

VI AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The 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. It shall be the basis and foundation for all decision making, planning and teaching. We do believe that the following Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, therefore, is binding upon all members. It is also an integral part of the function and governance of this church.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Purpose: To clarify what we believe in common as a church

The Bible - We believe the Bible is the Word of God which is inspired in part and in whole, thus free from error. The Bible constitutes the only infallible guide in faith and practice.

(Matt 5:18-19, 1 Cor 3:10-11, 1 Tim 3:16, II Peter 1:20, 21)

The Godhead - We believe there is one God, who is one substance or essence, eternally existent in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These are co-equal, co-essential, co-eternal, but they exercise distinct harmonious roles in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10; Rom 1:7; Heb 1:8; I Tim 2:5)

God the Father is the Almighty Creator, the beginning and the end of all things. He is perfect holiness.(Gen 1:1; Rev 1:8)

God the Son Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, who is the Savior of the world and Lord of all life. Making atonement for the sins of the world by His substitutionary death on the cross. (Col 1:15; John 3:17, 36; I John 5:11-13)

God the Holy Spirit is the comforter, convector and challenger of men, the source of binding power for Christian living. (John 16:7-15)

Man - We believe that man was created in the image of God, but he disobeyed the Creator at the suggestion of Satan and fell from grace into a sinful state; as a consequence,

physical and spiritual death spread to all men. All men are born with a sinful nature, separated from God and personally responsible to God for what they believe, and how they live. (Gen 1:27; Rom 3:23, 5:12, 6:23, Eph. 2:1-10)

Salvation - We believe that God has provided for man's salvation through the person of Jesus Christ and that by no other name shall men be saved. Jesus Christ, the eternal and pre-existent Son, became incarnate without a human father, by being born of the Virgin Mary. Thus, in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is one Person, there exists two natures, human and divine. Both of these natures are whole, perfect, and distinct. To effect salvation, He lived a sinless life and died on the cross as the sinner's substitute, shedding His blood for

the remission of sin. On the third day, He rose from the dead in the body which had been laid in the tomb, appeared to many before ascending to the right hand of the Father, where He performs the ministry of intercession. (John 3:16, 18, 10:9 14:6; Matt 1:20; Phil 2:6-8; 1 Cor 15:3-4; 1 Tim. 2:3-6, Heb 7:25)

We believe that salvation is wholly of grace and that no human effort can gain God's favor. (Eph 2:8-10)

We believe in the "born again" experience where the believer is regenerated through the Holy Spirit and justified by Christ's blood. (John 3:3; Rom 5:8, 10)

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14, Gal. 5:13, Titus 2:11-15)

Assurance – We believe in the eternal security of the believer. (John 10:27-29, Rom. 8:31-39, Eph. 1:13-14, Heb 10:19-22)

Satan- We believe in the reality of Satan, who was created by God originally as good. Through pride and wicked rebellion against God, he became utterly depraved in character and is the adversary of God and His people. He was defeated at the cross and his doom is certain. (Gen 3:14, Isaiah 14:1-17, John 12:31, 14:30, Matt. 16:13, 2 Cor. 11:14, 1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 2:19, 3:8, 4:3, Rev. 12:9, 20:10)

Prayer - We believe in the power of prayer to open our hearts to God, to gain intercession for others, to obtain spiritual knowledge, and to work miracles. (Matt 7:7; John 14:13, 14; James 5:16)

Ordinances - We believe in the perpetual observance, of two ordinances: water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper, as a command of the Lord for every born again believer. However, they are not essential for salvation. (Matt 28:19; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:23-34)

The Church - We believe in our church as Christ's body and God's holy instrument for the furthering of His Gospel to every creature and the edification of its members. (1 Cor. 12:12, 13, 27; Matt 16:18; Matt 28:20)

Judgment - We believe in our Lord Jesus Christ's visible and personal return to gather His people unto salvation and to judge the world. At the end of the age the bodies of the dead shall be raised. The righteous shall enter into eternal life with God, and the wicked shall be condemned to eternal death. (Matt 13:40-43, 49-50, 25:31-34, 41, John 3:36, 5:24-29; Rev 19 and 20:11-15, 22:12)