

# **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

## **Section 2.01 – Statement of Faith**

- (A) **The Holy Scriptures** We affirm the Holy Bible, both Old and New Testament Scriptures are the inerrant, infallible, authoritative, and inspired Word of God. The Holy Bible is the basis for our statement of faith to advance God's Kingdom, and therefore, the final authority for faith and life. The Scriptures are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the Church leadership. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the preferred translation used by the Church in worship services and Sunday School. (*2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21*)
- (B) **Dispensationalism** We believe the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life that define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations—the Law, the Church, and the Kingdom—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (*Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6*)
- (C) **The Godhead** We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (*Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 10:30; 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14*)
- (D) **The Person and Work of Christ**
- (1) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (*Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8*)
  - (2) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (*Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5*)
  - (3) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (*Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2*)
- (E) **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**
- (1) We believe the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (*John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14*)
  - (2) We believe He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (*Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27*)

(3) We believe God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the Church to do the work of the ministry. (*Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12*)

(F) **The Total Depravity of Man** We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, completely unable to remedy his lost condition. (*Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19*)

(G) **Salvation** We believe salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (*Matt. 12:31-32; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9*)

(H) **The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

(1) We believe once a person is born again, he is kept by God's power and remains secure in Christ forever. (*John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5*)

- Some evidences of spiritual rebirth are: *John 3:7; Galatians 5:22-26; II Corinthians 5:17*
- Some evidences of no rebirth are: *Romans 1:16-32; Galatians 5:16-21; Ephesians 5:3-5*

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

(I) **The Church**

(1) We believe the local Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again believers. (*1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27*)

(2) We believe the establishment and continuance of local Churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. (*Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11*)

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local Church free of any external authority or controls, and any affiliations, societies, organizations, associations, or agencies this Church affiliates with to further the objectives of the purpose as stated in **Section 1.02** are not authoritative in matters of Church practice or belief. (*Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4*)

(4) We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age. We do not believe that these ordinances are essential for salvation, but for obedience. (*Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26*)

(J) **Separation** We believe that believers should maintain a godly testimony and live in such a way that their lives do not bring reproach upon their Savior and this Church. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances. We stand against any and all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy or undermine the truth of Biblical Christianity. (*Lev. 19:28;*

*Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)*

- (K) **The Second Coming of Christ** We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year Tribulation Period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel. (*Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6*)
- (L) **The Eternal State**
- (1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (*Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13*)
  - (2) We believe the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (*Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6*)
  - (3) We believe the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (*Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15*)
- (M) **The Personality of Satan** We believe Satan is a person, the author of sin, and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (*Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10*)
- (N) **Creation** We believe the Genesis account of creation is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of God's creation of the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution and all other unscriptural theories of origin. (*Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11*)
- (O) **Civil Government** We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the Home, 2) the Church, and 3) the State. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The Home, the Church, and the State are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. We believe that we must obey the laws of the land unless it requires us to act contrary to God's Word. (*Matt. 22:15-22; Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 3:1-2; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14*)
- (P) **Human Sexuality**
- (1) We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves

of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (*Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5-7, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-32; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4*)

(2) We believe the only Biblical marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. (*Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-6; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:21-33*)

**(Q) Family Relationships**

(1) We believe men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the Church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (Pastors and Deacons) of the Church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the Church. (*Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:1-5, 12*)

(2) We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the Church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (*Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7*)

**(R) Divorce and Remarriage** We believe God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last until the death of one spouse. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor, Associate Pastor, or Deacon. (*Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6*)

**(S) Abortion** We believe human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (*Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44*)

**(T) Euthanasia** We believe the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. However, God has granted us His Word and the Holy Spirit to guide and discern His will. Therefore, the Church affirms the right of each individual/ or other person(s) acting on their behalf to refuse or discontinue medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome, because such actions can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. The Church affirms the Biblical teaching regarding the sanctity of human life. (*Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28*)

**(U) Love** We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and

humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (*Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18*)

- (V) **Lawsuits between Believers** We believe Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (*Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32*)
- (W) **Missions** We believe God has given the Church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to take the Gospel across the street and around the world. (*Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20*)
- (X) **Giving** We believe every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him/her, is obligated to financially support their local Church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (*Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:8-12; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17*)