



STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE TRINITY

We believe in one living and true God, eternal and of infinite power, wisdom, goodness and righteousness. He is a loving and faithful God who is the Creator and preserver of all things (Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Timothy 1:17). In the unity of his Godhead, there are three persons of one substance with identical qualities and attributes: The Father (God), The Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (John 1:1-2; 4:24; 5:18; 10:30).

THE SON OF GOD

We believe in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Christ was both fully man and fully God. He walked our earth, suffered at the hands of men, was crucified, died, and was buried as a sacrifice for the sins of all men and women everywhere. The purpose was to restore our relationship to God, which is broken by sin (disobedience) (Luke 1:27; 31:35; John 3:16; Romans 5:10; Ephesians 5:2). Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven in full victory over Satan and sin. He now intercedes for the body of believers to God the Father (Matthew 28:5-9; Luke 24:4-7).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 13:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18).

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments combined constitute the Holy Bible; no books may be added or deleted. The Holy Bible is inspired and inerrant (that is, without error or failure of basic content and meaning in the original manuscripts). The Holy Bible contains all the necessary truth to lead men and women into salvation (Psalm 19:7; John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).

MAN

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. All of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2).

SALVATION

We believe that Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, was given by God as a sacrifice for the sins of all men. Christ died on the cross to mend the broken relationships which were caused by man's sin of disobedience. This severed relationship between God and man may be restored into perfect harmony through belief in Jesus Christ by faith, and not on the basis of our works, but the free gift of grace. (Galatians 5:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9). This belief and faith in Jesus Christ, recognizing Him as Lord and Savior, gives men and women the free gift of eternal life (John 1:29, 3:16; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 1:9).

GOOD WORKS

We believe that even though men and women cannot receive salvation by good works, their good works are still pleasing to God and show evidence of a true faith in God and submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the believer's life (Matthew 5:16, 7:16-20; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; James 2:18-22).

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the work of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, making the believer pure in heart and totally committed and dedicated to God. This work is both instantaneous and gradual (or progressive). It begins when a person is saved and continues throughout life. For some, this occurs soon following salvation and for others, much time elapses. But for all believers, sanctification is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3). Sanctification is the place of surrender when a believer renounces the desire to live for self and desires to live totally for the glory of God. The believer is then empowered by the Holy Spirit, making him able to live a life of holiness: this does not mean perfection of the believer, but purity of heart, soul and mind (Deuteronomy 30:6; Luke 1:74-75; Acts 15:8-9; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:13, 24; 1Thessalonians 4:3-7; James 4:8).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and bringing glory to God. The gifts are to be exercised in love and for the purpose of promoting unity (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11, 18, 21-25; Ephesians 4:11-16).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe that those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior and are unrepentant will be judged by God in His perfect justice and condemned to eternal punishment (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16). We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to receive His believers into heaven and eternal life. The time of His return is unknown, but may be at any moment. This is the glorious hope of all God's children (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:7-8; Revelation 22:12,20).