



Statement of Faith

The Bible

All and every Scripture in its original form is the inspired Word of God (2 Tim 3:16), written by authors who were under the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit while doing so (2 Pet 1:20-21). Scripture is true in all that it affirms (2 Sam 7:28, John 17:17, Prov 30:5), is free from error (Num 23:19), and it will accomplish all that it claims (Matt 5:18). Scripture is authoritative (Matt 4:4) and sufficient for all matters of faith and practice (2 Tim 3:14-17, Rom 15:4, 1 Pet 1:23) and must be obeyed as being the very Word of God (Ps 119:9, Jas 1:22-25). The whole Bible is recognized as the canon – the uniquely inspired, inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient works that are themselves the measure and standard (2 Pet 3:15-16, Prov 30:5-6).

The Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The Godhead eternally exists as three equal and relationally distinct persons namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the uncreated, sovereign, divine creator, judge, king and source of all things (John 1:14,18; Gen. 1:1; Eph. 4:6; Gal. 4:6-7) and the one to whom all is restored (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

God the Son (John 8:58; 10:30), Jesus Christ, is uncreated, eternally (Isa. 9:6; Mic. 5:2) begotten from (John 1:14-18) and of the same essence and glory as the Father (Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 1:2-13), fully God and fully man (Isa. 9:6; Rom. 1:1-4) coexisting in one person. We affirm his virgin birth, death, burial, and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and his second coming as judge (Isa. 7:14, Heb. 2:17, 1 Cor. 15:1-8, Acts 10:42).

God the Holy Spirit is eternally (Gen. 1:2) uncreated, unbegotten, proceeds from and is one in essence with both the Father and the Son (Eph. 4:4-6). He is a person demonstrating intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-13), will (Acts 8:29; 9:31), emotions (Eph. 4:30; Heb. 10:29; Isa. 63:10) and divine attributes (Isa. 40:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Psa. 139:7-9; Rom. 8:2).

Creation, Humanity and Sin

Angels exist (Gen. 3:26; Isa. 6:2) and exhibit personhood (Luke 1:13-17, 2:13; Psa. 130:20), worship and serve God as messengers (Gen. 18:1-15; Isa. 6:2-6), and execute judgement (Exo. 13). They are not to be worshiped (Rev. 19:10). Satan, the temporary god of this world (Luke 4:5-8), is God's ultimate enemy (Mark 1:13; 1 Pet. 5:8) and the originator of evil (Isa. 14; Eze. 28). He tempts (Gen. 3:1), deceives (1 Cor. 10:20), and attempts to destroy believers (Luke 8:12). His destiny, along with his demons (Deut. 18:10, 32:17) who demonize (2 Cor. 4:4; Mark 9:17), is eternal torment in Hell (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 20:10). They are to be fled from (Eph. 4:27).

Humans are created in God's image (Gen. 1:27) as male and female with inherent dignity to rule and procreate (Gen. 1:28) within the marriage union. True earthly community is achieved through unity among healthy diversity.

Sin is the act and disposition that misses the mark of God's holiness. Adam and Eve's original sin is transmitted to all humanity (Rom. 5:12) which stands totally depraved (Jer. 17:9) and can only be redeemed through the work of a sinless Christ (Heb. 4:15).

Salvation

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ who died on the cross (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8) as a substitute (Mark 10:45; 2 Cor. 5:14) to atone (1 John 2:2; 1 Pet. 2:24) for all (John 1:29; 1 Tim. 2:3,4) of helpless (1 Kin. 8:46; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-18,23) humanity's sins and resurrected (1 Cor. 15:4,5) to restore them to God (John 11:24; Rom. 6:4). A person is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8) and is immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; Rom. 8:9-11) who sanctifies (Phil 1:6; Col. 3:9,10) and seals (Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 8:28-39) the believer unto an eternal union with God (1 Thess. 4:17; John 17:24). Those who are disposed to reject the gospel (Rom. 9:1-24) are doomed unto eternal destruction (Rom. 2:3-9; 2 Thess. 1:6-9).

The Church and Sanctification

A believer is divinely sanctified (Rom. 8:13, 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11) by the Holy Spirit at conversion and continues the journey of Christlikeness (Col. 1:9-10, 2:6-7; Eph. 4:13-16) until final glorification (1 John 3:1-3; Eph. 5:26-27; Phil. 3:20-21).

The church is a Spirit-filled (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:21-22) diversified community (Rev. 7:9-10) of believers with Christ as its head (Eph. 1:22, 5:23). The local church is identified by its adherence to orthodox beliefs (Rom. 3:23; Psa. 52:5; John 1:14, 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:5; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 9:28), order of governance (Acts 14:23, 20:17; 1 Tim. 3:1-2; Tit. 1:7), observance of the sacrament of baptism (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21) and the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 11:23-26, 16:1-2), the evangelism of the lost (Matt. 10:7, 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8, 2:38, 10:42), edification of the body (John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; Gal. 2:10) and exaltation of God in its worship (Psa. 96:1-9; Isa. 42:12; John 15:8; 1 Cor. 6:20).

Last Things

We affirm the imminent, future physical return of Christ as King and Judge (Matt. 16:27; Acts 1:11, 1 Thess. 4:16-17;). There will be a physical resurrection of dead saints (Rev. 20:4), and a second advent of Jesus (1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev.19:11-20:6). At the final judgement, the physically resurrected dead, Satan, death and sin altogether will be judged and punished into eternal damnation (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Rev.20:11-15). After this, believers will live with God eternally in the new heavens and the new earth (John 3:16, 10:28-30; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 4:17).