



STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible

We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture—that every word is God-breathed—and therefore is inerrant in the original manuscripts. We affirm their sole sufficiency and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

We teach the literal, grammatical-historical method of interpreting Scripture, affirming that while a passage may have multiple applications, it has only one true interpretation. That interpretation is the meaning intended by the original human author, superintended by the Holy Spirit.

The Triune God

We believe in the **Trinity**—the one true God eternally existing in three consubstantial Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three Persons are one in essence—sharing one mind, one will, and one power. Together, they are sovereign and active in creation, providence, and redemption. They are one in nature, the same in their attributes and perfections, and are equally worthy of our worship, trust, and obedience.

We believe that **God the Father**, the first Person of the Trinity, orders and decrees all things according to His own purpose and grace. He is the Creator of all things. He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As Creator, He is Father to all men, but He is spiritual Father only to believers. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass. He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events. He saves from sin all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. He adopts as His own all those who come to Him and thereby becomes Father to them.

We believe that **Jesus Christ, God the Son**, is eternal God, coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father, possessing all the divine perfections. Through Him all things were created. He is truly God and truly man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He came to reveal God to mankind, lived a sinless perfect life, and shed His blood for the sin of the world as the only acceptable, substitutionary sacrifice, satisfying God's righteous judgments against sin; that He rose from the grave in the very body, though glorified, in which He had been crucified; that He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and that He now appears in the presence of God as the only mediator between God and man until He comes again.

We believe that **the Holy Spirit**, the third Person of the Trinity, is eternal God, coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father and the Son. He enabled men to write the Scriptures. He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He regenerates, and those whom He regenerates, He places them into the body of Christ. He dwells within them

permanently, sealing them unto the day of redemption. He empowers and gives gifts to believers for the edification of the body of Christ—the Church.

Man Created and Fallen

We believe that God created the world in six literal 24-hour days. Man was created in the image of God, but through Adam's voluntary act of disobedience, sin entered the world. As a result, he lost his spiritual life, became dead in his trespasses and sins, subject to physical death, and came under the power of the devil. We affirm that this condition of spiritual death, commonly referred to as the total depravity of human nature, has been inherited by the entire human race, with the sole exception of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Therefore, every descendant of Adam is born with a nature devoid of spiritual life, inherently and unchangeably corrupt, and under God's righteous judgment apart from His saving grace. We believe that human life begins at conception, and that any intentional act to end human life in the womb constitutes murder.

Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God, established in Scripture as the covenantal union of one man and one woman. This exclusive and lifelong commitment is designed to reflect the relationship between Christ and His Church.

God has designed sexual intimacy to be expressed solely within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. Therefore, all forms of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, and any attempt to alter or reject one's biological sex is sinful and offensive to God, the creator and designer of sexuality.

Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinful and lost humanity is a sovereign work of God, accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit. This work is carried out through the proclamation of the Word of God, as the Holy Spirit enables the repentant sinner to respond in faith. Salvation is solely by God's grace, grounded in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and the merit of His shed blood—not based on any human effort or works. All who are truly redeemed are kept by God's sovereign power and are eternally secure in Christ.

Sanctification and the Christian Life

We believe that, as a result of justification—being declared righteous before God—we are set apart to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This ongoing process of being made holy is called sanctification. It involves learning to walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit through obedience to the Word of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Though the fallen human nature is not fully eradicated in this life, it must be kept in subjection to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, or it will inevitably manifest itself to the

dishonor of our Lord. While the presence of sin remains, Christ promises spiritual growth through the work of the Holy Spirit through obedience to God's word and prayer.

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God the Holy Spirit sovereignly gives spiritual gifts to each member of the body of Christ. While God continues to perform miracles according to His will, we believe that the miraculous apostolic gifts—such as tongues, interpretation of tongues, and healing—ceased with the close of the apostolic age and the completion of the canon of Scripture.

With the biblical canon now complete, God builds up the Church through the teaching of His word and the exercise of spiritual gifts that are still active, such as teaching, encouraging, administration, helps, giving, etc. These gifts are given for the edification of the body and the advancement of sound doctrine.

The Church

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately united by the Holy Spirit into one spiritual body—the Church—of which Christ is the Head. The Church exists to glorify God by building up its people in faith through the teaching of the word, fellowship, the observance of the ordinances, and the proclamation of the gospel to the whole world.

We believe the Church, the body of Christ, was formed on the day of Pentecost and will be completed at Christ's return for His people at the rapture. While the Church and Israel are both part of the people of God, we affirm that the Church is distinct from the nation of Israel in God's redemptive plan.

Future Things

We believe that Christ will return to establish His earthly kingdom and reign for a thousand years. Following this millennial reign, there will be a bodily resurrection of all people—believers to the resurrection of eternal life in the eternal state, and unbelievers to the resurrection of eternal judgment and damnation.