

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine inspiration, instruction, and enablement. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation and is illuminated to the heart and mind by the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God's perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

—God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all-powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff; 20:1ff; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

—God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. Deity takes human form as Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary.

Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience and death on the cross, He saved all men from sin and eternal separation from God.

Christ was raised from the dead and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God where He is our mediator. He is fully God, fully man. Without Christ, there is no reconciliation between God and man.

In the age to come, Christ will return in power and glory to judge the world and to accomplish His redemptive mission. We believe that Christ dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff; Psalms 2:7ff; 110:1ff; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

–God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired men all across the world to write the Scriptures. It is the Holy Spirit who enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to Christ as Savior, and effects regeneration (making all things new). As a person places trust in Jesus, asks for forgiveness from sin, and begins relationship with God, the Holy Spirit initiates every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and gives the spiritual gifts that serve God and His church.

He assures the believer of relationship with God. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of Christian maturity. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was given, by his Creator, freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the tempting of Satan, man acted in disobedience to God's rules, and lost his original innocence. The world was now inclined toward sin. As a result, as soon as men are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and therefore, are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The value of human life is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for every man and because of this, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

Salvation

Christ died for all of humanity by shedding His own blood on a cross and redeemed man. This redemption/salvation is a free gift to all who place trust in Jesus and ask for forgiveness from sin. The consequence of our sin/disobedience is death, but God's gift is eternal living. Instead of listening and responding to sin, man discovers the delight of listening and responding to God.

In its broadest sense salvation includes being renewed, receiving a legal defense (spiritually speaking), growing more like Christ, and obtaining ultimate blessing (relationship, not separation) from God.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

God's Purpose Of Grace

Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God. Everyone who fully places trust in God will never fall away from the state of grace. While Christians may stumble into sin through neglect and temptation, and may grieve the Holy Spirit, they still retain intimate relationship with Him.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

The Church

A New Testament church is a self-governing community of people (believers from all ages, from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation) who have placed their trust in Christ, meet together for a particular purpose; exploring the biblical message of Jesus which leads people into a personal relationship with God Himself.

In response to God's word, believers are equipped for service and outreach to others. Scripture provides instruction, encouragement, correction and comfort in our daily lives.

Our leadership is by election and operates with Jesus Christ as its authority. Each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Key leadership designations are referred to as pastors and deacons. We believe that both men and women are gifted for service in the church.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:17, 41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; 21:8-9; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

Baptism And The Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, death to sin (the burial of an old life), and resurrection or walking in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a statement of faith, the resurrection of the dead.

Anyone with disabilities, who may be unable to safely and physically experience immersion, may be baptized by the pouring of water.

The Lord's Supper, often referred to as communion, is a time where we expect to meet God. It is where our members receive bread and the fruit of the vine to commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as Redeemer.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is set aside to commemorate the resurrection of Christ from the dead and includes public and private worship and spiritual commitment. Activities on the Lord's Day should be consistent with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. While Sunday is technically not considered the Sabbath day, both hold similar principles of rest, family activity, and worship according to Christian custom.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24, 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16, 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God embodies God's general sovereignty over the universe and His particular reign over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. His kingdom is salvation into which men enter by trustful, child-like commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians actively pray and work in joint effort to accomplish God's will awaiting the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate conclusion. According to His promise, Jesus will return personally and visibly to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will justly judge all men. Those who have fully placed their trust in Jesus and submitted their lives to His leadership will receive the ultimate reward, to live forever in relationship with God.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31.

Global Missions And Local Evangelism

It is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to love others and share with them relationship with Jesus. Outreach is expressly and repeatedly encouraged in scripture along with the preaching of the gospel globally. A Christian's witness can be identified in conjunction with the scripture and through a God-honoring lifestyle.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

Giving And Life Management

God is the source of all earthly and spiritual blessing. All that we have and are we owe to Him. We are stewards of the gospel and the world in which we live including our possessions. We serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and recognize that these gifts are entrusted to us to use for the God's glory and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should give cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and generously.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

The Family

God has appointed the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of individuals related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to serve, protect and love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for and to lead his family. The wife, also being in the image of God is thus equal to him. Both have the God-given responsibility to mutually respect and to serve as stewards in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents teach their children spiritual and moral values and lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to respect and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.
