

Statement of Faith and Doctrine

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

(2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV)

We rest our faith wholly on the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, believing in the teaching and practices of the Word of God as the basis for the great principles on which the Body of Christ stands. In order to identify the church as conservative in theology, evangelical in spirit, and charismatic in ministry, we set forth the following general statement of fundamental beliefs:

1) The Sacred Scriptures

We believe in the Holy Scriptures and that they have been divided into what is called the Old and New Testaments. We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God fully inspired by God, which are inerrant, infallible, originated by God, and therefore are the ultimate and supreme authority in all matters of Christian faith, conduct, practice, and opinion. We accept sixty-six (66) books of the Old and New Testaments as the complete revelation of God to man which express the ultimate revelation of God's will.

We determine that the Scriptures are the true center of the Christian faith and the supreme standard in which human behavior, beliefs and opinions are to be judged. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

2) God

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the eternally existent Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3). We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Genesis chs. 1-2; Exodus 20:11).

God is triune in nature—He is manifested in three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)—coequal in all divine perfection, in power, glory and deity; co-eternal in being; co-identical in nature and with the same attributes. Together they execute different but harmonious purposes in the great work of redemption of man (Genesis 1:26; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19). God is love (1 John 4:8), Sustainer (Hebrews 1:3; 2 Timothy 4:18), Judge of His universe (Hebrews 12:23), glorious in holiness (Exodus 15:11), and worthy of all honor and praise (Revelation 4:11).

3) The Deity and Work of Christ

We believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ as Son of Man and Lord, and His deity as the Christ and the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16, 18). We believe He is the eternal Word of God through whom all things were made (John 1:1-3). We believe in Christ's supernatural birth—He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:23; 1 Timothy 2:5). We believe in His sinless life and His miracles.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ achieved our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious and substitutionary sacrifice—His shed blood alone secures our atonement. We believe that our justification is secured by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father as King of kings and our Great High Priest, and we believe in His ultimate revelation in power and glory. We believe that it is through faith in His name alone that mankind has the assurance of salvation (2 Peter 1:3-4; Acts 4:12; 20:28). We believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of all and that He possesses all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:5-11).

4) **Satan the Adversary**

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man. We believe that Jesus Christ came to destroy Satan and his works through His death on the Cross; and, that he shall ultimately be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-1; Isa. 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 20:10).

5) **Man's Fallen Nature and the New Birth**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that through disobedience, Adam's sin caused him and the entire human race to fall from God's eternal purpose, thus inheriting a sinful nature and bringing the curse of death on all mankind. Because of this original sin, man is separated from God and totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly incapable of remedying his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

We believe that man must be born again—this miraculous regeneration (new birth) is absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man, and that, upon belief in the resurrection of Christ from the dead and confession of Jesus as Lord, one becomes partaker of the divine nature and a recipient of eternal life (John 3:3, 5, 16; Romans 10:8-10).

6) **The Assurance of Believers**

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever as long as a believer walks according to the guidance of character outlined in Scripture (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39;

1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:4-5; 1 Corinthians 9:27; 10:12; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 John 1:8; Revelation chs. 2-3). We also believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

7) **The Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Godhead; that He is the person who convinces the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration; that He baptizes believers into the Body of Christ to be an integral part of the Church that the Lord is preparing for the day of His return; that He is dwelling within each Spirit-baptized believer, sealing them for the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:30).

We believe in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as an experience separate and distinct from the experience of the New Birth (Acts 1:5; 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father to everyone who has believed in Jesus Christ whereby the believer is endued with power from on high and enabled to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; John 7:37-39). We believe that the initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues, as the Word of God indicates (Acts 2:1-4, 38-39; 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 15:7-9; 19:6).

By the Spirit's power, the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1 Corinthians 2:4-5), and to be led by the Spirit's ministry of enlightening, comforting and energizing the believer in prayer, worship, and service (Ephesians 5:18-21). Believers are empowered for witness and ministry (Acts 1:8) and enabled to express the spiritual gifts as the Spirit leads. We believe that the Holy Spirit is Sovereign and giver of the spiritual gifts to each believer (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28). Therefore, we believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still being manifested in the world today as follows: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in various tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is now responsible for organizing and directing all of the affairs of the Church that Christ purchased with His own blood (Acts 13:1-2; 15:28; 20:28). We believe that it is the Holy Spirit who is responsible for preparing this Church for the marriage of the Lamb as a Bride, without spot or wrinkle for the Lord (Ephesians 5:26-27; Revelation 22:17).

8) **Dispensationalism**

We believe that the Scriptures, correctly interpreted, reveal the plan of God from the creation of the world and through different periods of human history. These time periods we call "dispensations." A dispensation is defined as "a stage in a progressive revelation, expressly adapted to the needs of a particular nation or period of time." It refers to a form, method or system of God's dealing or "dispensing" with people during a specified time. We believe that the Scriptures delineate the following 10 dispensations (for a more

detailed study and explanation, see [\(LINK TO\)](#) *Ten Biblical Dispensations* in the BOOK SECTION): - *add link once the book section is up

- a) Dispensation of Angels (Job 38:4-7)
- b) Dispensation of Innocence (Genesis 1-2)
- c) Dispensation of Conscience (Genesis 3-8)
- d) Dispensation of Civil Government (Genesis 8-11)
- e) Dispensation of Israel under the Promise (Genesis 11:10-Exodus 18:27)
- f) Dispensation of Israel under the Law (Exodus 19-Acts 1)
- g) Dispensation of Grace/the Church (Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:24-25)
- h) Dispensation of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 6-19)
- i) Dispensation of the Millennium (Revelation 20)
- j) Dispensation of the Eternal Kingdom (Revelation 21-22)

9) **New Testament Ordinances**

We recognize two New Testament Church ordinances which meet the following three criteria: (1) these acts or practices were instituted by Christ while He was here on earth; (2) they were taught by the apostles; (3) they were observed by the Early Church—these ordinances are Believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These ordinances are observed in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, as acts of love and devotion, and are not considered necessary for eternal salvation (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

10) **Government and Life of the Local Church**

We believe the government of the local church resides in the locally recognized pastors and elders, and that Christ gave the five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip and prepare the saints for ministry and works of service (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:28).

We believe that God has given the Church the Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20).

We believe that Jesus gave many commands for His disciples concerning prayer, fasting, giving, and holy living (Matthew chs. 5-7).

11) **Gender and Marriage**

We believe that God creates each person as male or female, and these distinct and yet complementary genders reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). We believe that those who reject their own natural biological sex nature are rejecting God's design within that person and the person God uniquely created them to be.

We believe that God instituted marriage when He created Adam and Eve. Therefore, biblically the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, "one-flesh" union as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:26-27). We believe that marriage is a sacred union before God and that God has clearly declared in His Word that there should be no sexual activity outside of the marriage bond. We understand that God in His Word forbids any form of immorality or sexual perversion: homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography. These actions are cataloged in Scripture as deviations from God's plan and creation for marriage and human sexuality, and lead to sinful perversions of the sexuality created by God (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, ch.13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

12) Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends for marriage to last until one spouse dies. Divorce and remarriage are regarded as adultery except on the grounds of the infidelity of one of the spouses. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the local church if they were divorced before coming to salvation. They may be considered for ordination if they were divorced because of the infidelity of their spouse either before or after coming to salvation. Because these cases are often very complex and each situation unique, they should be considered on a case-by-case basis by the elders/leaders of the local church (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

13) Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable, taking of unborn human life. Therefore, abortion is murder (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

14) Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority, which consists of three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the Church, and (3) the State. Each person is subject to these authorities, and the authorities themselves are ultimately answerable and accountable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. Home, Church and State are equal and sovereign in their respective, biblically assigned spheres of responsibility, as assigned by God (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

We believe that we (the Christians) have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross of Calvary, making us citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20). While honoring, respecting and obeying all of the laws of the State, we recognize the Supreme Law of God and must always obey Him first (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29). For example, even though the laws of the State may permit abortion, marriage between two men or two women, consumption of alcohol or the usage of controlled substances or drugs such as marijuana, we understand that these behaviors are forbidden in the Word of God, and therefore for reasons of conscience, we cannot endorse such activities.

15) The Kingdom of God

We believe in the centrality of the Kingdom of God, the spiritual unity of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the outworking of God's sovereignty in the course of history. We believe God's Kingdom came in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. With His ascension and exaltation to the throne of the Father, His rule and reign continues through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and through the Church, resulting in an increasingly glorious Church and a global harvest that will be consummated in the final, glorious, visible, and triumphant revelation of Christ. At that time, the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Mark 1:14-15; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 11:15; Daniel 2:44).

16) The Consummation, Resurrection and Eternity

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people—the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved for judgment and eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Romans 14:10; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 20:5-6, 11-15).

We believe in the “blessed hope” of the believer—the return of Jesus Christ. We believe this will happen in different stages. We believe that the Lord will first take away His Church before the seven-year tribulation period in the “rapture.” We believe that midway through the seven-year tribulation, He will resurrect the great multitude of tribulation martyrs. Then, at the end of the tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the Nation of Israel (Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; Revelation 7:9-17; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its ultimate goal, in keeping with His promise to bring about the absolute fullness of the New Heavens, the New Earth and the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-5), the final defeat of Satan (Revelation 20:10), the resurrection of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:51-52), and the final judgment (John 5:28-30; Revelation 20:11-15). The final consummation will involve the destruction of death (1 Corinthians 15:25), when all things are brought under the feet of Christ, and He delivers the Kingdom to God the Father that God may be “all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

Authority of the Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the major, important teachings of the Bible.