

## Statement of Faith

### **What We Believe About**

#### **God**

God is the creator, ruler, and sustainer of all things. He is infinite, eternal, almighty, and perfect in holiness, truth, and love. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (i.e., the "Trinity"). These three are inseparable and equal in divine perfection and are one God. Having limitless knowledge and power God can perform the impossible and work in ways beyond our complete comprehension. (Gen. 1:1, 26-27; John 1:1-3; Daniel 4:34-35; Deut. 10:14; 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 22:13; Rev. 4:8; Deut. 32:4; 1 John 4:8; Matt. 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14)

#### **Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is God the Son. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and is fully human and fully divine. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life, performed many miracles, and taught the way to eternal life and God's Kingdom. He offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days, demonstrating God's power over sin and death. For a period of 40 days after his resurrection, he was seen by over 500 people before ascending to heaven. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father and offers continual intercession for His people. He is Lord of all and is the head of His body, the Church. (John 1:14, 8:58; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Tim. 2:5; Titus 2:13; Matt. 1:18-25; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 7:25; Col. 1:18)

#### **The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is God and was sent from the Father and the Son and is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ, convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Spirit lives in every believer from the moment of salvation and provides Christians with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, special abilities or gifts, and guidance in doing what is right. Christians seek to surrender to the Spirit daily and live under the control of God. (II Cor. 3:17; John 16:7-13; Ephesians 1:13; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 2:12; Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 6:19)

#### **The Bible**

The Bible (the 66 books of the Old and New Testament) is God's Word, fully inspired and without error. It was written by human authors who were under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote is the Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of faith, life, and

conduct. (Mark 13:31; Prov. 20:5; Psalm 119:105, 160; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 20:31; Acts 20:32; Matt. 4:4)

## **People and Sin**

God made human beings male and female in His own image, as the crown of His creation, that we might have joyful fellowship with Him and glorify His name forever. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God, incurring physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God. As a consequence of that rebellious act, we are marred from birth by an inward depravity and now live under the dominion of sin. Human beings by nature are rebellious toward God and are lost and without hope apart from God's grace and salvation in Christ. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Col. 3:10; Genesis 3:6-8; Romans 5:12-21; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:19-20; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; Eph. 2:1-3).

## **Salvation**

The good news is revealed Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Salvation is a gift of grace from God to humankind, given through faith for the glory of God. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. On the cross, Jesus was our sacrificial substitute, redeeming us from eternal condemnation, removing our guilt, and appeasing the wrath of God's just and holy verdict against our sin which was death. It is only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's sacrifice for sin that we can be saved from the judgment of God. Those who turn away from sin in repentance and look to Jesus Christ receive the free gift of eternal life and are declared righteous by God. (John 3:16,17; Eph. 2:8; Galatians 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet 3:18; Romans 3:21-26; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:9; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30; Romans 5:9; Romans 8:1; 1 Thess. 5:9)

### Assurance

Because salvation is a free gift of God, the believer is secure in this salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God alone and not by the self-effort or works of the Christian. (Eph. 2:8-10; John 10:29; 2 Tim. 1:12; Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

## **Eternity**

All of us were created to exist forever. We will either exist in fellowship with God through the work of Jesus Christ in Heaven, or eternally separated from God by sin in Hell. Heaven is the place of eternal fellowship and eternal life with God. Those trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sin will have eternal life in the new heaven and new earth and will live in ever-increasing joy, to the glory of God. Those who ignore God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ will spend eternity away from God and anything of God in Hell. (John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 2 Thess. 1:7b-10; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:27)

## **The Church**

The Church is the living spiritual body of Christ on earth. Jesus is the head and the source of its life. The church is the creation of God, calling human beings out of sin into fellowship with God and

each other. All true believers in Christ are members of the universal Church and should be in a vital and committed relationship with a local church so they can grow in their faith, worship, fellowship with other believers, and make a united impact with the Gospel upon the world. Christ has given ministries to the church for the equipping of his body that it might mature and grow. God's people receive pastoral care and leadership and the opportunity to employ their God-given gifts in his service in relation to one another and the world. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Cor. 12:12,27; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-16)

### **Christian Conduct**

Christians are called and empowered, as a response to salvation by grace, to live out the Great Commandment – to love God with all our heart and soul and our neighbors as ourselves; and the Great Commission – to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all Jesus commanded us. A follower of Jesus Christ should fulfill this calling for the glory of God; seeking to be blameless in conduct, a faithful steward of his possessions, intently seeking to live a life surrendered to the Spirit of God and revealing the fruit of the Spirit. (Luke 10:27; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:31; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-9; Col. 1:9-10)

### **Marriage and Family**

According to scripture<sup>1</sup>, God created man and woman in His image<sup>2</sup>, and all people are of great value to Him.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, God calls us to love and treat all people with dignity and respect.<sup>4</sup> Singleness<sup>5</sup> and marriage<sup>6</sup> are gifts from God intended to give Him glory<sup>7</sup> and bring us joy. Marriage is ordained by God as the union of one man and one woman in a covenant with him.<sup>8</sup> Regrettably we fall short of glorifying God in our marriages and relationships<sup>9</sup>, but by His grace given through Jesus Christ we can be restored back to fellowship with God.<sup>10</sup>

We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord and all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24; Psalm 127-128; 139:13-16; Matthew 19:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrew 13:4)

### **The Sacraments**

We believe there are two sacraments given by Christ to strengthen our faith and show us to be members of His Church. The first is Baptism, which does not save a person, but is a sign and seal of God's eternal covenant of grace for us and our children. Baptism of an infant symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit beginning a work and inclusion in a local church family. Baptism of believers symbolizes the washing away of our sins through the blood of Christ and demonstrates our union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The second is the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become followers of Christ. The broken bread symbolizes the body of Christ. The cup symbolizes the blood of Christ poured out at the cross for our salvation. Christ is spiritually present in the bread and juice. As we partake of the Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim

the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body. (Acts 2:39; Matt. 28:19; Romans 6:3; Acts 16:30; 1 Cor. 11:23-29)

## **Final Things**

When history has run the course laid out in God's divine plan, Jesus will visibly return in power and glory to judge the world and to complete his total victory over sin, death and Satan through the resurrection of the dead, the judgment of the just and unjust, and the establishment of His kingdom in the New Heaven and Earth. Those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord will live with him forever, serving God and giving Him unending praise and glory. Those who have not trusted in Christ will be eternally separated from God. All followers of Christ from all history will be with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for eternity in glorious fellowship. Every tear will be wiped away and death will be no more. (Acts 1:9-11; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Revelation 1:7; Matt. 16:27; 1 Peter 4:5; Matthew 25:31-56; Revelation 20:11-15; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Revelation 21:1-5)

## **Notes**

The Bible (the 66 books of the Old and New Testament) is God's Word, fully inspired and without error. It was written by human authors who were under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote is the Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of faith, life, and conduct. (2 Ti. 3:16-17)

God made human beings male and female in His own image, as the crown of His creation, that we might have joyful fellowship with Him and glorify His name forever. (Gen. 1:26-27)

As God's creation, the great worth of all human beings is defined only by God. The intrinsic value of all human beings is non-negotiable, unchangeable and must be upheld. (Ps. 139:13-14; Ro. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-9)

God's Word commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to honor one another above ourselves, and to love each other deeply. When we treat all human beings with dignity and respect, we bring honor and glory to God. (1 John 4:8; Ro. 12:10; Gal. 5:14; 1 Pe. 4:8)

To some, God has specifically given the gift of singleness, to be used for His glory and honor. (1 Co. 7:7-8, 32-35)

To some, God has specifically given the gift of marriage, as a representation of Christ's relationship to His church, to be used for His glory and honor. (1 Co. 7:7; Prov. 18:22)

Anything that God gives us is a gift to be laid at His altar and used for His glory and honor. (Eph. 5:22-33)

Marriage is a covenant with God, ordained by Him at creation, as the union of one man and one woman, to be honored by all and kept pure and holy. (Heb. 13:4; Mal. 2:14; Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-9)

Every human being has sinned, missed the mark, and not lived up to God's standard in our marriages, our relationships and life in general. Our sin separates us from God. (Ro. 3:23; 1 Jn. 3:4)

If we confess, repent of our sins, and ask God for forgiveness, because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, He will forgive us, purify us, and bring us back into a right relationship with Him. (Ro. 3:21-25, 5:1-11)