

## Statement of Faith

We believe the Old and New Testament Scriptures are the verbally and plerarily inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and are, therefore, the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man.

We believe in one Holy, triune, Almighty God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

We believe that Jesus Christ, although co-equal with God, condescended to become man without ceasing to be God, was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and was true God and true man. The Lord Jesus walked on this earth giving to man the visible representation of the invisible God, after which He died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative, vicarious and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified (declared to be not guilty) on the ground of His shed blood. We believe in the physical resurrection of the crucified body of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, and His present life for us as High Priest and Advocate at the right hand of God.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is Deity, a divine person of the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. He is not a force but is truly a person and is equal with the Father and the Son.

We believe that salvation is only by grace, a free gift of God, through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, apart from any human merit or works, which gift is bestowed to all who believe and confess the Lord Jesus. We believe that salvation is the supernatural act of God whereby man, enabled by the Holy Spirit and through the instrumentality of the Word of God, is brought into a proper relationship with God. It is that act of God where spiritually dead man is, in a moment of time, made spiritually alive.

We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies. We believe that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. All who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ have eternal life and are thereby born of the Holy Spirit into the family of God, possessing eternal security. We believe that once a person is saved, he is kept by God's power and remains secure in Christ forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

We believe that the Church began on the day of Pentecost. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again believers. We believe that Israel is God's chosen national people. In God's sovereign will, Israel serves as a channel of His blessing to the entire world for His glory, and His witness to the nations. God's election of Israel for this unique relationship is irrevocable. We believe Israel is distinct from the church and central to God's plan-past, present, and future. The unfulfilled prophecies given to Israel in the Old Testament will find their literal fulfillment in Israel at a future time.

We believe that believers should maintain a godly testimony and live in such a way that that their lives do not bring reproach upon their Savior. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. We stand against any and all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy or undermine the truth of Biblical Christianity such as liberalism, modernism, higher criticism, evolution, reconstructionism, feminism, replacement theology, successionism, secular humanism, ecumenicism and any other ideology contrary to the Word of God.

We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, bodily, imminent, premillennial return of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ in the air, who will rapture His Bride, the church, prior to the seven-year Tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life and everlasting blessedness, and the unsaved to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. We believe that Satan is real and that he is a person; that he is the enemy of God and author of sin, that he is the deceiver and destroyer of men, and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of God's creation of the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin.

The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. We believe that we must obey the state unless it requires us to act contrary to our faith, at which time we must obey God rather than the state.

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one biological man (genetically male at birth) and one biological woman (genetically female at birth) for life. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position and value before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors, elders, deacons) of the church. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ.

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions.

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe.