

Doctrinal Statement

Confession of Faith — the convictions that shape our teaching, worship, and life together.

WE BELIEVE IN

The verbal, plenary inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures.
The Bible is God's written Word and is the only guide for faith and practice.
The unity of the Godhead in three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
The deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, that He is true God and true man.
The virgin birth of Christ, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
The personality and deity of the Holy Spirit.
The reality and personality of angels, including Satan, the adversary of God and man.
The fall of man and his total depravity. All men are sinners and lost apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
The reality and eternal existence of heaven and hell. Those trusting in Christ are bound for heaven and those not trusting in Him are bound for hell.

Salvation by the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross and the shedding of His blood.
Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only condition of salvation. Salvation is by God's grace through faith apart from works.
The eternal security of all born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
The physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and His glorified bodily presence at the right hand of God as our only High Priest and Advocate.
The imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to receive His Church unto Himself.
The visible and premillennial return of Christ with His Church to establish His millennial kingdom on the earth.
The physical resurrection of all men: the saints to heaven and the wicked to hell.
The importance of the local church in the fulfilling of the Great Commission through evangelism both here and worldwide.

§ 1 Of the Scriptures

We believe divinely inspired men wrote the Holy Bible. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any error for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions will be tried.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

§ 2 Of the Godhead

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Exodus 20:2, 3; Mark 12:29–32; Ephesians 1:3–14; Revelation 4:11.

§ 3 Of the Father

We believe the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. He draws people to Jesus for salvation. He adopts into His family as His children all who receive Christ. He both hears and answers the prayers of the saints.

John 1:12; 6:44; 16:23, 24; Ephesians 1:5; 1 John 4:14.

§ 4 Of the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. As the sinless Lamb of God, He died on the cross shedding His blood as the vicarious sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. He arose bodily and ascended to heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God interceding for His redeemed people.

Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:18–25; Acts 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; 1 Peter 1:18–21.

§ 5 Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person of the same nature as God the Father and God the Son. He is the primary agent for restraining sin in the world, bringing salvation to unbelievers, and securing salvation for believers. He gives spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of serving the church, but the sign gifts, such as tongues and healing, have ceased.

John 14:16, 17, 26; John 16:8–11; Romans 8:14–16; 1 Corinthians 13:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7.

§ 6 Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was created a holy angel and enjoyed heavenly honors but, through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels. He is now the prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world. He is the chief adversary of both God and man, the accuser of the saints, and the author of all false religion. Though he will command and empower the antichrist, he is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and to eternal condemnation in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–19; Revelation 12:9, 10.

§ 7 Of Creation and Fall of Man

We believe that man came by direct creation of God as recorded in Genesis 1, 2; man did not come by any sort of evolution. Man was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless state. As a result, all mankind are now sinners, both by birth and by choice, and under just condemnation and with neither defense nor excuse.

Genesis 3:1–6, 24; Romans 1:18–20; 5:12–19.

§ 8 Of Heaven and Hell

We believe the eternal destiny of man is either heaven or hell. The unbelieving and unregenerate will spend eternity in hell, a place of conscious suffering and torment. Those who trust in Christ will spend eternity with Him in heaven, a place of conscious rest, blessedness, and joy.

Luke 16:19–31; John 14:1–6; Revelation 20:15.

§ 9 Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial work of the Son of God, in that He freely took upon Himself our nature—yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. His atonement consisted not in setting for us an example by His death as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust. He rose from the dead and is now enthroned in heaven. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.

Isaiah 53:4–6; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7, 8; Hebrews 10:12.

§ 10 Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. We are saved by God's grace through faith apart from works.

Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8, 9.

§ 11 Of Justification

We believe justification is the great blessing that Christ secures to those who believe in Him. Justification involves the pardoning of sin and the imputation of righteousness. It comes solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, apart from any works that we have done, and results in eternal life.

Acts 13:39; Romans 3:24, 25; 5:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

§ 12 Of Sanctification

We believe that the essential meaning of sanctification is "set apart to God." For the believer there are three aspects of sanctification. Positionally, we are sanctified the moment we trust in Christ (Hebrews 10:9, 10). In our experience we are being sanctified daily (2 Corinthians 3:18). Final and complete sanctification will come when Christ returns (1 John 3:2, 3).

Hebrews 10:9, 10; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2, 3.

§ 13 Of the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are born again are eternally secure and kept by the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35–39; Ephesians 1:13, 14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 1:3–5.

§ 14 Of the Church

A. We believe that the universal Church is the body and bride of Christ and is made up of all born-again persons in this present age, beginning at Pentecost and continuing until Christ calls the Church to Himself. All believers of this age are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at the moment of their salvation and should unite with a local church.

Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Hebrews 10:24, 25.

B. We believe that a local church is a congregation of born-again people associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in Christ. Its leadership is composed of pastors, elders, and deacons. The local church is autonomous but may fellowship and cooperate with other groups of like precious faith.

Acts 2:41, 42; 20:17–28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:1–15.

§ 15 Of the Ordinances

A. **Baptism.** We believe water baptism is performed by immersing a believer in water. It is a symbol of spiritual baptism and a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:41.

B. **The Lord's Supper.** We believe the Lord's Supper, also called Communion, is a memorial to the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross at Calvary. Using the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine to represent Christ's body and blood, every believer is encouraged to participate after self-examination.

1 Corinthians 11:23–32.

§ 16 Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Acts 4:19, 20; 5:29; Romans 13:1–7; 1 Timothy 2:1–8.

§ 17 Of the Resurrection and the Result Thereof

We believe that Jesus Christ arose from the grave in a glorified body as predicted, that He ascended into heaven as witnessed, and that He is seated at the right hand of the Father and has become the perfect high priest of the New Covenant as prophesied. We believe that before the Tribulation He will rapture the living saints and resurrect those who have died in Christ as promised, and that He will rule and reign as king for a thousand years as predicted.

John 14:3; 20:14–17; Acts 1:9–11; 1 Corinthians 15:51–53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:1–6; Revelation 20:1–4.