

Statement of Faith - Eric Joppa

- I believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. It is the last rule for faith and practice. It is without error in its original writings and is a unified collection of documents without contradiction.
- I believe that there is only one true and living God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His eventual and personal return in power and glory.
- I believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- I believe that salvation comes by faith in Christ alone, apart from works, traditions or rituals.
- I believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling (taking up residence in the heart of the Christian), the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- I believe baptism by immersion is the most biblical expression of the command of Jesus to be baptized. The immersion in water symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection to new life in Christ as new creations. The act of baptism holds no saving power. Baptism is an act of obedience which always follows belief in the scriptures.
- I believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- Eschatology (study of last things) - I hold no firm belief as to the advent of the return of Christ, or the eventual timing of a "Rapture" or the trials of the tribulation foretold in the book of Revelation. I believe every word of those prophecies to be true and trustworthy. I do not believe it profitable to assert a position such as "pre-millennial" or "post-millennial". The scriptures clearly

teach that Jesus himself doesn't know the day or hour. So, why then would we be able to discern the timing of his return?

- I believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Christ.
- As for anything I may not have covered, I hold to the reformed idea of "In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity." Where the bible is not prescriptive, we must not prescribe. Where the bible is clear, instructive or prescriptive, we must not take liberty. In all instances, we must study, pray and discern as well as we can, the intent as we move forward, lead and teach.