



Statement of Beliefs

The Bible

We believe the Bible, as contained in the Old and New Testament scriptures, is the Word of God and is totally true, trustworthy, and free from error. All the Bible's original manuscripts were divinely inspired, having been written by individuals as the Holy Spirit guided them. The central theme of the Bible is to reveal God's saving purposes in Jesus Christ. God's Word has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct, and it is free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it.

Ps. 19:7; Mark 7:6-9; 13:31; John 8:31-32; Rom. 10:16-17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:20-21.

The Trinity

We believe in one living and true God, existing eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons contain the very nature of God and are equal in every divine perfection. They each execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. The triune God is self-existent, self-sufficient, perfect, unchanging, infinite, purposeful, all-knowing, and all-powerful.

Gen. 1:1, 26; Isa. 43:10, 13; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1-3; 4:24; 14:26; Eph. 4:5-6.

God The Father

We believe in God the Father, who reigns with providential care over His creation and foreknows all that will come to pass according to His sovereign will. He is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He is jealous for worship, opposed to idolatry, and wrathful in response to sin and rebellion. He deals mercifully in the affairs of people and hears the prayers of His children.

Ex. 20:5-6; Ps. 92:15; 139:16; Matt. 6:9-15; Luke 10:21; Rom. 1:18-20; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:3.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead on the third day. The eternal Son of God took on flesh when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is God's only begotten Son and has two natures, fully human and fully divine, without confusion, change, division, or separation. He ascended into heaven where he intercedes for His people as an eternal high priest.

Luke 1:26–38; John 1:1-18; Acts 1:11; Rom. 3:23-26; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:14-20; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:21–23.

Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, who proceeds from the Father and the Son to indwell every believer at the moment they are born again spiritually. The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus Christ, convicts the world of sin and judgment, and serves as an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. The Spirit of God helps believers to engage in spiritual warfare, gives His fruit to those who walk in Him, and seals them for the final day of redemption. He gives spiritual gifts to each believer, empowering them to serve the local church and promote the good news of Jesus Christ.

John 14:16-17; 15:26-16:15; Acts 1:8; 2:1–4; Rom. 8:9–11; 1 Cor. 12; Gal. 5:22–25; Eph. 1:13–14.

Humanity

We believe humanity is the special creation of God, made in His image for the purpose of worshiping and delighting in Him. God's good design to make male and female bodies biologically distinct promotes human flourishing. Men and women are equal in the sight of God yet have clearly defined roles in marriages and the church that complement each other and reflect the glory of the Triune God. Since all human persons from conception to the elderly reflect the image of God, we promote the dignity and sanctity of all human life.

Gen. 1:26–31; 2:15-23; Psalm 8:3-6; 139:13-14; 1 Cor. 11:2-16; Col. 3:11; 1 Tim. 2:8-13; James 3:9.

The Family

We believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman exclusively in covenant commitment for a lifetime. The Bible opposes all forms of sexual immorality outside of marriage including fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. The husband is to be the head of the wife as Jesus is the head of the church, loving her as he loves his own body. The wife is to respect her husband

and to submit to him as unto the Lord Jesus Christ. Children are a blessing from the Lord to be raised in the nurture and instruction of the Lord. Children should obey their parents in the Lord.

Gen. 2:24-25; Deut. 6:4-9; Josh. 24:15; Matt. 5:27-32; 19:1-15, Rom. 1:18-27; 1 Cor. 6:16-7:40; Eph. 5:21-6:3.

Sin

We believe all people have a sinful nature that corrupts every aspect of their being and leaves them spiritually dead in their sins. The first man and woman were created innocent of sin, but they rebelled against God and thus introduced sin and death into the human race. As a result, all people are by nature servants of sin and under God's wrath. They are subject to all the harmful and deadly consequences of their sin, both immediate and eternal, unless Jesus Christ sets them free.

Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9-10; Rom. 3:10-19, 23; 5:12-21; 7:23-25; Eph. 2:1-3; James 1:14-15.

Salvation

We believe salvation is offered to all people and comes by faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, by God's grace alone, according to the Bible alone, to the glory of God alone. The Holy Spirit changes sinners' hearts and draws them to repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. In that moment, they are transformed into new creations in Jesus, delivered from condemnation, and gifted with eternal life. Salvation continues in sanctification and will culminate in the perseverance and glorification of all Christians when Jesus Christ returns.

John 3:16-21; Eph. 2:4-10; Rom. 8:28-39; 10:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Eph. 1:4-12; Col. 3:1-4; 1 John 1:5-2:2.

The Church

We believe a church is a congregation committed together under Jesus Christ that gathers to worship God, teach the Bible, exercise gifts for serving, and enjoy unity in Jesus. The universal church is the living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all born-again persons are members. Local churches are the visible expression of the universal church on earth. The church is to obey Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples from all nations and to multiply churches all over the earth.

Matt. 16:18-19; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor 1:2; 16:19; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12-13; Heb. 10:25.

Baptism and Lord's Supper

We believe there are two ordinances instituted by Jesus Christ for the local church to celebrate regularly— Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is for believers to demonstrate faith in and obedience toward Jesus Christ. Immersion in water best signifies a believer's death to sin and resurrection to new life. The Lord's Supper is to remember Jesus' sacrificial death for his people, to confess sin, to display unity, and to anticipate Jesus Christ's return.

Matt. 28:19; Mark 14:22-25; Acts 2:38-41; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:11-12.

Liberty And Cooperation

We believe the local church is an autonomous congregation that can best promote the good news of Jesus Christ by cooperating with like-minded churches. Any such organization exists and functions by the will of the churches choosing to be involved. The local church is independent and free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. The institution of the Church and the State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its God-ordained duties and being free from dictation or patronage of the other.

Acts 14:21-23; 15; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:5-11; 16:1-3; Phil. 1:15-18; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; Rev. 1:10-11.

Last Things

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to the earth bodily and visibly in glory, the bodies of the dead will be raised, and He will judge all people in righteousness. The unrighteous, along with the Devil and his demons, will be condemned to hell, the place of eternal punishment and suffering. Those made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ will receive their reward and forever dwell in their resurrected and glorified bodies in the glory of heaven with the Lord. This will all happen in God's own time and in His own way.

Matt. 16:27; 24:36-51; John 14:2-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:15; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:4-21:8.