

Redemption

BIBLE CHURCH

Full Statement of Faith

We affirm these truths to be the essentials for our faith and witness:

The Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbal, plenary, inspired word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible, and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Acts 24:14; Revelation 22:18-19).

The Bible is without error in the original writings and is the supreme authority of faith and practice for all followers of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11).

When rightly interpreted, the Bible is ultimately about Jesus as God, our Savior, the object of our faith, forgiver of our sins, and giver of eternal life (John 5:39-40; Luke 24:27, 44-45; Matthew 5:17-18).

The Trinity

We believe in one God who eternally exists as three distinctive persons, Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, functioning relationally in absolute oneness, humility and harmony (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 11:27; John 17:3).

The members of the Godhead, or Trinity, are each fully and equally God meaning they possess the same divine nature; however, each relates to mankind in a unique way (Matthew 26:39; 28:19; Luke 3:21-22; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).

God, the Father

We believe that the first person of the Trinity sovereignly orders and directs the universe for His own purpose, pleasure, and grace. He has decreed all things that come to pass for His own glory. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of mankind, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 15:26; Romans 8:28-30; Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 9-10).

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ as God came to live among mankind. He was miraculously born through the Virgin Mary. He is fully God and fully human. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father (Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-5, 14, 18; Matthew 3:17; 17:5, Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus voluntarily died on the cross to pay the penalty all men owe for their sin...death, even though He had no personal sin to die for Himself. Jesus was mankind's sacrificial substitute, paying the penalty for our sin. Therefore, God can and has offered complete forgiveness to any person who would trust Jesus as God's loving provision for the penalty of their sin (Isaiah 53:3-5; Matthew 27:28-50; John 14:6; Romans 3:21-26; 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:1-2).

After Jesus' death, He physically rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven to rule with God the Father. As a result of what He accomplished and who He is, Jesus is the only One through whom mankind has direct access to God (1 Corinthians 15:3-8; John 14:6; Hebrews 4:14-16).

All creation eagerly anticipates Jesus' promised return to earth where He will rule with justice and compassion and restore peace to all His creation (1 Peter 4:5-6; Romans 8:22-25; 14:9; Hebrews 1:8-9; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:6).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Genesis 1:2; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 6:63; 16:8-11; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18-21; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2).

It is the Holy Spirit who empowers the church to live a lifestyle that is pleasing to God, endowing its members with special gifts so that they are able to accomplish distinct ministries planned beforehand by God the Father (1 Samuel 16:13; John 14:16-17, 26; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:4; 12:7-14; Galatians 5:16-26).

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that mankind was created in the image of God, to enjoy His fellowship and to fulfill God's will on this earth. By willful, voluntary disobedience to the clearly revealed will of God, mankind sinned, thus incurring not only physical death but also spiritual separation from God.

The fall of the human race into sin is a once for all historical fact. Sin's spiritually deadening effect has spread to all mankind- as each individual is born with a sinful nature and sins habitually in thought, word, and deed; man is totally depraved and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-19; Psalm 51:5; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-23; 5:12-21; 7:18; 8:8; John 6:44; 15:5; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; Hebrews 11:6).

Salvation

We believe that the death of Jesus on the cross is the only sufficient substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. All who believe (and *only* those who believe in Him) are declared justified by the Father. All who receive Jesus Christ by grace through faith are regenerated by and baptized in the Holy Spirit.

We believe that it is exceedingly good and glorious news that salvation is not dependent on the desires and deeds of man, but is grounded instead in God's eternal decree of election. Though man is responsible for his sin, God is ultimately and entirely responsible for drawing those He would save unto Himself and overcoming their natural resistance to the gospel.

In addition, believers in Christ are made to be God's own children as well as members of the one true church, the body of Christ. This salvation results in righteous living and good works as believers submit their individual wills to the Word of God and live in obedience to the direction of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12; 5:24; 14:6, 21; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 3:21-26; 5:1, 17-19; 6:3-14; 8:28-9:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:16; 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 9:15; James 2:18, 21-16; 1 Peter 1:15-19; 2:24).

Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

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 for the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-14).

The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowing of spiritual gifts. It is, however, the believer's responsibility to attempt to develop their sovereignly given spiritual gift(s). The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at conversion and is the placing of the believer into the Body of Christ.

We also believe that exhibiting specific spiritual gift(s) is neither essential, nor prove the presence of the Holy Spirit, nor is an indication of deep spiritual experience (1 Corinthians 7:7; 12:4-13; Ephesians 4:11-16, 26).

We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gift(s) and grace of God that is given to him (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 14:12; 1 Timothy 4:14-15; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

The Church

We believe that the church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:25-27, 32; Colossians 2:19; 1 Peter 2:4-5).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local Churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 18:22; 20:17; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

We recognize believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church (Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-42; 8:36-39; 10:47-48; 18:8; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12).

The Future

We believe that the physical, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent. Though the timing of this "Blessed Hope" is a mystery, the fact of it is as certain as the first coming of Christ (Matthew 24:44; 25:13; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:12-13; Hebrews 9:28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:10).