

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired in every word and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and possessing supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

Section 2. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every attribute, and that in the unity of God there are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in substance and equal in divinity. (Matthew 28:19; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Matthew 3:16-17)

Section 3. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, the eternal and infinite Sovereign of the universe. We believe that He alone is God, Creator of Heaven and earth, holy in nature and purpose, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent and unchangeable, the only source of holiness, justice, wisdom, love, goodness, and truth. We believe that He governs the affairs of men with justice and mercy, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from the power and penalty of sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 1:17; Isaiah 40:28; Revelation 15:3-4; Exodus 15:11; Psalm 17:6)

Section 4. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ as God the Son. We believe that He was with the Father before the World began, and that the universe was made through Him. We believe that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and is therefore fully God and fully man. We believe that He lived a sinless life, that He worked miracles, and that His teachings are truth. We believe that He died on the cross and that His shed blood made atonement for our sins. We believe that He was resurrected in the body, and that He ascended into Heaven and is now at the Father's right hand as our high priest and advocate. We believe in His visible and bodily return to judge the living and the dead. (John 1:1-14, 17:5; Luke 1:34-35; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:15; Acts 2:22; John 14:6; Romans 3:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:11-15)

Section 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the personality, deity, and work of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity. He came from the Father and the Son to convict unbelievers of their guilt before a righteous God, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. He is our abiding helper, teacher, guide, comforter, and seal of the permanence of our salvation. (John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:8-15; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9, 14, 16, 26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14)

Section 6. NEW LIFE

We believe that God created mankind, male and female, in His image with a free will. As a result of Adam and Eve's original sin, all humans are now sinners by nature and by choice, and need to be forgiven and born again through the work of the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross is the only means of salvation from sin, and that this salvation is wholly by the grace of God. This saving faith consists of a sincere turning from sin and the acceptance of, reliance upon, and profession of Jesus Christ as personal Savior and risen Lord. (Genesis 1:26-27, 3:1-23; John 3:1-21; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 10:9-10; 8:1-2,11,35-39; 2 Corinthians 5:17,21; Titus 3:5; Jude :24-25)

Section 7. SATAN

We believe that Satan, the father of lies and the deceiver of this world, is an evil spirit whose authority is permitted by God's perfect sovereignty. Satan is limited in power and existence by God's eternal purpose and is destined to ultimate and complete defeat. (Job 1:6-12; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

Section 8. THE LAST THINGS

We believe that all believers will be resurrected in the body and will live eternally with Christ when He returns. We believe in the bodily resurrection and judgment of unbelievers, the defeat and ultimate banishment of Satan, and the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth. (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:5, 10-15; 21:22-27)

Section 9. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a loving spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all saved persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers who are baptized upon credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ and gathered for worship, prayer, fellowship, observance of the ordinances, instruction in the Word, and proclamation of the Gospel. (Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:41-42; Ephesians 4:11-16; Matthew 28:19-20)

Section 10. ORDINANCES

We believe that Christ has given the church the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of believers in water, proclaiming their identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is the commemoration of our Lord's death until He returns. Believers should examine their hearts and repent of their sins before participating in the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

Section 11. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct in the world should be blameless; that they should be faithful stewards of their time, talents and possessions; that they should be witnesses to unbelievers of salvation through Jesus Christ; and that they should seek for themselves and all believers growth into the full maturity of Christ. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5; 2 Corinthians 9:6-13; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; 5:1-2; Galatians 6:2)

Section 12. GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND MARRIAGE

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders reflect the unity and diversity of the triune God, and together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Gen 1:26-27)

We believe that marriage has been created by God to join one man and one woman in a lifelong, exclusive union of mutual care, support, and intimacy. We believe that the relationship between husband and wife is intended by God to reflect the divine relationship between Christ and His church, and that marriage creates the family unit within which children are born and nurtured. While divorce is the result of mankind's fallen nature, we affirm that Jesus Christ offers healing from the pain and sorrow of divorce through the Holy Spirit. (Gen 2:18-25)

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only within the marriage relationship, and that fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness are the only proper expressions of God's plan for human sexuality. While premarital intimacy, adultery, and homosexual conduct are the result of mankind's fallen nature, we affirm that Jesus Christ offers healing through the Holy Spirit to persons entrapped in sexual sin, breaking its power in them and freeing them to know and experience their true identity and freedom in Christ. (Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 10-11; Romans 1:21-27; Ephesians 5:3, 22-33; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4)

[Special Statement Regarding Same-Sex Marriage:

In light of continuing changes in federal and state law, including the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. ___, 135 S. Ct. 2584, 192 L. Ed. 2d 609 (2015), the Church reiterates that we welcome those struggling with homosexuality (as with other sexual sins), but we do not affirm the homosexual lifestyle or subscribe to any civil law pertaining to lifestyle choices contrary to the Christian faith as we believe it is revealed in the Bible. In accordance with our beliefs and Statement of Faith, the Church facilities shall not be used in any same-sex marriage or civil union ceremony, nor shall pastors, elders, or staff members officiate or facilitate any such ceremony. The Church reserves at all times the rights guaranteed it under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and other federal and state laws, to freely practice our faith, including the implementation of any religious service, sacrament or ceremony, in defining congregational standards for participation, and to uphold virtue and values consistent with the Christian faith and the Bible.]

Section 13. SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe that God has created mankind in His image from the moment of conception, and we therefore affirm and respect the sanctity of each human life. (Exodus 20:13; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139)