



## **Statement of Faith**

### The Bible

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. We believe that Bible in its' entirety originated with God, and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen individuals. The Bible thus at one and the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Bible is without error and always true in all it teaches. The Bible is the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice and there are not other writings similarly inspired by God.

### God

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each of whom equally posses all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. We believe in God, the Father, and infinite, personal Spirit, who is perfect in holiness, wisdom and power. We believe that He is mercifully concerned in the affairs of humans that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### Salvation

The central purpose that God has revealed in the Bible is to call all people into fellowship with Him. We believe that every person is created in the image of God and originally, was created to have fellowship with God, but instead defied Him and chose an independent path. Thus all people are alienated from God and suffered the corruption of their nature, rendering them unable to please God. The fall took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are thus in need of the saving grace of God.

The salvation of humankind is based solely upon the sovereign grace of God, accomplished through the work of Christ on the cross. It is not the result, in whole or in part of human works. Salvation must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith. God has given his assurance in the Bible that once a person has committed their lives to Christ the resulting salvation cannot be lost.

### Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, being both fully God and fully man. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.

### Holy Spirit

The result of a genuine saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life of obedience demonstrated through living the commands of Christ. Believers attain this obedience as they submit to the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to humankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them recognition of their need of a Savior, and gives them a new nature in Christ. At the point of salvation He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength and wisdom, and uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the building up of the body.

The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Bible. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father.

## Human Destiny

Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all humankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world, and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Unbelievers will be separated from God into condemnation. God's judgment will reveal His justice in consigning them to perpetuate in eternal separation, as a result of their own rejection of God. Believers will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life.

## The Church

The result of a relationship with Jesus Christ is that all believers become members of His body, the Church. There is one true Church universal, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Bible commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, and the teaching of the Word.

According to Bible, believers are also to observe the sacred practices of the Church established by Jesus Christ, which are believer's baptism by immersion, and communion. Fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world are also commanded of believers. Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to His command, there is the local expression of the Church, with its members working together in love and unity, intent on the one ultimate purpose of glorifying God. We also affirm that the local church is autonomous and must be free from all political or outside interference.

## Faith and Practice

Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where the Bible is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she is ultimately responsible. We believe this Statement of Faith to be an accurate summary of what Bible teaches. All adherents shall refrain from advocating doctrines that are not included in the Statement of Faith in such a way as to cause dissension.