



Statement of Faith

The Bible

We believe the Bible is God's written message to mankind. All 66 books of the Bible were written by the Holy Spirit through human authors (1 Corinthians 2:7–13; 2 Peter 1:20–21). Thus, the Bible is inspired in every word (2 Timothy 3:16) and inerrant in the original documents (Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 30:5; Titus 1:2). As the Word of God, it stands as the ultimate authority over mankind.

We believe the Bible is always relevant and gives practical help, comfort, encouragement, and commands for everyday life (Psalm 19:7–11; Isaiah 40:6–8; Hebrews 4:12). It contains both the message of salvation and instructions for living life after you are saved (2 Timothy 3:14–17).

God

We believe there is one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5–7; 1 Corinthians 8:4) who is infinite and perfect in all His attributes. He is one in essence and exists eternally in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

God the Father

We believe God the Father sovereignly controls all things according to His own purpose and will (Psalm 145:8–9; 1 Corinthians 8:6). He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things (Genesis 1:1–31; Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 3:9). Within the Trinity, He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:31; Ephesians 1:3). As Creator, He is the Father of all mankind (Ephesians 4:6). Furthermore, He is the spiritual Father to believers, for He adopts them into His own spiritual family (John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 12:5–9).

God the Son

We believe Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man (John 1:14; 10:30). In His incarnation, He took on a complete human nature, yet without sin. In doing so, He did not alter His divine nature or lose any of His divine attributes (Philippians 2:5–8; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:35), so the divine and the human natures were joined together in one person. Jesus is therefore qualified to be the unique mediator between God and mankind.

We believe Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His sacrificial death on the cross (John 10:15; Romans 3:24–25; 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24). We believe in His literal, physical resurrection from

the dead and ascension to the right hand of God the Father, where He now mediates as our Advocate and High Priest (Luke 24:38–39; Acts 2:30–33; Romans 4:25; 8:34; Hebrews 7:25). Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that He has accepted the atoning work of His Son on the cross (Romans 1:1–6; 4:25).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is truly God, possessing all the attributes of deity (Isaiah 40:13–14; Romans 15:13; John 16:13). It is the work of the Holy Spirit to carry out God's will on Earth. He convicts the world of sin, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, and transforms believers into the image of Christ (John 16:7–9; Acts 1:5; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:22). The Holy Spirit regenerates sinners, allowing them to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved (Ezekiel 36:25–27; John 3:5–7). The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, and instructs believers (Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13).

Man

We believe God creates all people in His image (Genesis 1:26–27) for the ultimate purpose of worshiping Him (Psalm 100:1–5; Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11). He created Adam and Eve, the first humans, through a direct act (Genesis 2:7–25). They were created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, and moral responsibility to obey their Creator (Genesis 2:7, 15–25; James 3:9).

We believe because of Adam's disobedience, mankind lost their innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing to follow God. A sin nature has been spread from Adam to all people, except Jesus Christ (Psalm 14:1–3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9–18, 23; 5:10–12). Unable to save ourselves, all of mankind is hopelessly lost. Our only hope is the grace of God through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:1–19; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1–10; 1 John 1:8).

Salvation

We believe salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is an act of God's grace through the redemption of Jesus Christ. We cannot be saved on the basis of human merit or works (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8–10; 1 Peter 1:18–19).

We believe people are saved when God declares them righteous in His sight. People are justified, or declared to be righteous by God, if they believe in Jesus Christ and repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 55:6–7). This act of justification is separate from any works of our own (Romans 3:20; 4:5). Instead, God graciously transfers our sins to Christ (Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24) and transfers Christ's righteousness to us (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21). In this great exchange, Jesus died a substitutionary death for us. Through His death, He absorbed the wrath of God, which we deserved for our sin, and we, in turn,

receive the righteousness of Jesus. Thus, God declares us righteous because He sees us as washed of our sins and possessing the righteousness of Christ.

The Church

We believe all who place their faith in Jesus Christ immediately become a part of the universal church (1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 27). The universal church manifests itself in local churches, which are bodies of believers who live in the same geographical area and meet together regularly for corporate worship (Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1). The members of the universal church are commanded to associate themselves with a local church (1 Corinthians 11:18–20; Hebrews 10:24–25).

We believe associating with a local church is a commitment to love and serve the other members of the church. This means the members of a local church should teach each other the truth of God's Word (Matthew 28:19–20; 2 Timothy 2:2), discipline other members who are in a pattern of sin (Matthew 18:15–22; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15; 1 Timothy 1:19–20; Titus 1:10–16), build other members up in the faith (Ephesians 4:13–16), care for each other in practical ways (Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 5:3–10), and fellowship with one another (Acts 2:46–47; 1 John 1:3). Furthermore, church members should practice the ordinances of baptism and communion (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38–42), use their spiritual gifts to serve God (Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–31; 1 Peter 4:10–11), and proclaim the Gospel to the world (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2:42).

We believe the supreme authority for the church is Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). At the same time, God has designated two types of leaders for His local churches: elders, who are responsible for leading, teaching, shepherding, and overseeing their specific local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1–5), and deacons, who are responsible for serving and fostering unity in their specific local church (Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:8–13).

We believe the church is to practice two ordinances: baptism and communion (Acts 2:37–42). Baptism by immersion (Acts 8:36–39) is a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38–41, 10:44–48) and an encouraging picture of union with Christ, death to sin, and resurrection to new life (Romans 6:1–14).

We believe communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, is a time when Christians look inward for solemn self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:27–32), look backward to remember the cross of Christ (Luke 22:14–20), and look forward to anticipate Christ's return (Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:26). We believe the elements of communion are representative of the flesh and blood of Christ. They are meant to remind Christians of Christ's body, which was given for the church, and Christ's blood, which was spilt for the church (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).

Angels

We believe angels were created by God to serve and worship Him (Luke 2:9–14; Hebrews 1:6–7, 14; Revelation 5:11–14; 19:10; 22:9), deliver His messages to mankind (Acts 7:51–53; Revelation 1:1–3), and minister to believers (Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14).

We believe Satan is a created angel who incurred judgement by rebelling against his Creator (Isaiah 14:12–17; Ezekiel 28:11–19). He is the ruler of this world (John 12:31), the enemy of God (Isaiah 14:13–14; Matthew 4:1–11; Revelation 12:9–10), and the great deceiver of mankind (Genesis 3:1–7; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 13–14). However, he has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 16:20), and he will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Isaiah 14:12–17; Ezekiel 28:11–19; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

We believe demons are fallen angels who are called unclean, evil, deceitful spirits (Matthew 10:1; Luke 7:21; 1 Timothy 4:1). They destroy human life (Mark 5:1–16; 9:17, 22) and promote false religions (1 Timothy 4:1–3). However, they are subject to the sovereignty and power of Jesus Christ (Matthew 8:29, 32; 10:1–8).

The End Times

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people, the saved to eternal life (John 6:39; Romans 8:10–11, 19–23; 2 Corinthians 4:14), and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment (Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:13–15).

We believe Jesus Christ is coming again and will establish His messianic kingdom for 1,000 years on the earth (Revelation 20:1–7). During this time, the resurrected saints will reign with Him over the earth (Ezekiel 37:21–28; Daniel 7:17–22). This kingdom will be marked by justice, peace, righteousness, and long life (Isaiah 11; 65:17–25; Ezekiel 36:33–38). During these 1,000 years, Satan will be bound. After 1,000 years, Satan will be released, gather an army of unbelievers, battle with Jesus, lose the battle, and then be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:7, 9–10). After this, God will create the New Heavens and the New Earth, where the saved will dwell eternally in the presence of God (2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:1–4; 22:1–21).

Marriage and Sexuality

We believe God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife. Marriage is meant to picture the covenant love between Christ and His bride, the church (Genesis 1:27–28, 2:23–24; Ephesians 5:22–33). God has designed marriage so husband and wife can express their deep love for one another and experience immense joy together.

We believe the term “marriage” has only one meaning: God joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union (Genesis 2:23–24; Matthew 19:4–6). Furthermore, God intends sexual

intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Any form of sexual intimacy outside the bounds of marriage, such as pre-marital sex, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, incest, pedophilia, and pornography, is sin and offensive to God (Leviticus 18:1–30; Matthew 5:28; 32; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9–10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8).

Gender

We believe God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in His own image, equal before Him as persons and distinct as male and female (Genesis 1:27–28). This gender distinction reflects God's original design meant for the good and joy of mankind. Any disagreement with one's biological gender or any attempt to change one's gender is sinful and in direct opposition to the will and design of God (Leviticus 18:1–30; Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10).

We believe God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sin related to sex and gender. The believer must seek God's mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. God's forgiveness is total and complete (Psalm 103:11–12; Isaiah 43:25, 44:22; John 5:24; Colossians 2:13–14). Furthermore, God gives believers transforming power through the Holy Spirit to put sinful desires to death and walk in holiness (Romans 6:1–11; Galatians 5:19–24).