit or works.<sup>1</sup> Believers were chosen sovereignly by God before the foundation of the world for salvation and are enabled by the Spirit to believe.<sup>2</sup> Believers are justified before God in that their sins were imputed to Christ and His righteousness was given to them.<sup>3</sup> The true believer is sanctified at the point of salvation and is maturing towards Christlikeness by submitting to His authority over their lives until they die and enter God's presence or the return of Christ.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 3:5-6; Acts 16:31 <sup>2</sup>Ephesians 1:4-11; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 10:27-29  
<sup>3</sup>Romans 3:21-4:25; Romans 5:1; 8:33-39 <sup>4</sup>2 Peter 1:4-11; Philippians 1:6

## 9. The Church and Israel

We believe that all true believers in Jesus Christ are members of the Church, also known as the Body of Christ,<sup>1</sup> which is related to yet distinct from Israel.<sup>2</sup> The local church is a congregation of baptized believers who are associated in the faith.

The Church is responsible for the stewardship of the gospel<sup>3</sup>, worship of God<sup>4</sup>, and is a voice for biblical justice<sup>5</sup> and truth<sup>6</sup> in the world. Each member of the Church is called to seek the Lord through prayer, study of the Bible, and dependence on the work of the Spirit of God, leading to continual spiritual growth toward holiness and separation from all sinful practices and all spiritual apostasy.<sup>7</sup> Baptism by immersion<sup>8</sup> and communion<sup>9</sup> are the essential ordinances of the Church. The local church is independent and self-governing, while operating in voluntary cooperation with other churches of like faith and practice, as found in early church practices of cooperation and accountability.<sup>10</sup>

We acknowledge the rightful existence of the State of Israel and believe that God has love and a plan which has been communicated through biblical prophecy for Israel as His chosen people.<sup>11</sup> God revealed to Abraham that his descendants (Israel) would be His chosen people on the earth, but that His blessing would not be limited to them.<sup>12</sup> While God sovereignly selected Israel as His eternal covenant people, we are aware of the mystery, that a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Church has come.<sup>13</sup> In accordance with God's will, all Israel will be regathered in the Promised Land and will be saved when Christ returns to establish his kingdom on earth.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 1:22-23 <sup>2</sup>1 Corinthians 10:32 <sup>3</sup>2 Corinthians 5:20; <sup>4</sup>Ephesians 5:19 <sup>5</sup>Isaiah 1:16-17; Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23; Philippians 4:8 <sup>6</sup>2 Corinthians 4:5-6; 6:14 <sup>7</sup>Matthew 7:15-16; 1 John 2:15-16; 4:1-3 <sup>8</sup>Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42 <sup>9</sup>Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28 <sup>10</sup>Matthew 18:15-17 <sup>11</sup>Jeremiah 29:11-14 <sup>12</sup>Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; <sup>13</sup>Romans 11:1-32 <sup>14</sup>Ezekiel 37-48; Jeremiah 30-31

## 10. Future Events

We believe in the impending return of Jesus Christ at which time all true believers will be raised, transformed with glorified bodies (not corrupted by sin), and rewarded.<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ will return at the end of the time of tribulation to set up the millennial kingdom, to overthrow Satan, and to regather Israel to the Promised Land according to the Old Testament promises.<sup>2</sup>

We believe in the physical resurrection of all the dead at the end of the millennial reign of Christ at which time all will be judged according to their faith and their works: the saved (true believers in Christ) to eternal life in God's presence, the unsaved to eternal judgment and separation from God in the lake of fire.<sup>3</sup> After the judgment, God will create a new heaven and a new earth, at which point the eternal state will begin where believers of all time will enjoy fellowship with God forever.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Revelation 21:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-3, 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:22-24, 51-57 <sup>2</sup>Revelation 1:5-7; 19:11-16; 20 <sup>3</sup>Isaiah 45:23; John 5:22; Romans 14:10-13; Philippians 2:10-11 <sup>4</sup>Revelation 21-22; Isaiah 65:17; John 14:1-3