



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

**The principles of the entire Bible are our authoritative guide for teaching and living, and we hereby state our initiation to conduct our individual and corporate affairs by the Bible, in the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our basic beliefs are outlined below –**

**1) God:** We believe that the Supreme Deity of the universe is God. There is but one God, the Maker, the Preserver, and the Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfection, and infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. We believe God manifests Himself in three persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit - equal in power and glory. They execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (*Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelations 4:11, John 3:16, John 1:14, Genesis 1:26, Acts 14:15*)

**2) The Lord Jesus Christ:** Jesus of Nazareth is the only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is Christ, Messiah, Savior and Redeemer.

We believe that the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed on the cross to redeem man from sin. He is God manifested in the flesh. He lived an absolutely sinless life and, in His death, He made a full vicarious atonement for our sins. He arose again from the dead on the third day and ascended bodily into heaven. He is coming again for His saints and to set up the throne of David and establish His kingdom. His coming is imminent and will be personal, and pre-millennial. (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1,14; 1 Peter 2:22; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; Matthew 19:28; Luke 1:32-33, I John 1:7, Matthew 26:28, I Timothy 3:16, Colossians 2:9*)

**3) The Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person possessing all the attributes

of personality and of deity. He is equal with the Father and with the Son and is of the same nature.

As such the Holy Spirit is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. His relation to the unbelieving world: He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. His work among the

believers is that:

He is the agent of the new birth, baptizes, indwells, seals, in-fills, guides, and teaches the way of righteousness. We believe that there is a distinction between His ministry in the Old and New

Testament. There is the unique and special work of permanently indwelling the body of Christ. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which produces gifts within the body. (*Psalms 139:7-13; I Corinthians 2:10, Luke 1:35, Roman 15:19, John 15:26, John 14:16, John 14:26, John 16:23, Matthew 28:19; 2Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16-17, 7:39; Hebrews 9:14; Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:18; I Corinthians 12:1, 6:19-20*)

**4) The Scriptures:** The Scripture of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain, and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. We believe that the Holy Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, infallible in teaching, and contains everything necessary for salvation. (*II Peter 1:20-21, II Timothy 3:16-17*)

**5) Ten Commandments:** We believe that the Ten Commandments are God's guidelines for our relationship with God (Commandments 1 – 4) and our relationship with one another (Commandments 5 – 10). These Ten Commandments are eternal, and they are all still relevant today. As such, all the Ten Commandments should be practiced by all true believers. (*Exodus 20:1-17, John 15:10, I Corinthians 14:15*)

**6) Man:** We believe that man was created by a direct act of God and not from a previously existing form of life. By voluntary transgression, he fell from the state of innocence, in consequence of which all men are now sinners by nature and by conduct being utterly devoid of that holiness required by law, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse. (*Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:1-6, 24; Romans 3:10-19; 5:12-19*)

**7) Salvation of Man:** We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediation of the Son of God. It is apart from works and is upon the sole condition of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being made sensitive by the Holy Spirit of the manifold evil of his sin, humbles himself before God, detesting his sin, and with godly sorrow, purposes and endeavors to walk with God as to please Him in all things. This salvation which Christ has bestowed is eternal. (*Ephesians 2:8-10; Acts 3:19; 16:31; John 3:3-5*)

**8) Faith:** Salvation through faith is the belief on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit and leads to a walk

of holiness. We believe that to secure the benefits of the plan of salvation, each individual must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of sin and accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. (*Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38, Acts 4:12*)

**9) Justification:** Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receive Him and His righteousness by faith. (*James 2:24-26*)

**10) Sanctification:** Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's Word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands. (*John 17:17-19*)

**11) The Church:** We believe that the church of God was inaugurated at Pentecost and must be considered in two senses: Universal and Local. The Universal church consists of all who have been born again by the Holy Spirit from all nations and have been baptized by the same Spirit into the body of Christ and is walking in obedience to the unchangeable word of God. The Local church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship in the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, keeping the commandments of God and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges vested in them by His Word. The officers are: pastors sometimes called bishops, elders; ministers, evangelists and deacons whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus. (*Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Peter 1:3, 22; Acts 2:37-42; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1*)

## **12) Ordinances of the Church:**

a) Baptism by Water. Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he/she is immersed in water in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as a sign of fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, or remission of sins, and of his giving himself to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite for church membership. Those professing faith in Christ shall be baptized, upon completion of baptismal instructions by the pastor or someone who has been appointed by the church. (*Acts 2:41-42, Acts 8:36-39, Matthew 3:13-17, Romans 6:3-5*)

b) The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and fruit of the vine, and to be observed annually by His churches in its season until the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge, and renewal of their communion with Him. During the Lord Supper celebration, the ordinance of Foot Washing is also observed, following the example of Jesus. The ordinance of Foot Washing is symbolic of the believer's willing humility to God and one

another in love. The Lord's Supper shall be administered on the 14th day of the 1st month on the Jewish calendar (typically falling in late March/early April). The Lord's Supper shall be served to the assembled church by the pastor or someone appointed by the church. Since it is the Lord's Table, none will be barred, but the pastor or officiating minister shall regularly state the Scriptural order, which places baptism as a pre-requisite to the Lord's Supper and shall explain the significance of this ordinance. The elements shall be unleavened bread (without yeast) and grape juice. (*John 13:4-17, Matthew 26:27-28, 1 Corinthians 11:20, 23-30*)

**13) Baptism by the Holy Spirit:** Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ promised to send us another Comforter – the Holy Spirit which is vital to the spiritual development of every believer. The ongoing evidence of the operation of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is characterized by exhibiting the fruits of the spirit. (*John 14:16, John 14:26, John 16:7, Galatians 5:22*)

**14) The Christian Life:** We believe that every believer by the aid of the Holy Spirit should walk in Christian love and holiness. He must exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. We further believe that any achievement of these characteristics will be evidenced by sincere humility and genuine zeal for the advancement of the cause of Christ. (*2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Peter 5:5-6*)

**15) Sabbath:** The Bible teaches observance of the Sabbath day (Saturday- the Seventh day of the week), that God never changed it and that it begins on Friday at Sunset and ends at Sunset Saturday.

(*Exodus 20:8, Isaiah 58:13-14*)

**16) Pagan Holidays:** The celebrations of Sunday as Sabbath, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, or Halloween as sacred times have no scriptural support. Sunday became the common day of worship after the apostolic era. It was decreed the venerable day of the sun, and work was forbidden on it by the Roman emperor Constantine in A.D. 321. No command or example exists in Scripture for observance of the first day of the week as the Christian Sabbath. Christmas is a carryover of the ancient festival of pagan Rome called Saturnalia, the rebirth of the sun. The day of Jesus' birth is unknown, and no biblical precedent exists for celebrating it after the fashion of Christmas. Easter is a second-century substitute for a spring festival honoring the heathen goddess Astarte. The Bible does not endorse celebrating the Resurrection after the manner of Easter Sunday. The best evidence points to Christ's resurrection late on the Sabbath. His crucifixion and burial on Wednesday yield a literal fulfillment of the prophecy that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Halloween originates in unholy and superstitious practices relating to evil spirits and the realm of the dead. It should not be celebrated by Christians. (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Jeremiah 10:2-10; Matthew 12:38-40; 28:1-6 (KJV); Mark 8:31; 9:31; 1 Corinthians 10:18-22*)

**17) Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage:** Marriage was instituted by God and is intended to last as long as both partners live. We believe that the biblical definition of marriage is between one man (biological male from birth) and one woman (biological female from birth) who have not undergone any surgical procedures to alter their gender. A permanent union between one man and one woman offers potential for the best of human experience and is a picture of the eternal bond between Christ and the church. (*Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 5:31, 32; 19:4-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39*)

**18) Holy Living:** God's people are called out of sin and corruption into a sanctified position - "us in Christ" - and a sanctified practice - "Christ in us." Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Christians are to be an example of the believers and a corrective to an evil and unbelieving generation. Pride, greed, sloth, lust, and covetousness must be opposed in the Spirit; all harmful and immoral practices, including homo-sexuality, must be refused in the body. (*Romans 12:1, 2; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 2:15-17; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Colossians 3:1-14; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 1:13-16*).

**19) Clean and Unclean Foods:** The distinction between clean and unclean meats, with respect to foods, is to be observed today as God's will because it was God-given for the benefit of mankind. Clean eating habits and a healthy lifestyle are required bible principles. The body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and Christians should refrain illegal narcotic substances, drunkenness, tobacco in all its forms and other nonmedicinal drugs. (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Proverbs 23:21, Proverbs 20:1, Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 6:24, 1 John 2:15-17, Genesis 7:1-3; Deuteronomy 14:3-20*)

**20) Financial Stewardship:** God's work is supported by the financial stewardship of God's people. The biblical examples and commands for proportionate giving often refer to a tithe, or one-tenth (10%) of the all increase. Tithes and offerings remain as a principle and standard of Scripture. The giver's attitude is more important than any legal demand. Motivated by the love of the gospel, every Christian is called to give tithes and offerings freely and cheerfully. (*Genesis 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7; Hebrews 7:1-6*)

**21) Satan:** Satan, a spirit-being called the Devil, is the adversary of God and His people. He is a deceiver capable of transforming himself into an angel of light. He was a murderer from the beginning, and a liar. He is the unholy god of this age, the prince and ruler of the powers of darkness.

He is full of subtlety and seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare all mankind. He was conquered by Christ on the cross and must be resisted by God's people. He is destined to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. (*1 Peter 5:8, 9; Ephesians 6:11, 12; 2 Corinthians 11:3,14; John 8:44; James 4:7; Revelation 20:10*)

**22) State of the Dead:** There is no consciousness in death. When a person dies, the body returns to the ground, the spirit (breath) returns to God, and thoughts perish. The dead remain in this state, which the Bible often calls sleep, until the day of resurrection. The sleep of the dead shall seem to them as nothing in the time of their awakening. The blessed hope of the gospel is that every believer shall be resurrected from the dead, as was Jesus Christ. (*Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; 12:7; Psalm 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Acts 2:29-35; Hebrews 11:13, 39, 40; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53*).

**23) The Last Things:** We believe that the great tribulation will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and glory to sit upon the throne of David and to set up His reign for a thousand years. (*Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Revelations 20:1-4,6*). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust. All those who through faith are justified in the name of Jesus Christ will be spending eternity in full enjoyment of God's presence, and those who through impenitence and unbelief refuse the offer of mercy will spend eternity in everlasting punishment. (*Daniel 12:2-3; John 5:28-29; John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Matthew 25:26; Revelations 20:11-15*)

**24) Separation:** We believe that the believer should separate from worldliness, sin, and ecclesiastical apostasy unto God. It is based upon God's principle of division between truth and error and His specific command to be separated from unbelievers and disobedient brethren. This truth must be practiced with an attitude of devotion, humility, compassion and yet with conviction, to create the proper condition and atmosphere for the main objective, that is, the salvation of the lost through the gospel of Christ. (*2 John 9-11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 1:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10*)