



Statement of Faith

The Holy Scriptures

"We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe that in the original manuscripts the Bible is *infallible* in its totality, *inerrant* in all of its parts, *authoritative* in its message, and *effective* in its results. We further believe it is the supreme revelation from God and of God, superior to conscience and reason, though not necessarily contrary to them; and it is therefore our infallible rule in all matters. We believe that all of Scripture centers around the Lord Jesus Christ and hence that no portion is properly read or understood until it leads to Him. (John 5:39, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1: 23-25; Hebrews 4:12)

The Godhead

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and are worthy of the same homage and obedience. (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1,14; Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 12:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-14; Revelation 1:4-6)

The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe in the pre-existence, incarnation and virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ who came into the world to reveal the Father, and was the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person; that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Creator of all things, for by Him the worlds were made. We believe that He was very God and very Man, and I AM, the LORD (YAHWEH or Jehovah) of the Old Testament. We further believe in the sinless life of our Lord Jesus Christ, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily ascension into heaven, and His imminent return. We further believe that He is presently seated at the right hand of God the Father interceding for His redeemed. We also acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord over all things in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth. (John 1:1-4,14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Acts 7:37-38; Philippians 2:9-10; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 7:22-25; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:2-3)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, though omnipresent from all eternity, after the glorification of Jesus Christ was sent on the day of Pentecost, dwells in every believer, unites all to Christ in one body, and is the source of all power and all acceptable service. We believe that ministries are committed to the Holy Spirit including the restraining of evil in the world; the convicting of the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; the regenerating of all believers; the sealing of all believers unto the day of redemption; and the continued filling for power and service of those among the saved who are yielded to Him and to His will. (John 3:6; 14:16-17; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:22)

The Creation of the World and Man

We believe that God sovereignly created the world out of nothing, according to the literal account of Genesis 1-2. We further believe that man is a love creation of God created in the image and likeness of God. God gave to man dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth. (Genesis 1-2; Luke 3:38; Colossians 1:16)

Man's Fallen Condition and the Curse

We believe that man, by willful transgression of God's command, betrayed God's trust and sinned thereby falling from a state of righteousness and holiness in which he was first created, into total spiritual depravity; a state of death in trespasses and sins in which he is held as a slave and an enemy of God, being unable to attain divine righteousness by his own efforts, but must be redeemed and delivered by the power of the

Gospel. We further believe that the fall of man brought a curse not only upon the human race but upon creation itself resulting in every form of sin, evil, sickness, disease, pain, poverty, death, and natural disasters upon the earth. (Genesis 3:14-19; Romans 3:23-25, 5:12-21, 8:19-23; I Corinthians 15:1-4; II Corinthians 4:3-4)

Salvation Only Through Christ Alone

We believe that repentance and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ produces the work of justification in the believer through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Further, we believe that, due to universal spiritual death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit. We also believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died as our substitute. (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Church

We believe that there is one true universal Church, made up of genuine believers, but this one universal church is also composed of many local churches in given localities. We also believe these churches to be under the sovereign Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, exercising autonomous government under Him, in all its local affairs and ministry, as well as the propagation of the Gospel. These local churches however are not to view themselves as unaccountable to other valid New Testament churches and leadership but are under spiritual obligation to uphold the standards of Christian doctrine, life, and practice according to the Holy Scriptures. We further believe that these churches, working independently or cooperatively, are the chosen instruments of God for the furtherance of God's work upon the earth. While appreciating the work of parachurch groups, we believe that the local church is God's chosen vehicle for world evangelism and the nurture of Christians. We further believe in the unity of all believers and in working together with others who believe in salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the cause of evangelism, missions, and benevolences. (Matthew 16:16-18, 18:15-20; John 17:20-23; Acts 15:22; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:20-23, 4:1-16; Colossians 3:14-15)

Ordinances and Worship

We believe that water baptism is for believers only and should be administered by the mode of immersion and in the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We further believe that water baptism is the means whereby we outwardly witness to others, the New Covenant sign of circumcision of the heart. We also believe that we are identified with Jesus Christ and participate in His death, burial, and resurrection through water baptism. We do not believe that infant baptism is scriptural, but do practice baby dedications whereby a child's parents commit the child to the Lord's will and purposes, and themselves to the responsibility to raise a child in the fear and admonition of the Lord, believing that when the child is at an age of understanding he/she will place their faith in Jesus Christ and follow the Lord in water baptism. (Matthew 28:10-20; Acts 8:16; Romans 6:4)

We believe that through the Lord's Supper the believer renews and affirms the reality of the New Covenant. It is a memorial commemorating the death of Jesus Christ for us and a reaffirmation of His imminent return. The elements are to be received with joy and gratitude upon confessions and repentance from every known sin. We also believe that this ordinance is open to all Christian believers who have no unconfessed sin in their lives. (Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 22:14-20; I Corinthians 11:17-34)

We believe that the whole purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Therefore, we believe in the act of worshipping God with one's total being as set forth in the Holy Scriptures. We believe that God desires worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth as opposed to the external religious requirements of man. (Psalm 150; Mark 12:29-31; John 4:23-24; Ephesians 5:18-21)

The Eternal State

We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body, when Jesus Christ comes for His own, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be with Him forever in glory; but the spirits and souls of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in 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 from the presence of

the Lord, and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; II Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15)



Doctrine

Christian Liberty

We believe in the personal Lordship of Christ over individual believers. Each must give account of himself to God. Therefore, in matters not clearly defined in scripture, convictions of one should not be imposed on others. In addition, doctrinal differences that are clearly within the bounds of historic orthodox Christianity should be cause for discussion, not division, and even if leading to separate gatherings, still fellowshiping together in Christian love. (Romans 14; Mark 9:38-40)

Christian Unity

We believe that all believers are called to unity. The essence of unity is not co-operation and joint programs but the same beliefs, faith, Spirit, salvation, doctrine, life and love in accordance with Scriptures. We believe that though believers may not agree on all points there must be an established and essential core of truth adhered to by all because our unity is not merely with one another but first a unity with Christ. There can never be unity at the cost of truth. Truth remains the priority and basis of any meaningful unity. (1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:18-19; Acts 20:30; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Peter 2:1-2)

Christian Living

We believe that a continuous walk in grace should be the emphasis of heart righteousness and purity, believing in the keeping power of God, walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh, in conduct that demonstrates the character of Jesus Christ, not being conformed to the world, but being transformed by the renewing of the mind. We further believe that each believer must lay a foundation of Biblical truth and experience upon which he builds his life. Through the Lordship of Jesus Christ, these foundation stones are established in the new birth and include repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (Romans 4:1-5, 8:25, 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Galatians 5:16-25; Hebrews 6:1-2; Jude 24)

The Priesthood of All Believers

We believe that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born-again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest or human mediator; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:6; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; 1 John 2:27)

Spiritual Baptisms – Salvation and Baptism with the Holy Spirit

We believe there is a spiritual baptism whereby the repentant sinner, upon responding to the call of God to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, (1 Corinthians 12:13) bringing regeneration and rebirth (2 Corinthians 5:17). Subsequently, the regenerate believer is filled or empowered as Jesus baptizes them in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to live according to Scripture, denying their flesh, living for Christ, and walking in the power of God to accomplish His purpose for their lives, and for the work of ministry. (Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4, 38; 10:46; 11:28; 19:6) The believer is meant to walk continuously in the Spirit, (Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:8) earnestly asking God for His supernatural assistance in their daily life, (Luke 11:13) and not refusing His help (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Ministers to the Church

At Northside Christian Center we desire to uphold Biblical principles of spiritual authority honoring God's creation order in the distinct and complementary roles of men and women. We believe that men are called by God to serve their families and the church as spiritual leaders. In the home this role is to be

godly husbands who love their wives as Christ loves the church and who lay their lives down for them as they lead their families.

In the church men are called to provide spiritual leadership as elders (bishops/overseers) serving in lead apostolic or pastoral ministry roles. Godly, qualified men (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9) have the ultimate responsibility under Jesus Christ to lead and teach biblical doctrine and truth in the church. Women may be called on to teach other women or children under the covering authority of church leadership but should not be in a position of teaching or having authority over men. (I Timothy 2:12)

We believe in the divinely called, commissioned and equipped five-fold ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers as given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ upon His ascension. We believe their purpose is to train and equip the saints for the work of the ministry unto the building up and maturing of the Body of Christ. We further believe in the ministry of duly qualified, recognized, and appointed Elders and Deacons in the local church. We affirm the role of Deaconess, understanding the role of Deacon/Deaconess is one of service and not one of authority or leadership within the church. In addition, we believe that every Christian is called to be an ambassador for Christ in representing His character, ministry, and teaching to the lost. Every believer has been given the ministry of reconciliation. (Acts 6:1-6, 14:23, 15:4, 22-23; Ephesians 4:11-13; II Corinthians 5:16-20)

Evangelism and Missions

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Laying on of Hands

We believe in the doctrine of laying on of hands for:

- a. the confirming of believers to commitment and ministry in the local church,
- b. the confirming of one's call by God to special ministry in the local church (Acts 13:1,3),
- c. the imparting of spiritual gifts (I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6),
- d. the experiencing of the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17-18; 19:6)
- e. the ministering of healing of the sick through the Lord Jesus Christ, (Mark 16:16), and
- f. the blessing and dedicating of children to the Lord (Mark 10:16)

We further believe that, in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, we should lay hands on no man suddenly, but that the laying on of hands confirms a ministry which is already observable and has been proven. (I Timothy 5:22)

Sanctity of Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139)

Sanctity of Marriage

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10) We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Northside Christian Center as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Northside Christian Center members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Northside Christian Center in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22) We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Northside Christian Center.

Suffering

We believe that believers will endure seasons of temptation, tests, trials, suffering, and hardship for the cause of Christ. This baptism by fire is meant to test, refine, purify, and sanctify the believer. (Deuteronomy 8:2; Malachi 3:1-2; Matthew 3:11-12; 4:1-11; John 16:33; James 1:2-4)

Spiritual Fruit & Gifts

We believe that the regenerate believer has ministry available to them from the Holy Spirit of God. (Luke 11:13; Acts 15:8; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 2:12) This ministry is revealed in the believer through fruits born of the Spirit and gifts given by the Spirit. These are seen at work in the empowerment of the believer to be: a witness of Christ in the world (Acts 1:8), victorious in living in righteousness – The Fruits of the Spirit – (Gal.5), a functional and contributing member of the body of Christ as a whole – expressed through the local church – (1 Cor. 12), a minister of the manifold grace of God as expressed through spiritual gifts. (1 Pet. 4:10)

We believe that the fruit of the Spirit is the manifestation of the character of Christ in the Believer's life. We further believe that all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to Christians today and that all of the gifts of the Spirit should be and must be operative in the church for the church to manifest her glory under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe that spiritual gifts are given to believers to be used for the glory of God (John 16:14), according to the grace and will of God (Rom. 8:9; 12:4-6; Eph. 4:1-16). The believer does not command the Holy Spirit or the gifts given by Him, but is a vessel meant to walk in humble submission to the Giver of every good gift. (1 Cor. 6:19)