

## Statement of Faith

**3.1 Scriptures.** We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God. By the Holy Bible we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis through Revelation, which, as originally written, is the very Word of God. By inspiration we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error. Therefore, the Bible is and shall remain to the end of the age the only complete and final revelation of God to man, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. - (*II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; I Corinthians 2:13*)

**3.2 One True God.** We believe that God is Spirit and infinite in every excellence; that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience. - (*John 4:24; Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19-20; II Corinthians 13:14*)

**3.3 Person and Work of the Father.** God the Father is enthroned in heaven and sent and gave the Son to be our Savior. He sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter. He draws sinners to Himself and keeps the saints from falling. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort; He may be seen in the Son and known through the Son; He is to be loved, worshipped, obeyed, and revered. - (*John 3:16; II Corinthians 1:3; John 14:9, 11, 16; John 4:23*)

**3.4 Deity and Virgin Birth of Christ.** We believe in the absolute deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, co-equal with the Father and the Spirit; that in His humanity He never ceased to be God; that as man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. His substitutionary death on the cross is man's only hope of salvation and His bodily resurrection from the dead is proof of His divinity. - (*John 1:1-2; Matthew 1:20; I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 7:14; John 14:6; Isaiah 53:4-6; Hebrews 2:9; Romans 1:4*)

**3.5 The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, the source and power of all acceptable worship and service, and our abiding comforter and helper; that He is equal with the Father and the Son; that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, bears witness to the truth, and is the agent of the new birth; that He guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies and helps the believer; that He indwells every true child of God; that with Him the believer is endued with power and sealed in Christ. - (*John 14:16-17; John 15:26; John 16:13-14; Romans 8:9; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:13-14*)

**3.6 Person and Work of Satan.** We believe that Satan was once one of God's highest created beings, that through pride and ambition he fell, that he is the god of this age and the prince of the power of the air, that he is the enemy of God and the accuser of the brethren, that he is the author of all false religions, that he is destined to final defeat at the hand of Jesus Christ, and that he shall be cast into the lake of fire forever. - (*Ezekiel 28:14-17; Isaiah 14:12-16; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 11:13; II Thessalonians 2:8-11; Revelation 20:10*)

**3.7 Divine Creation.** We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, each after its own kind, by a direct act and not by the process of evolution. - (*Genesis 1:2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3*)

**3.8 Creation and Fall of Man.** We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from his high and holy estate by disobedience to God. As a consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that his moral nature was not only grievously injured by the fall, but his spiritual life was totally lost and he became dead in trespasses and sins and subject to the power of Satan. We believe that his spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of man, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child is born into the world with a sinful nature, having enmity against God and being incapable of subjection to His law. - (*Genesis 1:26; Genesis 2:17; Ephesians 2:1-3; I John 3:8; Romans 5:12-19; Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 8:6-7*)

**3.9 Salvation.** We believe that, owing to this universal depravity and death in sin, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless born again. - (*Romans 3:23; John 3:3-5*)

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin for us. We believe that each member of the human race is covered by this provision until he comes to the age of accountability. Therefore, all children who die in infancy are covered by the blood of Christ and therefore are saved. - (*Ephesians 1:7; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:15-21; II Samuel 12:22-23*)

We believe that Christ is received by repentance and faith alone, and that the moment we trust Him as our Savior we pass from death into everlasting life, sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. - (*Acts 17:30; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:24*)

We believe that all who take Christ as Savior are born from above and are kept by the power of God. Good works cannot earn salvation, but a godly, separated, and abundant life is the natural fruit of the true believer in Christ. - (*John 10:28-29; Ephesians 2:10; John 15:1-17*)

**3.10 Sanctification.** We believe that sanctification is the separation and dedication of a person to and for God, to belong wholly to Him and to be used for His glory. In relation to the believer there are:

3.10.1 Positional sanctification, which takes place at conversion instantaneously;

3.10.2 Progressive sanctification, which is a continual process throughout life on earth, a work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, including the yielding of life, a pruning process, growing in grace, abounding in love, godly walk, and bringing every thought into obedience to Christ;

3.10.3 Entire sanctification, which will be experienced by the believer at the coming of Jesus Christ, when we shall receive a glorified body like Christ's. - (*I Corinthians 6:11; I Thessalonians 5:23; Philippians 3:20-21*)

**3.11 Christian Liberty.** We believe that we should limit our Christian liberty if it will cause physical or spiritual harm to ourselves or to a fellow Christian, and as an expediency to win unbelievers to Christ. - (*Hebrews 12:1; I Corinthians 6:12; Colossians 4:5*)

**3.12 Eternal State of Righteous and Wicked.** We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be

with Him forever in glory; but that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the great white throne, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated but to be punished with everlasting destruction, and with eternal separation from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. - (*II Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 14:13; Philippians 3:20-21; Luke 16:19-26; Revelation 20:11-15; II Thessalonians 1:7-9*)

**3.13 The Return of Christ and Related Events.** We believe in the bodily, personal, and premillennial return of Jesus Christ. At His coming the dead in Christ shall be raised, and the living believers shall be changed and raptured with them and shall be with the Lord forever. - (*Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-52*)

**3.14 The Church.** We believe that the universal church consists of the whole number of regenerated persons from Pentecost until the first resurrection, referred to as the body and Bride of Christ. - (*I Thessalonians 4:13-17; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23 & 4:5; II Corinthians 11:2-4*)

We furthermore believe that the local church is a company of born-again persons; baptized upon a profession of faith in Jesus Christ; united for worship, instruction, the observance of the Christian ordinances, and for such service as the Gospel requires; recognizing Christ as their supreme Lord and Lawgiver; and taking His Word as their only rule of faith and practice in all matters of conscience, daily walk, and religion. - (*I Corinthians 1:2; I Thessalonians 2:14; Galatians 1:1-3; Genesis 49:10; Ephesians 4:17-32; I Corinthians 5:9-11*)

The present task of the church is to present the Gospel of Christ to all people. - (*Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20*)

We reject Replacement Theology which asserts that the Church is the New Israel and that Israel is no longer the Lord's covenant nation. - (*Romans 9:3-5; Romans 11*)

**3.15 Church Ordinances.** We believe that Scripture commands the observance of two ordinances for the church age: Believer's Baptism and The Lord's Supper. They are not to be regarded, however, as a means of salvation nor as a means of grace by which special merit is obtained.

**3.15.1 Believer's Baptism:** We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and shows forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem his faith in and his identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, illustrating our death to sin and a resurrection to a new life. In scriptural order baptism precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It shall be for those born again believers who request it, and who have never been so baptized before (since their conversion). - (*Matthew 3:6; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39, 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12*)

**3.15.2 The Lord's Supper:** We believe that The Lord's Supper is not a means of grace but an ordinance to be shared in only by those who are born again and consciously in fellowship with the Lord Jesus. It is the setting forth in a sacred and symbolic manner the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. The emblems of the Communion Service are not literally the body and blood, nor do they contain His flesh and His blood. This ordinance is a memorial service and shall be observed as often as the Elders decide and may be observed on special occasions. (Luke 22:1-20; I Corinthians 11:17-34)