

# **Statement of Beliefs**

## **Faith in the Holy Trinity**

The Father – We believe in one living and true God, both holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom, and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things.

The Son of God – We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

The Holy Spirit – He is the Administrator of grace to all mankind. He is ever present, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer.

## **The Word of God**

We believe that God's Word is inspired and infallible. It is fully inerrant in the original manuscripts and superior to all human authority. You don't fit the Bible in your life, you fit your life in the Bible. God's Word has never failed man. It is a perfect road map that leads to eternal life with God.

## **God's Purpose for Humanity**

We believe that the two great commandments that require us to love the Lord our God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves summarize the divine law as revealed in the Scriptures.

They are the perfect measure and norm of human duty, both for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, and for individual acts, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our only Supreme Ruler.

## **Marriage and the Family**

God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship.

## **Personal Choice**

We believe that humanity's creation in the image of God included ability to choose between right and wrong.

## **The Atonement**

We believe that Christ's offering of Himself, once and for all, through His sufferings and death on the cross, provides the perfect redemption and atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual.

## **Repentance and Faith**

We believe that for men and women to appropriate what God's prevenient grace has made possible, they must voluntarily respond in repentance and faith. The ability comes from God, but the act is the individual's. Repentance begins by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. It involves a willful change of mind that renounces sin and longs for righteousness, a godly sorrow, and a confession of sin. Faith, in turn, is the only condition of salvation. It begins with the mind's agreement and the will's consent to the truth of the gospel.

### **Justification, Regeneration and Adoption**

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby a person is accounted righteous, granted full pardon of all sin, delivered from guilt, and completely released from the penalty of sins committed.

We believe that regeneration, or the new birth, is that work of the Holy Spirit whereby, when one truly repents and believes, one's moral nature is given a spiritual life with the capacity for love and obedience.

We believe that adoption is the act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer becomes a partaker of all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a child of God.

### **Good Works**

We believe that although good works cannot save us from our sins or from God's judgment, they are the fruit of faith and follow after regeneration.

### **Sin after Regeneration**

We believe that it is possible to fall into sin after regeneration.

### **Sanctification**

We believe sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is separated from sin unto God and is enabled to love God with all the heart and walk in all His holy commandments blameless. Regeneration is when we have God. Sanctification is when God has you.

### **The Gifts of the Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the agent of all Spiritual gifts and that these gifts are given to glorify God and not man. However, we major on the fruit of the Spirit and not the gifts of the Spirit. Gifts of the Spirit without first the fruit of the Spirit is like a tree without roots.

### **The Second Coming of Christ**

We believe that the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world.

### **The Church**

We believe that the Christian church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only Head of the church. We believe that the church was/is God's only plan to save the world and is a powerful gathering of people beyond anything man could construct.

### **Destiny**

We believe that there is life after death and all are on their way to either heaven or hell.

### **The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by Christ and ordained as a means of grace when received through faith.

We believe that water baptism is an outward and visible sign of an inward transformation of the heart and should be administered to all believers.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death and our hope in His victorious return, as well as a sign of the love that Christians have for each other.