

Statement of Faith

A. The Bible: We believe the Holy Bible was (a) written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit; (b) that it is true without any mixture of error (c) and, therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, the true center of the Christian and supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

Explanation:

1. The Holy Bible: We mean that collection of 66 books from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written, is the very Word of God.
2. Inspiration: We mean that the Books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.
 - a) 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21
 - b) Psalm 119:160; John 17:17; 1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:12
 - c) Psalm 119:89; Psalm 19:7-11; Matthew 24:25; John 12:48; Romans 15:4; 1 Peter 1:23

B. The True God: We believe that there is (a) one and only one living eternal and true God, (b) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, (c) having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfection, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, obedience, and love.

- a) Deuteronomy 6:4; Malachi 2:10; Ephesians 4:6
- b) Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 1:35; 1 John 5:7
- c) John 1:1; John 1:18; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 4:11

C. The Devil or Satan: We believe that Satan was once (a) holy and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and (b) drew after him a host of angels; that he is now (c) the prince of the power of the air (d) the accuser of Christian Believers (3) the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy; (f) the Lord of the Antichrist, and (g) the author of all powers of darkness—destined, however, (h) to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and (i) to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

- a) Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17
- b) 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:9
- c) John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2
- d) Matthew 4:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8
- e) Matthew 13:25; 37-39
- f) 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7
- g) Revelation 13:13, 14
- h) Revelation 19:20
- i) Revelation 20:10

- D. The Creation: We believe in the Genesis account of Creation, and (a) that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively (b) that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; (c) that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; (d) that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth "after their own kind."
- a) Genesis 1:26; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:16,17; Hebrews 11:3
 - b) Genesis 1:2 6,27
 - c) Genesis 2:7; Genesis 2:21-23
 - d) Genesis 1:11-12
- E. The Fall and Depravity of Man: (a) We believe that God created man in His own image, (b) that man fell through sin, (c) and therefore all men are sinners by nature and choice.
- a) Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1
 - b) Genesis 2:16,17; Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12
 - c) John 8:24; Romans 3:10-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 4:17
- F. Jesus Christ: We believe (a) that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit, (b) was born of the Virgin Mary, (c) and is very God and very Man (d) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice (e) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, (f) His ascension into heaven, (g) and His present life there for us as High Priest and advocate, (h) and His personal and bodily return to earth.
- a) Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:35
 - b) Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-45
 - c) John 1:1-14
 - d) Romans 3:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4
 - e) John 20:26-29; Acts 2:22-27
 - f) Acts 1:11
 - g) Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1,2
 - h) 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
- G. The Blood Atonement for Sin: We believe (a) that the salvation of sinners is by grace alone through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins: (c) that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree: (d) that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person, the tender-est sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.
- a) Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8
 - b) Isaiah 53:4-7; John 3:16; Philippians 2:7,8; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:10
 - c) John 10:18; Galatians 1:4; Philippians 2:8; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18
 - d) Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:12-15

- H. The Holy Spirit: We believe that (a) the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person who in His relationship to the unbelieving world convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, (b) and that by His agency all who receive by faith, the Lord Jesus Christ are born again and become partakers of the Divine Nature, (c) that he endures, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and enables the believer.
- a) John 16: 8-11
 - b) John 3:3; John 3:5; Romans 3:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - c) John 14:16,17; John 14:26; John 16:13; Romans 8:26,27
- I. The Freeness of Salvation: We believe that (a) salvation from sin is freely offered to all men, (b) and that everyone, who turning from sin trusts Jesus Christ, is saved from sin, guilt, power, and penalty.
- a) Matthew 11:28; John 3:16; John 6:37; Romans 10:13; Revelation 22:17
 - b) Matthew 18:11; John 3:18; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 7:25; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- J. Justification and Sanctification: We believe that (a) justification is the righteousness of Christ imputed to the believer and that, (b) sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer becomes more and more like Christ, and this work will be complete when the believer stands in the presence of Christ.
- a) Acts 13:39; Romans 4:1-8; Romans 5:1-9; Galatians 3:11
 - b) Proverbs 4:18; 1 Corinthians 1:30,31; Ephesians 4:11,12; John 17:17; 1 Peter 2:2
- K. Repentance and Faith: We believe that repentance and faith are (a) solemn obligations, and (b) also inseparable graces, (c) produced in our souls and made alive by the Spirit of God, (d) thereby being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation of Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, (e) at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.
- a) Acts 11:18; Acts 20:21
 - b) Mark 1:15
 - c) Ephesians 2:8
 - d) Luke 18:13; Romans 10:9, 10, 13
 - e) Romans 10:9-11; 2 Timothy 1:12

L. The Church: We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers (a) associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel (b) observing the ordinances of Christ, (c) governed by His laws (d) exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; (e) that its officers are pastors (elders) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. (f) We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission, first to make individual disciples; second, to baptize them; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. (g) We hold that the local church has the absolute right to self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals of an organization, and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit, (h) that it is scriptural for the true church to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation (i) on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the church is final.

- a) Acts 2:41, 42
- b) Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34
- c) Ephesians 1:22, 23
- d) 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11, Ephesians 4:11-12
- e) Acts 6:3-6, Acts 20:10-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- f) Matthew 28:19, 20
- g) Ephesians 5:23-33; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- h) Acts 15:22; 2 Corinthians 8:23, 24
- i) Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3

M. Baptism: We believe that (a) every believer in Christ is to be baptized by immersion in water, (b) into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, (c) as a seal of his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior with its effect in our death of sin and resurrection to a new life (d) that in the Scriptural order, baptism precedes privilege of church membership.

- a) John 3:23; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 8:36-39; 16:32-34; 18:8
- b) Matthew 28:10-20
- c) Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12
- d) Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42

N. The Righteous and the Wicked: We believe that (a) there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked, (b) that such only through faith are justified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His sight, (c) all who continue in unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and (d) this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

- a) Romans 6:17-18; 1 Peter 4:18
- b) Romans 1:17
- c) Romans 6:16
- d) Matthew 25:34, 41; Luke 16:19-31

- O. Civil Government: We believe that (a) civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest of the good order of human society; (b) that government leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except (c) only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.
- a) Romans 6:17-18
 - b) Matthew 22:21; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17
 - c) Daniel 3:17-18; Acts 5:29
- P. Resurrection and Second Coming of Christ: We believe in the (a) bodily resurrection of Christ; (b) that He ascended to the right hand of the Majesty on high; (c) that as our High Priest, He is the Mediator between God and man. (d) We believe in the literal, personal, bodily and approaching return of our Lord; (e) that He will raise the righteous dead, (f) transform the living in Christ, (g) and with them succeed to the throne of David, subdue and rule the world in righteousness and in peace, for 1000 years; at the end of which time (h) He will raise and judge the unrighteous; and completing His world supremacy, turn over the Kingdom to God, the Father, that God may be all and in all.
- a) The Bodily Resurrection: Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; 24:2-4; 1 Corinthians 15:4
 - b) The Ascension: Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 8:1, 12:2
 - c) The High Priesthood: 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 5:9-10; 1 John 2:1
 - d) The Second Coming: Matthew 25:13; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16
 - e) The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead: 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 52; 1 Thess. 4:16
 - f) The Change of the Living in Christ: 1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:17; Philippians 3:20-21
 - g) On the Throne of David: Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30
 - h) His Reign on Earth: Isaiah 32:1; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Revelation 20:1-4; Revelation 20:6
- Q. Hell: We believe that hell is a place of eternal conscious punishment of all unsaved people, and for the Devil and his angels
- a) Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8
- R. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:
- a) Spiritual Gifts to Members of the Body of Christ: (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11)
 - b) The Gifts of Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the church today
 - c) The Gifts of Christ to His Church: (Ephesians 4:7-12)
 - d) The Apostolic Age ceased with the Apostles chosen by Christ in person. But God does hear and answer the prayers of faith, according to His own will, for the sick and afflicted: (1 Corinthians 13:8; 14:39-40; James 5:14-15; 1 Corinthians 14:18-22)