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Statement of Faith

The Bible

We believe that the entirety of scripture, the Old and New Testaments, are the fully inspired Word of God, and are without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is God's revelation to man and is the final authority for all Christian faith and practice. The Word of God is the foundation upon and the basis for which this church operates. We believe that the Word of God supersedes any earthly law that is contrary to the Holy Scriptures. *(Nehemiah 8:8; Isaiah 28:13; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:21)*

The Nature of God

We believe that there is one true and living GOD, eternally existing in three persons. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are one God, equal in power and glory. The triune Godhead is the sole creator of the universe and this creation was by divine decree as illustrated in Genesis. God upholds all things and governs all things. *(Genesis 1,2; Deuteronomy 4:39; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Isaiah 42:1; Isaiah 44:6-8; Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3, 8; 2 Peter 1:17; 1 John 2:5-6; Revelation 1:4-6)*

We believe the person of God the Father is perfect in holiness, wisdom, and love. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; He hears and answers prayers. He saves from eternal death all those who come to Him by faith in Jesus Christ. In God's absolute sovereignty, He gives man the free will to either accept or reject the salvation that He has provided through His son, Jesus. It is God's will that all would be saved and that none would perish, however, He permits man's destiny to depend upon each man's choice. *(Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; Psalm 102:27; Matthew 23:37; John 3:16-18; John 4:24; Romans 2:11; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3)*

We believe in the person of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. We believe Jesus became man without ceasing to be God. We believe in the miracles and teachings of Jesus. We believe He lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a substitutionary atoning death, was buried, and was resurrected on the third day. This was to pay for all sins, (past, present, and future) of all mankind, but is only effective for those who believe. He later ascended into Heaven where He is presently seated at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate. We believe in His future personal, visible return to earth. *(Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1-4; John 1:10-14; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1)*

We believe that Jesus will return to rapture the church, and then return with His Church in glory to establish a millennial kingdom on earth. *(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20)*

We believe that Jesus is the mediator between God and man, is the head of His body, the Church, and as the coming King he is the final judge for all who refuse to place their trust in Him as their savior. *(Matthew 25:14-46; Acts 17:30-31; Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Timothy 2:5)*

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity whose ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. He accomplishes this ministry by convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, by regenerating, sealing, baptizing, and indwelling every believer in Jesus permanently at the moment of conversion and sealing them until the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit empowers the Christian for godly living and service, and instructs and guides the believer in living, service and worship. He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide, enabling growth, evangelism, and service in the life of the believer who is yielded to and dependent upon Jesus Christ. (*John 3:3-8, John 14: 16-17; John 16:7-15; Romans 8:2,4,9,12,13; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:1-3; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5*)

The Church

The True Church began with the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and is composed of all true believers, who through faith in Jesus Christ, have been united together in one body of which Jesus Christ is the head. By the Holy Spirit we are all baptized into one body of Christ. (*Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8, Acts 1:5; Acts 2:1-13,41,42; Acts 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:15*)

Each local church is a physical body of believers by which the True Church of Christ is shown to the world. God stresses the importance of the local church by giving it officers and ordinances. We believe in the pattern and principle of male leadership and responsibility in both the home and the church, according to the sacrificial example of Jesus. We believe this limits the role of pastoral leadership and doctrinal authority to qualified men. We believe that each local church is autonomous, having the right and responsibility to decide and govern its own affairs under the authority of Jesus Christ, through the guidance of Scripture. (*Acts 14:23; 20:28; Acts*

6:3; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Tim. 2: 11-14; 1 Timothy 3: 1-10; Titus 1:6-9; Hebrews 13:7,17)

The Purpose of the Church

The three-fold purpose of the church is to glorify God, to edify (or equip) the saints for the work of ministry, and to preach the Gospel and evangelize the world. All of these must be emphasized on a regular basis and be in proper balance for a church body to be strong and healthy. It is the church's duty to bring glory to God through worship and to preach the Word in a manner which facilitates spiritual growth and maturity in believers. It is every believer's privilege and duty to make clear God's plan of salvation wherever and in whatever situation he or she may be, inside or outside the church building. *(Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 2:37-47, Acts 17:11, Ephesians 1:12, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:11-15, Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 2:9)*

The Lord's Supper and Baptism

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed only two ordinances to the church: full immersion water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism follows the believer's conversion as a public declaration and identification with the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is to be taken regularly during the believer's life as a memorial of Christ's sacrificial death. Each of these ordinances are to be practiced as a testimony to the world, but neither water baptism nor the Lord's Supper are a condition of nor an additional requirement for salvation. *(Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:47-48; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

Sin, Salvation and Eternal Security

We believe that all people are sinners by nature, and are therefore guilty before God, and are under condemnation and God's righteous judgment.

Yet, God promises to save and give new life to all who come to Him in faith, trusting in Jesus Christ's finished work and resurrection from the dead. At the cross, Jesus Christ died in our place as our substitute, absorbing God's wrath that should have come upon us. Because Jesus died for the sins of the world, the invitation to believe is open to all. Man is saved by undeserved mercy and grace through faith alone in Christ alone. It is a free gift. Man's efforts, regardless of how good or well-intended, before or after salvation, have nothing to do with it. Salvation is by the finished work of Christ, and nothing can be added to it. *(John 3:16; John 19:30, Romans 11:6, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Colossians 2:13, Titus 3:5)*

One of the counterfeits Satan is using today is the misuse of the word "repent." Repent (from the Greek "metanoeo") means a change of mind. It does not mean "to turn from sin" as the current culture defines it. Repentance is a vital part of salvation in that a person, hearing the Gospel, understands it and agrees with it, thus has a change of mind and accepts God's way of salvation. Repentance does not in any sense include a demand for a change of conduct as a condition of salvation, but rather turning from sinful ways should be a result of this repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. To insist upon repentance of sin as a condition of salvation is adding an element of works or human merit to faith, thus insisting that our salvation rests in part upon our own works. This is contrary to Scripture. Nowhere does Scripture use the phrase "repent of sin" to be saved. *(Matthew 21:32; Acts 16:25-31; Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:8-10; Galatians 3:10-12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 11:29)*

Every child of God possesses eternal life, being justified by faith, and sealed with the Holy Spirit. The believer is safe and secure for all eternity, and cannot lose salvation. However, through sin, a Christian can forfeit their joy, testimony and rewards, lose fellowship with God, and incur the Father's chastisement. Relationship is eternal, being established by the new

birth. Fellowship, however, is dependent upon obedience. The child of God is not

under the law but under grace - saved by grace and disciplined by grace.

(John 5:24; John 6:36-39; John 10:28; Romans 6:14; Galatians 5:13-14; Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:4-5; Titus 2:11-15; 1 John 3:1-3)

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification, which is a setting apart unto God, accompanies growth in grace. Out of deep gratitude for the undeserved mercy and grace God has granted to believers, and because God is so worthy of our total devotion, we believe all who are saved should live in such a manner as to demonstrate our adoration and love to God to bring Him glory and not to bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior. This is not a condition of salvation, but rather a response in gratitude for what the Lord has done for us. *(Psalm 97:1; Romans 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Ephesians 4:1-3; Ephesians 5:11; Titus 2:11-14;)*

Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possess two natures, the old flesh nature and the Spirit nature. There is a continuing warfare between the Spirit and the flesh which continues until physical death or the return of the Lord. In salvation, provision is made for victory of the Spirit nature over the flesh nature through identification with Christ and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. *(Isaiah 64:6; John 3:3-7; Romans 6:1-13; Romans 7:15-25; Romans 8:8; Romans 8:12,13; Gal 5:16-25; Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:6-7; Colossians 3:10; 1 Pet 1:14-16, 23, 1 John 1:8, 1 John 3:5-9)*

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that at the moment of regeneration/salvation every believer receives gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of fulfilling God's blueprint in order to function in a local church for the edification of the body. While there is a diversity of gifts, each believer is empowered by the same Spirit and each is called to his own divinely appointed service in love as the Spirit directs. *(Acts 2:4,11; Rom 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-26, 13:1-13, 14:4, 12, 26)*

Heaven and Hell

We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell. Everyone, after death, will be resurrected; believers to everlasting life and unbelievers to judgment and everlasting, conscious punishment in Hell. All those who place their faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord. Alternately, those who reject Jesus' free gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from God in Hell. *(Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:3,22 Matthew 18:9; Matthew 25:31-34; Luke 12:5; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4)*

Satan is real, the author of sin; and he and his angels shall be eternally punished. *(Genesis 3:1-4; Ezekiel 28:15,17; Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 25:41, John 8:44; Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:7-10)*

End Times/Last Things

We believe in the personal, pre-tribulational, and pre-millennial return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, where all believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and be taken out of this world prior to the Tribulation that will come upon the whole earth. This is our blessed hope. *(Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:36; Romans 1:18, 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 2:7-9; 7:13-14; Revelation 5:7-10)*

We believe that following the rapture, there will be a seven year Tribulation, that is a time of judgment for all humanity. This tribulation period is referred to in the Bible as the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble.” This will bring about the end of the times of the Gentiles and result in the national regeneration of Israel. (Jeremiah 30:7; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Matthew 24:15-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-12, Romans 11:25-27)

We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ which is His personal, visible return to earth and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom at the end of the Tribulation. (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-7, 11-15)

There will be a resurrection of the saved and of the lost: of the saved unto eternal life and of the lost unto eternal conscious punishment. At the moment of physical death, the believer enters the presence of God, awaiting the resurrection of the body; the unbeliever immediately enters into eternal separation from God in Hell, awaiting the resurrection of the body. (Daniel 12:1-2,13; Matthew 23:14; Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:19-26; Luke 23:43; John 3:3; John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:23-28; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:7-9, 4:13-17; Revelation 20:11-15)