

# **Statement of Faith**

## **The Bible**

We believe the Bible is the written revelation of God, complete and sufficient in all respects. The Scriptures are “God-breathed” and therefore fully authoritative in and of themselves. They do not rely upon the authority of any church, council, or creed, but are authoritative simply because they are the Word of God. This is why we look to the Bible as infallible and inerrant. God spoke His written Word by a process of dual authorship. The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors and used their individual personalities and different styles of writing, while preserving the Word to be without error. (*Matthew 5:18, 24:35; John 10:35, 16:12-13, 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

## **Attributes of God**

We believe in one true and eternal God. He is unchanging in His character and nature. We believe God is the Creator of all that exists in heaven and in earth. The God who is described in the Bible is unique; He is unlike anyone or anything else in all the universe. God has all power, all knowledge, all wisdom, and is worthy of all our praise. All objective truth and consistent logic is an overflow from His character. He is perfectly holy and just in all of His ways. As the righteous Judge, He presently and eternally punishes the wicked. He is also overwhelmingly loving, merciful and compassionate. He is absolutely sovereign and all that comes to pass does so from His own decree. All things will one day result in the glory of God. (*Genesis 1:1; Exodus 34:6-7; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 115:3; Romans 11:36; Hebrews 1:3, 4:16, 13:8; 1 Peter 1:17*)

## **Trinity**

We believe the Bible teaches that there is one being of God, yet there are three Persons who share this one being of God: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Each Person is fully and completely God, and each is described in Scripture as possessing the attributes of God. The Father, Son, and Spirit have eternally existed in a loving relationship described by the term “Trinity.” Each Person within the Godhead is active in salvation. The Father elects His people, the Son gave His life for them, and the Spirit regenerates. (*Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 1:35; John 1:14, 10:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 13:14; Colossians 2:9*)

## **Why We Exist**

We believe that man was created in the image of God, and therefore all people are worthy of dignity, love, and respect. Our purpose is to know, love, glorify, and enjoy endless fellowship with God. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything. Therefore, He also owns and rules everything. That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship. (*Psalm 103:19; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Isaiah 43:21; John 1:3; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 1:16; 1 Peter 4:11; Revelation 4:9-11*)

## **The Nature of Man**

We believe that when Adam and Eve rebelled against their Creator, the entire human race became spiritually dead. Man is now totally unwilling and wholly incapable of seeking after God. Total depravity does not mean that people are always as evil as they could be. However, the unregenerate man rejects God and cannot contribute toward their own salvation. People will always act in accordance with their own nature and will likewise be held responsible. Without the sovereign grace of God making us new, only judgement remains in a conscious eternal place of suffering called Hell. (*Genesis 6:5; Psalm 58:3; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 13:50; John 6:65; Romans 3:10-23, 5:12, 19, 8:7; Ephesians 2:1-3*)

## **The Gospel**

We believe that when sin entered the world through the Fall of Man, death was a necessary consequence. When we die we are immediately ushered into the presence of God. From there we will either experience the wrath that we deserve for our sin, or the mercy that Christ graciously won for us. Jesus lived the perfect life that we never could, and died on the cross in our place. The Law of God is essential in exposing our sin and the cross is essential in setting us free. On that cross, Jesus received the full-wrath of God for His people. His shed blood covers their transgressions, and His death pays the ultimate fine on their behalf. In a display of authority and victory, Jesus bodily rose from the grave. No other work can provide forgiveness and no addition can be made to the completed and finished work of Christ. Through His sovereign mercy, God regenerates people by the power of the Holy Spirit and not by any action of their own. God grants to them the gifts of faith and repentance, which they then exercise by believing in Christ and turning away from their sinful desires. As a result, God justifies and makes righteous the person who believes. (*Habakkuk 2:4; Mark 1:15; Romans 1:17, 3:28, 4:2, 5:1; Galatians 2:16-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-8*)`

## **Obedience**

We believe that God's gift of faith and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians will result in good works. These "good works" are often acts of love and service we show to both God and other people. Obedience flows from a true saving faith and is a necessary result of being made alive in Christ. To be absolutely clear → Good works are NOT how we gain our justification, which is by God's grace through faith alone. Nobody will ever be saved by their own obedience to the Law. It is only the perfect obedience of Christ that covers our sins. However, true conversion will always result in heartfelt and Spirit-led obedience. (*Joshua 5:6; Luke 11:28; John 14:15; Romans 1:5, 5:19; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 2:10; 2 John 1:6*)

## **The Church**

We believe Jesus Christ established His Church, which is made up of the elect of God. His Church, as a faithful bride, enjoys and observes His Word. All who believe in Christ become part of the family of God. Churches are commanded to engage in biblical teaching, evangelism, discipleship, and discipline. The local expressions of the Church are very important and each believer should be in fellowship with other Christians. (*Acts 20:28; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 2:9-10*)

## **The Return of Christ**

We believe that Christ is coming again to judge the living and the dead. This promise is found all throughout Scripture. Until His return, believers are to live in a way that brings glory to God. We are called to do the work of evangelism, proclaiming the uncompromised Gospel of Christ by teaching the Word of God. Nobody knows the hour of when Jesus will return, so we must preach the truth with urgency. After the return of Christ, the people of God will be raised and given glorified bodies. They will worship God forever, directly in His presence in the New Heaven/New Earth. Without the sovereign grace of God making us new, only judgement remains in a conscious eternal place of suffering called Hell. (*Daniel 7:13; Matthew 24:34-44; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28*)