

Our Statement of Faith

What We Believe

We believe the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired, infallible Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts, and God's complete, written revelation to humankind (John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:23-25). The Bible is sufficient and trustworthy for life, faith, conduct, and practice, and is the supreme and final authority in all matters to which it speaks (2 Tim 3:15-17; Psalm 119:9-16; Heb. 4:12; 1 Cor. 10:11; 2 Chronicles 34:21). We further believe there is but one true interpretation of Scripture, although there may be several applications (2 Peter 1:20-21). The true meaning lies in the text and is that which the divinely-guided author willed to convey. It is recoverable through careful application of a literal (grammatical, historical, contextual) method of interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in the community of Christ (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit illumines the text, enabling the reader to embrace the significance of what God has communicated, and to see the glory of Christ in the Word of God (John 16:13-15).

The Trinity

We believe in one God (Deut. 6:4; Deut. 4:39), Creator (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18) and Sustainer of all things (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3), eternally divine existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10-11; Eph. 2:18; Heb. 9:14); we believe that these are equal in every distinct perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

God The Father

We believe in God the Father; an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love (Deut. 10:17). We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity (Acts 14:17; Matt. 5:45), that He hears and answers prayer (Matt. 6:6), and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:37-39). We believe God's knowledge is exhaustive (Psalm 139:1-6); He fully knows the past, present, and future independent of human decisions and actions. The Father does everything in accordance with His perfect will, although His sovereignty neither eliminates nor minimizes our personal responsibility (Jer. 32:17-19; Acts 17:24-31; Eph. 1:11).

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's eternal Son (Heb. 1; 2 Cor. 4:4-6; Col. 2:9; 1 Cor. 8:6). God the Son has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (John 1:1; 2 Peter 1:16-18; Col. 1:15-19; John 20:28; Psalm 2; Isa. 9:6). We believe further that He is not only true God but true man (Heb. 2:14,17; John 1:14; Heb. 5:7), conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38; Isa. 7:14; Gal. 4:4). We also believe in His sinless life (Heb. 7:26), His substitutionary atonement (Rom. 5:6-10; Col. 1:20; Gal. 1:3-4), His bodily resurrection from the dead (Luke 24:1-12; 1 Cor. 15), His ascension into heaven (Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 8:1; Col. 3:1), His priestly intercession on behalf of His people (Heb. 7:25), and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 1:7).

Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation (John 14:27; John 16:7-15). His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:26), to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost (2 Cor. 3:15-18; 1 Thess. 1:5; Rom. 8:2), and to empower the believer for godly living and service (Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 8:1-16; John 14:16-17). We believe the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers as He wills for the common good (1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:11-16). No gift signifies His baptism or filling (1 Cor. 6:19), nor does any gift provide authoritative revelation beyond what has already been revealed in the Holy Scriptures (Rom. 12:6-8). Life in the Spirit includes trials (1 Peter 1:4-6; 1 Peter 4:12-14; James 1:2-3; John 16:33) and does not guarantee physical health, material wealth, nor confirming outward signs.

Mankind

We believe God originally created persons, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin (Gen. 1:27; Mark 10:6; Psalm 100:3). Through the temptation by Satan, Adam transgressed the command of God and fell from his original innocence (Gen. 3). All descendants of Adam now inherit a sinful nature and are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 3:9-18; Rom. 5:12-21; Psalm 51:5). We believe that those who reach moral responsibility become sinners in thought and deed by choice (2 Sam. 12:23). We also

believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 3:21-26; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 John 1:9; Titus 3:5-7). We believe God established marriage to be a lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman. Marriage so defined is the only permissible context for intimate sexual expression and is the foundation for the human family (Gen. 2:20-25; Matt. 19:1-9; Rom. 1:24-27). We further believe that human life is precious and should be protected from the beginning, at conception, until natural death (Gen. 9:6; Psalm 139:13-16).

Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan who is the opposer and enemy of both God and His people (2 Cor. 4:4). He is destined to the just punishment of the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). He is a created being subject to God (Gen. 3:1; Rom. 16:20). It is the duty of every Christian believer to resist and reject the devil and his schemes (2 Cor. 2:11; Luke 4:6; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Eph. 6:10-17).

Salvation

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9). We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God (Eph. 1:3-8; Titus 3:5-7), was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross (Acts 20:28; Rom. 5:8; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9), is eternally secured by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14), and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual (Gal. 2:16; Gal. 3:11-14; Rom. 3:19-28). We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern (Rom. 6:5-11; Titus 2:14; James 2:14-17; Titus 3:8; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

The Church

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:27). We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 2:4-12). We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies (1 Cor. 1:1-2; Gal. 1:2; Phil. 1:2) whose members have been immersed upon a credible confession of faith (Rom. 6:3-4; Matt. 28:19-20) and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism, and for service (Heb. 10:24-25). We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:35-38; Col. 2:12) by immersion and the Lord's supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26). We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love (Eph. 5:19-21; Phil. 2:3-6; 1 Thess. 4:9-10).

Separation of Church and State

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority (1 Cor. 6:4-6). We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life (2 Cor. 5:10) and that each one should be free to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

Christian Conduct

We believe that the supreme task of believers is to glorify God in their lives and that their conduct should be blameless before the world (1 Peter 2:11-12; Col. 1:9-10). We further believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions (Phil. 4:15-19; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Matt. 25:14-30) and that they should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ (Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 6:1; Heb. 5:14).

The Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost (Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:12-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18), the eternal existence of all people either in heaven or hell (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 5:29-30), in divine judgment, rewards, and punishments (Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 22:12; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 21&22).