

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- **Of The Bible:**

We believe in the Verbal-Plenary inspiration of the Bible; that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” and holy men of God “were moved by the Holy Spirit” to write the very words of Scripture. We believe this divine inspiration extends to all parts of Scripture; historical, poetical, doctrinal and prophetic; and that all Scripture is without error in the original manuscripts. We also believe the Bible to be infallible on all matters of faith and conduct (Mk 12:26, 36; Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 2:13, 10:11; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21).

- **Of God:**

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; each having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfection and are therefore worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience. We believe this living being to be an all-wise, providential, and supreme ruler; who is a self-existent, everlasting, personal God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, a just, holy judge and guiding Spirit (Deut 6:4; Matt 28:19–20; Mk 12:29; Jn 1:1–4; Acts 5:3–4; 2 Cor 13:14; Heb 1:1–3; Rev 1:4–6).

- **Of Christ:**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal second person of the Godhead, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, and took upon Himself a human form and therefore possesses undiminished deity and perfect humanity; thereby as such He is the only sufficient (being God) and suitable (being man) substitutionary sacrifice able to redeem a sinful and lost world, thus providing on the cross an eternal redemption for mankind. We believe Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father, and intercedes on behalf of the saved, is the head of the church, and will return someday for all believers. Without the person and work of Christ our faith is vain (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18–25; Lk 1:35; 24:36–44; Jn 1:1–4; 14:1–6; 17:5; Rom 3:24–26; 1 Cor 15:3–7; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 1:1–3; 2:14–15; 4:15; 7:25; 9:26–28; 1 Pet 2:22–24; 1 Jn 2:1–2).

- **Of The Holy Spirit:**

We believe the Holy Spirit is a personal spirit being, God in every respect, who convicts the world of sin, draws the sinner to repentance, indwells all born again Christians, baptizes them into the Body of Christ, and seals them unto the day of redemption. He also intercedes for, comforts, teaches, empowers, and guides believers in all truth and it is the responsibility of every born again Christian to be filled (more completely controlled) by the Holy Spirit continuously (Jn 14:16–17, 26; 15:26; 16:7–11; Acts 1:8; Rom 8:9–16, 26–27; 1 Cor 2:12–16, 12:12–14; Eph 1:13–14; 5:18).

- **Of Angels, Satan, and Demons:**

We believe in the creation of angels in the past and their existence today as holy and possessing great power and knowledge as taught in both the Old and New Testaments. The purpose of angels is to serve God and His believers, but mankind should never worship angels. Only God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are to be worshipped.

Satan, being an angel, was originally created as holy and perfect, but through pride he rebelled against God along with a host of other angels. Satan is the enemy of God and His people, although his powers are strictly limited by God. He and his fallen angels (or demons) are opposed to all that is holy and are destined for judgment and eternal punishment (Ex 20:11; Ezek 28; Isa 14:12–20; Matt 4:6; 22:30; 25:41; Lk 1:26–38; 4:10; 20:36; 22:43; Rom 8:38; 2 Cor 4:4; 11:14; Col 2:18; 1 Thess 3:5, 13; 2 Thess 1:7; 1 Tim 5:21; Heb 1:14; 2:7–9; 13:3; 2 Pet 2:4, 11; Jude 1:6; Rev 20:2–10; 22:8,9).

- **Of Creation:**

We believe the Biblical account of creation to be literally accurate, and that man came into being by direct creation. We accept the literal six-day creation account as six 24-hour days and reject the gap theory between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 (Gen 1:1–2:3; Isa 66:1–2; Ps 148:3–5; Mk 10:6; 13:19; Acts 17:24–26).

- **Of Man, The Fall, and Redemption:**

We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God, having a relationship with God and rulership over the creation. Through Adam's one sin, all men are now sinners from birth by nature and by choice, all of creation is fallen, and all men experience physical and spiritual death. Mankind can be restored to God's favor only by the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ and not by their own effort or merit (Gen 1:26–28; 3:1–24; Isa 53:6; Rom 3:23; 5:12–19; Eph 2:1–2).

We believe that the only way of salvation from spiritual death, caused by sin, is through the substitutionary and sacrificial work of Christ on the cross. It is through the personal repentance and faith of an individual in the work of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit through the power of God's Word, that a person is saved. Salvation is the entire process of God delivering man from sin to Himself, involving the indwelling Holy Spirit which baptizes them into the body of Christ, declaring men to be justified by God, and showing a newness in life. No believer, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, can ever lose his or her salvation (Jn 3:16; 10:28–29; 14:6; Acts 16:30–31; Rom 5:12–19; 6:23; 10:9; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 1:13–14; 2:8–9; 4:20; Tit 3:5; 1 Jn 5:11,12).

- **Of the Christian Life:**

- *Regenerate:* We believe that those who are born of the Spirit of God are justified, sanctified, and complete in Christ. This is true because of God's unmerited grace, the nature of His love, the ongoing intercession of Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of God. All true believers are kept secure in their justified position before the Father (Jn 3:16; Rom 3:24–26; 8:29; 1 Cor 1:30; 6:11, 19; Phil 1:6; Heb 7:25; 1 Pet 1:4–5, 13).

We believe all truly born-again Christians possess two natures, retaining the old fleshly nature while receiving a new spiritual nature from God. Provision is made for victory of the new nature over the old nature in Christian experience by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor 10:13; Gal 5:16–25; Col 3:9–10; 1 Pet 1:14–16; Jude 24).

- *Christian Walk and Service:* We believe God has given a Christian new life in Christ and that this new life is manifest in a holy lifestyle. It is the believer's continual yielding to the Holy Spirit's control that causes an ever-deepening walk with God, characterized by a growing degree of separation from worldliness and conformity to the image of Christ. We deem it essential for a Christian's life to show evidence of this growth process, and that by this growth comes recognition and use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for services.

We believe at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit bestows a gift(s) on believers for the use in service and that these gifts vary between believers. We consider every believer a servant with responsibility to teach, and minister to the lost, the sick, and bereaved (Rom 6:19, 22; 12:4–8; 1 Cor 12:4–11; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal 2:20; Eph 4:11–15; 1 Thess 4:3–4).

- **Of The Church:**

- *Universal:* We believe the Church, the body of Christ, to be composed of all genuine believers in Jesus Christ and that it is essentially an organism, rather than an organization (Matt 16:15–18; Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:25–27; Eph 5:25–31; 1 Pet 5:2).
- *Local:* We believe a local church to be an organized body of baptized believers who meet expressly for the purpose of worship, observance of the ordinances, the proclamation of the gospel (Acts 14:23; 1 Thess 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1–13; 1 Pet 5:2).

- **Of The Ordinances:**

We believe that the ordinances authorized in the New Testament are two:

- *The Lord's Supper:* wherein we partake of bread and the fruit of the vine, to show forth our Lord's death "until He come" (Mk 14:22–25; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 11:26).
- *Baptism:* the immersion of believers in water (or in unique cases, another method may be arranged by the pastor with discussion from the deacons) as an outward symbol of participation by faith, in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and of the newness of life, in which it is now expected we shall walk (Matt 28:19; Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:46–48; Rom 6).

- **Of Future Things:**

- *The Blessed Hope:* We believe in the "Blessed Hope" (rapture) that the Lord will come in the air to receive to Himself both those alive and those fallen asleep in Christ; that His coming will be as that of a thief and that this translation of true believers will spare them the wrath of God in the coming tribulation (Jn 14:1–3; Phil 3:20–21; 1 Thess 4:13–18; 5:2–4, 9; Tit 2:11–14; Rev 3:3, 10).
- *The Tribulation:* We believe the translation of the church will be followed by a time of God's wrath and judgment on the whole earth; that this period of seven years is a fulfillment of Israel's seventieth week called the tribulation and the great tribulation (Jer 30:7–9; Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15–22, 29, 30; Rev 6:1–19, 21).

- *The Second Advent:* We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth as He went, in person, in power and great glory; to end the great tribulation and final “Armageddon”; to bind Satan in the abyss and to set up His earthly reign, the millennial kingdom (Deut 30:1–10; Isa 11:9; Ezek 37:21–28; 2 Thess 2:8; Rev 7:14; 16:12–16; 20:1–3).
- **Of Final Judgment:**
We believe in the conscious existence of all persons after physical death. All persons will experience resurrection. At death, the believers’ spirits are absent from the body and present with the Lord as they await the first resurrection. At the time of the rapture, a believer’s soul and body will be reunited and changed into the likeness of Christ’s own glorious body and await judgment, reward and eternal life. At death, the unbelievers’ spirits are absent from the body and present in Hades where they are kept under constant punishment until the Great White Throne Judgment. At this judgment, the second resurrection will occur when soul and body are reunited and appear before the Great White Throne Judgment where they shall be judged according to their works and cast into the place of final and everlasting punishment (Dan 12:2; Matt 25; Mk 9:43–48; Lk 23:43; 16:19–31; Jn 5:28,29; Acts 24:15; Rom 8:23; 14:10–12; 1 Cor 3:8–15; 15:12–54; 2 Cor 5:10; Phil 1:23; 3:20–21; 2 Pet 2:9; 1 Jn 3:2; Rev 20:11–15; 22:1–6).
- **The Eternal State:**
 - We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt 25:46; Jn 5:28–29; 11:25–26; Rev. 20:5–6, 12–13).
 - We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Lk 23:43; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess 4:16–17; Rev. 20:1–6).
 - We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, 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 (Matt 25:41–46; Mk 9:43–48; Lk 16:19–26; 2 Thess 1:7–9; Jude 6–7; Rev. 20:11–15).
- **Civil Government:**
We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) answer to God and are 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 state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. We believe that we must obey the state unless it requires us to act contrary to our faith, at which time, we must obey God rather than the state (Matt 22:15–22; Acts 5:29; Rom 13:1–7; Eph 5:22–24; Tit 3:1–2; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 2:13–14).

- **Human Sexuality:**

- We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, expressions of LGBTQ+ identity, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance (Gen 2:24; Gen 19:5, 13; Gen 26:8–9; Lev 18:1–30; Rom 1: 26–29; 1 Cor 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess 4:1–8; Heb 13:4).
- We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one biologically-born male and one biologically-born female for life (Gen 2:24; Rom 7:2; 1 Cor 7:10; Eph 5:22–23).

- **Family Relationships:**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church (Gal 3:28; Col 3:18; 1 Tim 2:8–15; 3:4–5, 12).

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a treasured gift from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction (Gen 1:26–28; Ex 20:12; Deut 6:4–9; Ps 127:3–5; Prov 19:18; 22:15; 23:13–14; Mk 10:6–12; 1 Cor 7:1–16; Eph 5:21–33; 6:1–4, Col 3:18–21; Heb 13:4; 1 Pet 3:1–7).

- **Divorce and Remarriage:**

We believe that God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of adultery, abandonment, or abuse. Although it is sin, God forgives those who divorce a spouse which means that divorced and divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon (Mal 2:14–17; Matt 19:3–12; Rom 7:1–3; 1 Tim 3:2, 12; Tit 1:6).

- **Abortion:**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Ps 51:5; 139:14–16; Isa 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer 1:5; 20:15–18; Lk 1:44).

- **Euthanasia:**

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus, we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. At the same time, God has called us to preserve life, not to artificially extend life at all costs (Ex 20:13, 23:7; Matt 5:21; Acts 17:28).

- **Love:**

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions (Lev 19:18; Matt 5:44–48; Lk 6:31; Jn 13:34–35; Rom 12:9–10; 17–21; 13:8–10; Phil 2:2–4; 2 Tim 2:24–26; Tit 3:2; 1 Jn 3:17–18).

- **Lawsuits Between Believers:**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor 6:1–8; Eph 4:31–32; Matt 18:15–17).

- **Missions:**

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt 28:19–20; Mk 16:15; Lk 24:46–48; Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 5:20).

- **Giving:**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe God mandates cheerful, systematic giving for the believer. We also hold that God teaches believers to meet extreme needs in the church by going above and beyond this systematic giving to what we call *sacrificial* giving. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen 14:20; Prov 3:9–10; Acts 4:34–37; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:6–7; Gal 6:6; Eph 4:28; 1 Tim 5:17–18; 1 Jn 3:17).