

Statement of Faith

These are the central tenants of our faith. It's not everything we believe, but these are the essential truths that we affirm as a church body.

The Bible

We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings. It is the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men and women, and the final authority for all Christian faith and life. (2 Timothy 3.16-17, 2 Peter 1.19-21, Matthew 5.17-18, John 10.34-36)

The Trinity

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6.4, Matthew 28.19, 2 Corinthians 13.14)

The Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He actively and mercifully intervenes in the affairs of humanity, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Exodus 34.6-7, John 3.16, John 4.23-24, Ephesians 1.3)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. He rose bodily from the dead. He ascended into heaven. He is now our High Priest and Advocate at the right hand of the Father. He will physically and visibly return to consummate history and rule and reign over the earth. (John 1.1-18, Romans 4.25, Ephesians 1.15-23, Colossians 1.15-23, Hebrews 7.23-25)

The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is fully God, equal with the Father and the Son. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus by convicting non-Christians of their need for Christ; giving new birth to believing sinners; and indwelling, sanctifying, leading, teaching, and empowering believers for godly living and service. We believe the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer from the moment of salvation - as a down payment, first-fruit, and seal for the day of redemption. (John 3.3-8, John 14.15-27, John 16.5-15, Romans 8.9-17, Galatians 5.16-26, Ephesians 1.13-14, Ephesians 5.18-21)

We believe that all Christians are to be filled with the Holy Spirit subsequent to conversion. We also believe that all of the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12 continue to be distributed by the Spirit today; that these gifts are divine provisions central to spiritual growth and effective ministry; and that these gifts are to be eagerly desired, faithfully developed, and lovingly exercised according to biblical guidelines. (Acts 1.8, Acts 2.1-21, Acts 8.14-17, Acts 10.44-46, Acts 19.1-6, 1 Corinthians 12-14)

Humanity

We believe God created humanity in the image of God. We further believe men and women are sinners by nature and action and are therefore spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and place their trust in Jesus Christ are spiritually born again to new life by the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1.27, Acts 2.38-39, Ephesians. 2.1-9, Romans 3.9-26, Romans 5.12-21)

Grace

We believe in prevenient grace – the grace given to all humanity, empowering all to respond to God’s invitation of salvation. We believe in justifying grace – the grace which occurs at the initial moment of salvation, causing one to be in right relationship with God. We believe in sanctifying grace – the grace which empowers one to be transformed into the image and likeness of God. (Titus 2.11, Titus 3.7, Ephesians 1.5, Ephesians 2.5-9, Romans 3.22-26, Romans 5.15-17, 1 Peter 1.2)

Salvation

We believe that salvation is a free gift of God and is received by individuals by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus and His resurrection provide the only grounds for the forgiveness of sins for all who believe and that only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Spirit, become children of God, and are given eternal life. (John 3.16-17, John 8.23-24, John 14.6, Acts 16.29-34, Romans 3.21-31, Romans 10.9-10, Ephesians 2.4-9, 1 Timothy 2.3-6, Titus 3.5-7)

The Church

We believe that the Church is composed of all people who through saving faith in Jesus Christ are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the head. (Ephesians 1.22, 2.14-22 and 4.1-5)

We believe the Lord has given His church the five-fold ministry gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher for the purpose of training the body of Christ for the work of ministry, as well as for the maturity of the believers into the stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4.11-16)

We believe in a plurality of elders to oversee and shepherd the local church in conjunction with pastors. (1 Timothy 3.1-7, Titus 1.5-9, 1 Peter 5.1-4, Acts 20.17-35)

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe the ordinances of the local church are believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper. Believers' baptism is a testimony of the death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ. (Luke 22.19, 1 Corinthians 11.25-26, Matthew 28.19, Romans 6.3-4)

The Lord's Supper is a memorial service, setting forth in sacred and symbolic manner the death of Jesus and our salvation through faith in Him. (Matthew 26.26-29, Matthew 28.19-20, Acts 2.38-39, Romans 6.3-4, 1 Corinthians 11.17-32, Colossians 2.11-12)

All believers should participate in these ordinances. We believe that the Lord's Supper and water baptism are divinely ordained to be observed by the church during this present age. Though they are not to be regarded as means of salvation, they are regarded as means of grace.

Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1.26-27)

We believe that Scripture teaches the creation of man and woman and their one-flesh union as husband and wife. Therefore, the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman, as biologically created at birth, in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Marriage is to be a reflection of Jesus Christ’s love and respect for His Bride (the church) and the Bride’s love and respect to Her Husband. (Genesis 1.31 and 2.18-25, Ephesians 5.25-35)

We believe that God’s original creative design, as set forth in Scripture, is for complete fidelity (sexually, emotionally, and spiritually) within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Regardless of one’s marital status, we believe the Christian should pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex, and pornography. (Matthew 19.4-6, Romans 1.18-32, 13.13-14, 1 Corinthians 6.9-20, 1 Corinthians 10.8)

Christ’s Return

We believe that the personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ is our future hope and has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer. (Matthew 24, John 14.1-4, 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18, Titus 2.11-14, Revelation 19-20)

Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead: of the believer to everlasting joy with the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting separation from God. (1 Corinthians 15.35-58, 2 Corinthians 5.1-10, 2 Thessalonians 1.5-10, Revelation 20-21)

Kingdom of God

We believe that the Kingdom of God has come in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Church, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ when He returns to the earth as King. We believe that after Christ returns, He will bring about the ultimate defeat of Satan, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and the eternal blessing of the righteous. At that time, the Kingdom of God will be completely fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth. (Matthew 4.23, Matthew 12.28, Mark 13.26, Acts 1.1-8, Acts 2.14-39, Romans 14.17-18, 1 Thessalonians 4.15-17, Revelation 19.11-16, Revelation 20.10, Revelation 21.1-5)

Great Commission

We believe the Great Commission is still our mandate today - to preach the gospel, baptize and teach believers, make disciples of all nations, and extend the kingdom of God. (Matthew 28.18-20)

Unity

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Jesus. We aspire to unity in essential Christian doctrines and respect for diversity in non-essentials. (John 17.20-23, 4.1-6)