

## Statement of Faith

### I. God

We believe in the one true God of the Bible, who though He is one, exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:1, 26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 10:30; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 13:14).

- A. God the Father is the supreme, sovereign, holy, all-powerful, all-knowing Creator, infinitely glorious in all ways (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1-6; 139:1-18; Isa. 6:1-3; 46:9-10; 64:8; Luke 1:37; Rom. 11:33-36; Eph. 4:6; Rev. 4:8).
- B. God the Son is one with God the Father and divine in nature (John 10:30; Rom. 9:5; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:3). He is co-eternal and co-equal with the Father (John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5) and served as the co-Creator of all things (John 1:3; Col. 1:15-17). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit at the incarnation and birthed by the Virgin Mary (Matt. 1:18). Jesus Christ is God, who became a man, yet never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15). He voluntarily died on the cross in our place as the payment and propitiation for sin (Matt. 20:28; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:2) and rose from the dead in bodily form (Luke 24:1-12; 1 Cor. 15:3-5). He is now seated at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19; Heb. 1:3), and will one day return to Earth physically and visibly to gather His people and to judge His enemies in God's own unknown time (Matt. 24:27, 30-31, 36; Mark 13:26-27, 32; Luke 21:27-28; Acts 1:7, 9-11; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19:11-21).
- C. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, co-eternal, co-equal, and co-Creator with the Father and the Son (Gen. 1:2, 26; Job 34:14-15; Ps. 104:29-30). He divinely inspired the human authors of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). By means of His power sinners are convicted (John 16:7-11) and regenerated (John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5). He lives inside of all true followers of Christ (John 14:16-17; Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6) and serves to convict them of sin and guide them into righteousness (Ps. 143:10; Rom. 8:12-16; Gal. 5:16-17, 22-25); to assist them in knowledge and proclamation of the word of God (John 14:26; 16:13; Matt. 10:19-20); to comfort them (Acts 9:31; Rom. 8:26-27), and to assure them of salvation (Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 4:13). He brings unity to the body of Christ and imparts spiritual gifts to each believer for service (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; Eph. 4:3; Heb. 2:4).

### II. Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is made up of the sixty-six (66) books of the Protestant Old and New Testaments. Furthermore, we believe that the Bible is the holy word of God and is without error in its original manuscripts. Because of the divine nature of the Bible it is sufficient for guidance in all matters of life (Ps. 19:7-8; 119:97-105, 160; 2 Pet. 1:3) and is to be our final authority on all matters of faith and church practice (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 3:16).

### III. Salvation

We believe that salvation can only be achieved by the grace of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as He is revealed to us in the Bible (Eph. 2:8-9).

- A. Sin – We believe that man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27), yet fell in sinful disobedience (Gen. 3). Because of this all humanity is now sinful by nature and by choice and completely unable to achieve God’s salvation by his own works or merits (Ps. 14:2-3; Ecc. 7:20; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:23; 5:12-19; 6:16; 7:5, 21; 8:7-8; Eph. 2:1-4).
- B. Conversion – We believe that in order for a person to be saved, God must draw him and convict him of his need of a Savior (John 6:44; 12:32; 16:8-11). Because of that gracious work of God, and in order to be saved, a sinner must repent of sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21).
  - a. Repentance – Repentance is a change of heart and mind that leads to a change of action. In repentance, the sinner turns from the sinful life which is his by nature and asks God’s forgiveness (Matt. 4:17; Luke 3:3; 13:3, 5; Acts 2:38; 3:19).
  - b. Faith – Saving faith is placing one’s trust in and committing one’s entire life to Jesus Christ. It rests in Jesus Christ and in His finished work of salvation through His death and resurrection alone. When turning from sin in repentance, the sinner turns to Jesus Christ, committing his life to Him as Lord and Savior (John 3:16, 18, 36; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9).
- C. Regeneration – We believe that regeneration is an act of God effected in conjunction with a sinner’s conversion whereby the Holy Spirit changes the nature of the sinner, thus creating a new spiritual creature (2 Cor. 5:17; Titus 3:5). It is also called the new birth or being “born again” (John 3:3-7).
- D. Components – We believe salvation is both an event and a process; it is present, perpetual, and future. Salvation is comprised of justification, sanctification, and glorification.
  - a. Justification – Justification is God’s instantaneous saving act whereby He declares believers righteous in His sight, granting that they are no longer legally condemned but are at peace with God by faith (Rom. 5:1; 8:1). It is granted on account of the substitutionary, sacrificial death of Christ (Rom. 3:21-26) and imputes to believers the righteousness of Christ (Rom. 4:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:26-27; Phil. 3:9).
  - b. Sanctification – Sanctification is God’s progressive saving act whereby believers cooperate with God as He works to remove sin in their lives, make them holy, and conform them to the image of Christ (Rom. 6:22; 8:29; 12:1; Eph. 5:26; Col. 3:1; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:14; 1 John 3:3). Sanctification is the inevitable consequence and visible evidence of justification.
  - c. Glorification – Glorification is God’s final saving act whereby He completes believers’ sanctification, making them perfectly like Christ

in heaven (Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:4; Heb. 12:23; 1 John 3:2).

- E. Perseverance – We believe that all true followers will persevere in the faith and continue to follow Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives (Matt. 10:22; John 8:31; Col. 1:22-23). While a Christian is still capable of sin and times of rebellion, they will ultimately follow Christ as Lord for the entirety of their life on Earth. Because of the eternal nature of salvation, it cannot be lost, if it was ever truly received (John 6:38-40; 10:27-28; Rom. 8:29-30, 35-39; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:5).

#### **IV. Eternity**

- A. Heaven – We believe that all true followers of Jesus Christ will spend eternity with Him in Heaven (Matt. 25:21, 23; 25:34; John 14:1-3; Rev. 21-22).
- B. Hell – We believe that all who do not turn to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in this life will be condemned to eternal torment in Hell (Matt. 25:30, 41; Mark 9:43-48; John 3:18, 36; Rev. 20:1-15).

#### **V. The Church**

We believe that a New Testament church is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have voluntarily associated together to carry out the commands of Christ. The church is God's agency in the world, charged with the task of making disciples of all the nations through the preaching of the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8). The membership of the church is to be comprised only of born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been baptized into the fellowship of a local church (Acts 2:37-42; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2). While Christ Himself is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22; 5:23; Col. 1:18), the Scriptural offices of the church include overseers/elders/pastors and deacons (Acts 6:1-6; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). The office of overseer/elder/pastor is clearly limited to men by Scripture (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). The New Testament indicates governance by plural local eldership (Acts 15:1-6; 20:17-18; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1) and a limited congregational rule (Acts 6:3). The ordinances of the church include baptism and the Lord's Supper or communion (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). A church is responsible for maintaining its own membership through acts of church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5).

#### **VI. Church Ordinances**

- A. Baptism – We believe that baptism should be administered only to those who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:37-41; 8:37; 16:31-33). We believe the proper mode of baptism is immersion (Matt. 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39). We believe baptism is a ritualistic act that symbolically and externally portrays a believer's actual, spiritual union with Christ in reference to His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:12) and is thus a form of public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. Therefore, while it is necessary for obedience, it is

not necessary for salvation (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:35-38; 10:44-48; 1 Pet. 3:21).

- B. Lord's Supper or Communion – We believe that the Lord's Supper, which symbolizes the body and the blood of Jesus Christ, should be regularly practiced by the Lord's Church in remembrance and proclamation of His death and Second Coming (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

### **VIII. The Family**

We believe a marriage is between one man and one woman who intend to enter the covenant of marriage for the duration of this present earthly life (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:1-11; Eph. 5:22-33). Such a marriage is the only permissible and appropriate channel for intimate companionship, sexual expression, and the blessing of children for the propagation of the human race (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23-25; Ps. 127:3-5; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 7:1-5, 10). Any other type of union is displeasing in God's sight. Any form of homosexual, transsexual, or bestial union is not Biblically permissible (Lev. 18:22-23; Deut. 22:25; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). For a Christian, entering into a marriage with an unbeliever is forbidden (2 Cor. 6:14-15). Physical death severs the marriage bond and the remaining spouse is free to remarry (Rom. 7:1-3; Matt. 22:23-30; Lk.20:27-36) and the Bible possibly makes limited provision for divorce (Matt. 19:7-11; 1 Cor. 7:10-15) even though it is far short of God's standard (Mal. 2:16). In the home, the husband's role is love, leadership, and nurture (Eph. 5:25-33; 1 Pet. 3:7); the wife's is submissive respect and help (Gen. 2:18; Eph. 5:21-23; 1 Pet. 3:1-6); and the children's role is honor and obedience (Exo. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:1-3).