

# **Our Statement of Faith**

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**I. The Scriptures - We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the very Word of God, the product of the breath of God and thus verbally inspired in all parts. Therefore, the Holy Scriptures are without error as originally given by God. They are altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible rule of faith, life, and practice. In addition, they are the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. (II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21)**

**II. God - We believe in the one Triune God who is personal, spirit, sovereign, perfect, infinite and eternal in His Being. He is also wisdom, power, love and holiness. God is separate from and above the world as its Creator and still present everywhere as sustainer of the world. He is self-existing and self-revealing in three distinct persons-the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, each of whom is to be honored and worshipped equally as true God. (Mark 12:29, Psalms 104, John 5:23-26, I Corinthians 8:6, Revelation 4:11)**

**III. The Son - We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Triune God. Without any essential change in His divine person, He became man by the miracle of the virgin birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true man. He was tested as we are, yet without sin. As the perfect Lamb of God, He gave Himself in death upon the cross, bearing there the sin of the world, suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead. He rose from the dead and was glorified in the same body in which He suffered and died. As our High Priest He ascended into heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor. (John 1:1, Matthew 1:23, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 4:15, Galatians 3:13, John 20:25-28, I John 2:1)**

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**IV. The Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit who is the third person of the Triune God. The Holy Spirit is the divine agent in creation, revelation and redemption. He convicts the world of sin, restrains evil and regenerates those who believe. He indwells, baptizes, seals, empowers, guides, teaches and sanctifies all who become the children of God through Christ. (Acts 5:3,4, I Corinthians 2:10, John 16:8-11, I Corinthians 6:11-19)**

**V. Man - We believe in the creation and fall of man, that he was directly created by God and was not in any sense the product of animal ancestry. Man was made in the divine image. He sinned through his personal disobedience to the revealed will of God and brought physical and spiritual death to the entire race. Man is universally sinful in both nature and practice, alienated from the life and family of God and has no possible means of recovery or salvation within himself. (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 3:1-24, Romans 5:12, Ephesians 4, Romans 1:18)**

**VI. Salvation - We believe in salvation by grace through faith. Salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ all believers presently and personally possess a host of blessings: the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God as well as deliverance and security from all condemnation. Further, in Christ, the believer possesses every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish. (Romans 3:24, Titus 3:5, John 3:16, I John 5:13, II Peter 1:3)**

**VII. Satan - We believe in the existence of Satan. We further believe that he was originally created a perfect and holy being but through pride and unlawful ambition he rebelled against God, thus becoming completely corrupt in character. Satan is the adversary of God and His people and the leader of all evil angels and spirits, the deceiver and god of this present world. His powers are supernaturally great but limited by the purposes of God who overrules all of his wicked devices for good. Finally, we believe that Satan was defeated at the cross, thereby making certain his final doom. (Ezekiel 28:13-17, John 8:44, Revelation 12:9-11, Matthew 12:24-26, John 16:11, Ephesians 6:12-18)**

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**VIII. The Church - We believe in the One True Church, the body and bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. He began to build the Church on the day of Pentecost and will complete it at His Second Coming. The Holy Spirit baptizes all true believers of the present age into the church. Members of this spiritual body should assemble themselves together in local churches, consisting of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith. The believers should meet for purposes of worship, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, giving, teaching, united testimony and the observance of the two New Testament ordinances. Those ordinances are baptism by single immersion, as a public testimony of faith, and the Lord's Supper, a commemoration of the death of Christ. According to Scripture, there are two officers in the church: Pastor, also called elder or bishop, and deacons. (Ephesians 4:4, Acts 2:41-47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, Hebrews 10:25, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 8:26-39, I Corinthians 11:23-28, I Timothy 3)**

**IX. Eschatology - We believe in the Second Coming of Christ. His return will be personal, visible and glorious; our blessed hope. The time of His return has not been revealed but is always imminent. When He comes, those who have died in Christ will rise from their graves. Living believers will be transformed into an immortal state and all believers shall be forever with Christ. In the end, a new heavens and new earth will be prepared for the people of God. In the meantime, we should live lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God and the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:11, Titus 2:11-13, I Thessalonians 4:16-18, 2 Peter 3:12, Revelation 20:11-15)**

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**X. Life After Death and Eternal Judgments - We believe in future life, bodily resurrection and eternal judgment. The Spirit of believers, upon their death, go to be with Christ in heaven where they abide in joyful fellowship with Him until their bodies are raised from the grave. Their bodies will be changed into the likeness of His glorious body and their works shall be brought before the judgment seat of Christ for the determination of their reward. The spirits of the unrighteous, upon their death, go into Hades, where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment. At that time their bodies shall be resurrected, and they shall be judged, condemned, and cast into the place of final and everlasting punishment, the lake of fire. (Philippians 1:21-23, I Corinthians 15:35-58, II Peter 2:9, Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 20:11-15)**

**XI. Personal Godliness - We believe in righteous living and good works. We do not believe that we can obtain our salvation through these things, but that they are proper evidence or fruit of our salvation. As Christians, we should keep the Word of God, seek the things which are above, walk as our Lord walked, be careful to maintain good works and especially accept as our solemn responsibility and privilege, the taking of the Gospel to a lost world. (Ephesians 2:8-10, John 14:23, Colossians 3:1, I John 2:6, Acts 1:8)**

**XII. Separation - We believe in separation from the world. Since we are citizens of heaven and children of God, we should walk in separation from this present world, having no fellowship with its evil ways. Abstaining from worldly amusements and unclean habits which defile body and mind and recognizing that we still struggle with sin, we are nevertheless to remain separated from professing Christians who walk in outright disobedience to the word of God. This separation also extends to churches, councils and other entities that deny the great and essential doctrines of the Word of God. We are nonetheless called to live as Christ's ambassadors, imploring people to be reconciled to God, humbly doing good to everyone, loving our enemies, and, as far as it depends on us, living peaceably with all. (II Corinthians 6:14-18, I Thessalonians 5:22, Ephesians 5:3-11, Colossians 3:1-10, Romans 16:17, II Thessalonians 3:6, 14, II Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 2:1-4, Galatians 6:10, Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:18)**

# **Statement of Belief, continued**

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**XIII. Spiritual Gifts - We believe the Spirit manifests His power in the church today by giving each believer spiritual gifts for the common good. There are many kinds of spiritual gifts, with each of them to be used in submission to the Scriptures and for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12-14, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-16)**

**These Articles of Faith do not exhaust the content of our creed, which is the whole Word of God. They are not intended as a limit to the Word of God. We do believe that, insofar as these articles extend, they are a true presentation of sound doctrine as taught in the Scriptures and therefore binding upon us as Christian believers.**