

# Our Statement of Faith

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## 1. The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the basis of Christian union.

## 2. God

We believe in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## 3. Christ

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in a pre-incarnate glory, in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial ministry and personal return.

## 4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit Who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; Who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates, empowers for service and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ.

## 5. Satan

We believe that Satan exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin, the arch-enemy of God and man and that he is destined to final defeat at the hands of the Son of God and to suffer eternal punishment in a place prepared for him and his angels.

## 6. Man

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that through voluntary transgression he fell from his sinless state in consequence of which all men are sinners by nature and by choice and therefore under the just condemnation of a righteous God; that he is utterly incapacitated to receive the grace of God apart from the quickening of the Holy Spirit.

## 7. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious expiatory and propitiatory death; that justification is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has effectually called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

## **8. Future Things**

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the resurrection of the just and unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious eternal punishment of the wicked.

## **9. The Local Church**

We believe that a church is a company of baptized believers, called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is a sovereign, independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the Head of the Church. We believe that its leaders are pastors, elders and deacons.

## **10. Ordinances**

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the Church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

1. Baptism which is the immersion of the believer in water, whereby he obeys Christ's command and sets forth his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.
2. The Lord's Supper which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and juice of the grape, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

## **11. The Church and State**

We believe in the entire separation of the church and state.

## **12. Religious Liberty**

We believe in religious liberty; that everyone has the right to practice and propagate his beliefs.

## **13. The Lord's Day**

We believe the first day of the week is the Lord's Day commemorating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that it is the divinely appointed day to be kept sacred for worship and spiritual exercise.

## **14. Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that the magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the Kings of the earth.