

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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THE BIBLE: The Word of God, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).

THE ONE TRUE GOD: Existing eternally as three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

THE FATHER: God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe (Isaiah 6:1-3, Revelation 4:8). He is all powerful (Romans 1:20), all knowing (1 John 3:20), all loving (John 3:16), and all wise (Romans 16:27). God is Father of truth (John 4:24) to those who become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12).

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His pre-existence and deity (John 1:1-3), incarnation by virgin birth (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-23), sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), substitutionary death (2 Corinthians 5:21), bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-42), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Hebrews 4:14-16), and coming again (Acts 1:11).

THE HOLY SPIRIT: His personality (John 16:7-15); and deity (Acts 5:3-4); and His work in each believer: baptism and indwelling at the moment of regeneration (1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9); and filling (Ephesians 5:18), to empower for Christian life and service (Ephesians 3:16; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23).

MAN: His direct creation in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28); his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:12); and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John 3:3-5).

SALVATION: A complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as the Gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:14). Salvation by grace includes regeneration (Titus 3:5), justification (Romans 3:24), sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3), and glorification (1 Corinthians 15:51-58).

THE CHURCH: One true church, the body and bride of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-32); composed of all true believers of the present age (1 Corinthians 12:12-13); and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for world-wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous, but cooperating in the fellowship and work (Ephesians 4:11-16).

ANGELS, SATAN, DEMONS: God created a multitude of spiritual beings called "angels" (Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22). Righteous angels continue to serve God and work both in the heavenly sphere and on earth (Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 1:21; Ephesians 3:10). By his disobedience, Satan, a fallen angel, became the adversary of God and God's people (1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 12:1-10), carrying with him a procession of demons (Ephesians 6:12). Jesus Christ has overcome Satan (1 John 3:8) so that the final judgment and doom of Satan and his demons are certain (John 12:31; Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:10).

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

CHRISTIAN LIFE: A life of righteousness, good works, and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Romans 12:1-2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Ephesians 5:22-6:4), settling the differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), not engaging in carnal strife, but showing a Christ-like attitude toward all (Romans 12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:13-18).

ORDINANCES: The Christian should observe the ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ, which are: 1) baptism of believers by triune immersion (Matthew 28:19), and 2) the threefold communion service, consisting of the washing of the saints' feet (John 12:1-17), the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 33-34; Jude 12), and the communion of the bread and cup (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL POSITIONS

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: The personal, visible, and imminent return of Christ to remove His church from the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) before the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10), and afterward to descend with the church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 12:11, 20:6).

FUTURE LIFE: The conscious existence of the dead (Philippians 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:23-29), the judgment and reward of believers (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 8:10), the judgment and condemnation of the unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matthew 24:46; Revelation 20:15).

HUMAN LIFE: We believe that human life begins at conception and that an unborn child at any stage of development is fully human and should be treated as such (Isaiah 44:24; Psalm 139:13; Luke 1:41-44); therefore, abortion is biblically and morally wrong.

GENDER: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as a genetic male or genetic female, which is determined at conception. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

MARRIAGE: We affirm the teaching of biblical, traditional, natural, heterosexual marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime (Genesis 2:24, 25; Matthew 5:31-23; Matthew 19:5, 6, and other scriptures). Only heterosexual marriage between one man and one woman in covenant will be supported and conducted. Outside of the bond of marriage, any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).