

[REVISION_1.02] STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. GOD AND GOD'S WORD

- 1.1. God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. God is one and exists in three eternal persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. [Genesis 1:1-5, 26-27; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Psalm 66; Psalm 139:13-16; Acts 17:24-28]
- 1.2. Jesus Christ is the one and only Son of God. He is fully God, became a man, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and then willingly gave His life on the cross as the Savior of the world. He rose again, a bodily resurrection, to give eternal life to everyone who believes. [Luke 19:10, John 3:16-17, John 10:10, Romans 10:9-13, Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 1:15-20]
- 1.3. The Holy Spirit is God present in the world and lives in all believers as the Helper to make us aware of our need for Jesus and empower us to live for Jesus. [Genesis 1:2; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 16:5-15; Acts 1:7-8; Romans 8:15-17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Galatians 5:16-25]
- 1.4. The Bible is God's Word to us, written by human authors under supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Inerrant Word of God is the authority over every area of our life. [Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 7:24-27, John 20:29-30, 1 Corinthians 10:11, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:20-21]

2. SALVATION

- 2.1. People are made in the image of God but have been separated from Him by sin. [Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3:1-15, Isaiah 59:1-2, John 8:32-35, Romans 3:23, Galatians 5:19-21]
- 2.2. We believe that everyone is in need of redemption. For all who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and profess Him as their Lord, Christ's redemption has freed them from sin, being "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." [John 3:15; Romans 3:24, 6:23]
- 2.3. Jesus paid the price for our release from sin and its punishment. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace..." [Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:7, 1 Timothy 2:6]
- 2.4. Salvation is God's free gift to us and can only be accepted by trusting Jesus Christ. [Isaiah 53:1-6, John 14:6, Acts 4:10-12, Romans 3:23-26, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:1-10]
- 2.5. We were made to live forever, either separated from God or joined with Him in Jesus. [Matthew 25:31-46, John 3:16-17, Romans 8:31-39, Titus 3:4-7, 2 Peter 3:5-10]
- 2.6. Heaven and hell are both real places of eternal existence. [John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:35-58, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Revelation 20:7-10, Revelation 21:1-4]
- 2.7. We believe that God makes right those who have faith in Jesus, and that he will one day glorify them. In love, God commands and calls all people to repent and confess Christ as their Redeemer. [Mark 1:15; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 1:7-8a; Colossians 1:13-14]
- 2.8. We believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to heal all forms of brokenness and restore every willing heart to wholeness. We acknowledge each person as created in God's image and our hope is to see everyone restored to new life in Christ. [Col. 3:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:19-23]
- 2.9. We believe that by his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute. He did this so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God:

on the cross He canceled sin, propitiated God, and, by bearing the full penalty of our sins, reconciled to God all those who believe. [Romans 8:1, 4:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 21; Galatians 2:16]

- 2.10. We believe that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified. By his sacrifice, he bore in our stead the punishment due us for our sins, making a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice on our behalf. [Acts 4:12; Colossians 2:13-14; Romans 3:21-31, 8:1]

3. BAPTISM

- 3.1. We believe in the importance of following the Lord in the waters of baptism. According to the Bible, all of us have sinned. Through his death on the cross, Christ paid the penalty for our sin and provided the gift of salvation. This gift is available to all who put their trust in Christ. Those trusting Christ should repent of their sin, confess their faith, and be baptized. [Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9]

4. SANTIFICATION

- 4.1. Adopted into God's family, the Lord begins a progressive work of transforming the believer more and more like Christ [2 Cor 3:18]. This process begins at conversion and ends at death or the coming of Jesus [Heb 12:23]. While primarily a work of God [1 Thessalonians 5:23], a believer's whole being must be an active participant [Rom 12:1-2; Phil 1:9].
- 4.2. We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience flows from this free justification.

5. THE CHURCH

- 5.1. The Church consists of all believers in Jesus everywhere and at all times. [Acts 2:42-47, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Galatians 3:26-29]
- 5.2. The Church has the mission of making disciples of all nations for the glory of God. [Matthew 4:19, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 1:22-23, Revelation 7:9-10]
- 5.3. The Church exists to reach unbelievers and grow believers. [John 15:1-5, John 17:17-23, Ephesians 3:10-12, Ephesians 4:11-16, Hebrews 10:23-24]
- 5.4. The Church meets corporately together to express worship and honor to God. [Psalm 86:9-10, Psalm 100:1-5, Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 12:28-29, Revelation 14:7]
- 5.5. We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. [Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26]

God's Design for Human Relationships

6. HUMAN SEXUALITY

- 6.1. Genesis 1:26-28 – *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*
- 6.2. We believe all men and women are created by God and are naturally born as male or female in gender. Any references to men and women throughout this document should be known as "naturally-born man" or "naturally-born woman" referring to the natural birth sex of each as designated by God. We do not hold to reassignment of the sexes in the ideology of preference, self-identification, or "transformation of gender".
- 6.3. We recognize that we live in a fallen world full of sexual brokenness. We believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to heal all forms of brokenness and restore every willing heart to wholeness. Our goal is to value each person as created in God's image and our hope is to see everyone restored to new life in Christ. [Col. 3:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:19-23]
- 6.3.1. *Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?* (1 Cor. 6: 18-19)
- 6.4. We believe that God has commanded that a man and a woman shall not engage in intimate sexual activity outside of marriage. [1 Corinthians 7:2-3] (Reference the Marriage section of this document for clarification of our beliefs related to the practice of marriage.)
- 6.5. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. [Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4]

7. MARRIAGE

- 7.1. We believe that marriage is a union set apart by God; one that should not be taken for granted. Marriage is a public declaration of love and commitment. Marriage is the expression of lifelong vows to one another before God. Marriage establishes a partnership between one man and one woman forming potential to build a family life.
- 7.2. The Bible, God's word to us, is Park Chapel's source of authority about what we believe and practice as a church. We believe the Bible describes marriage as a covenant established by God and designed to be the union of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman for life as described in Genesis 2:24 and affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:4-6. As a church, we will faithfully follow this Scriptural definition of marriage in the teachings and practices of our ministry. As a church and church staff, we will not officiate, solemnize, perform or host a marriage or marriage-like ceremony involving anything other than the union of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. [Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23]
- 7.3. We believe happiness, joy, and fulfillment come from knowing the Lord and having a personal relationship with Him. God created mankind with the purpose of having a personal relationship with Him. We believe that whether a person chooses to remain single or get married, both are equal in the eyes of God. Singleness can be a high calling and a great blessing. [1 Corinthians 7]
- 7.4. We believe that human sexuality is a gift from God and that all persons should surrender their sexuality to the authority of Jesus Christ. The New Testament teaches that sexual purity is expected of all followers of Christ and that anything other than the sexual union of one man and one woman in the covenant of marriage is considered sexual immorality. [Eph. 5:3, 21-33; Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:3-8]

8. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

- 8.1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position 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 (elders and pastors) of the church. Women are equally called to utilize their God-given gifts and roles to grow the ministry outreach (locally and globally) to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. When men and women work together in their roles as designed by God, God is glorified and His kingdom flourishes. [Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 3:4-5, 12]
- 8.2. 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, giving up his life for her. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through biblical discipleship. This includes modeling a consistent biblical lifestyle and discipline, as referenced in Scripture. [Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7]

9. SANCTITY OF LIFE

- 9.1. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Thus, we believe that an action or omission of action which, of itself or by intention, is the sole cause of death in order to eliminate suffering is contrary to the will of God. [Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Matt. 5:21; Luke 1:44; Acts 17:28]

10. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

- 10.1. *“Haven’t you read,” [Jesus] replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, and he also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” (Matt. 19:4-6)*
- 10.2. We believe that God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage are regarded as adultery except on the grounds of sexual immorality. [Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:7-12; Rom. 7:1-3]

11. MISSIONS

- 11.1. Jesus has given the church “The Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20) to make disciples of all nations and be his witness to the ends of the earth (Act 1:8). Once the Gospel is preached throughout the whole earth as a testimony to all nations, the end will come (Matthew 24:14). In Rev 7:9 we see the fulfillment of the Great Commission “After these things I looked, and there was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before throne”. The ultimate purpose of every Christian and Church is the completion to the Great Commission.

12. STEWARDSHIP

- 12.1. We believe that God owns everything we are just His steward-manager. God commands us to be stewards of all aspects of our lives – time, talent, treasure, relationships, positions, and possessions. Stewardship is managing God’s blessings, God’s way, for God’s glory. A biblical steward/manager is one who has been entrusted with the property of the owner (God) and expected to manage it wisely as the owner himself would. We should be ready to give an account for our stewardship to the owner.
- 12.2. We believe that when we understand true biblical stewardship, it changes our perspective on our family budget, our daily decisions, and even our purpose in life. Stewardship is important because individuals cannot be fully aligned with God’s desire for them if they have an unbiblical perception of money and time, not recognizing the battle for the heart, and the devotion God desires. [Matthew 6:19-24]
- 12.3. We believe that God has established the tithe (10%) as a beginning point for giving to support the church locally and enable the church to spread the Gospel beyond the local church. One should give joyfully of their first fruits. [Malachi 3:8-10, Psalm 24:1, Prov 3:9, Matthew 25:14-30, 2 Cor 9:6-7]
- 12.4. We believe that that God loves a cheerful giver and that faithful stewards follow God’s leading and do not assume the tithe (10%) as their ambition to please God, but instead going beyond the tithe with their giving. [2 Cor 9:7]

13. AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 13.1. 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. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.