

Statement of Faith

What we believe – the biblical foundation beneath everything we do.

The Bible

The 66 books of the Bible composed of the Old and New Testaments are divinely inspired by God and given for man to understand the creation of the world and human history from the spiritual perspective of God, and to teach fallen man the way to a restored relationship with God.

These sacred Scriptures are profitable for teaching reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). All Scripture is written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The 66 books of the Bible are infallible and cannot be added to or taken away from.

There is no new scriptural revelation given to man by God. God ordained, through the Holy Spirit, for these books to be preserved and passed down from generation to generation. The church itself at no time declared the 66 books of the Bible as canon solely by man's decision apart from God.

The Scriptures are proven to be God's infallible Word by their unchanging truth, fulfilled prophetic revelations, and the testimony of the Holy Spirit that they are in fact, the Word of God.

Apocryphal works are not divinely inspired and should be read with the understanding that while there may be certain truths and history to be gleaned from them, they are not equal with the divine Authority of the Bible and are not to be used as doctrine. These books include, but are not limited to: Jubilees, Jasher, Enoch, Tobit, Judith, Maccabees, gospel of Thomas, book of Esdras, gospel of Peter.

God

God eternally exists outside of time, space, and matter, in a tripartite nature – God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. God has always existed, will always exist, and is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.

Creation

God created the heavens, earth, and all they contain (man, plant, animal) in 6 literal days. (Genesis 1)

Man was created on day 6 of creation in the image and likeness of God with a tripartite nature – mind, body, and spirit. (Genesis 1:26-31)

God created man sinless, to live in perfect, unbroken fellowship with Himself. Man was created by God for the purpose to worship, adore, and willfully obey Him. The entire nature of man is wired for worship and fellowship with God in body, mind, and spirit.

The Fall of Man

Adam's free will choice to disobey God in the Garden of Eden led to the fall of man. Now, all people are born in the image of Adam, with a fallen, sinful nature, spiritually dead and unable to commune with and worship God as He originally intended. The perfect spiritual bond of fellowship Adam initially enjoyed with the Lord is inherently severed in all people because of his choice to be self-ruled rather than ruled by God. This decision resulted in the curse of human sin, death, and the spiritual fall of the entire earth. (Genesis 3)

All people are now born in the image and likeness of fallen Adam, and therefore, cannot have a proper spiritual relationship with God, their Creator. Upon physical death, they will spend eternity separated from God in a realm known as 'Hell' because sin, rebellion, and unrighteousness cannot exist before God's holy presence in heaven.

Salvation / Redemption

Through the seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and his 12 sons, God promised to send a Redeemer to mankind to atone for sin and restore the spiritual relationship God originally intended between Himself and man; allowing man to live eternally with God in heaven.

- A.** God called Moses, a Levite from the sons of Jacob, to deliver the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt into the promised land, Israel.
- B.** God gave the Hebrews (Israelites) the Law (Torah). The law was given as a temporary covering for sin until the promised Redeemer, Jesus Christ, would come and make atonement for all sin and restore man to perfect, unbroken, spiritual fellowship with God.
- C.** God's covenant promise with the nation of Israel still stands. The church has not replaced Israel. Jesus will return to earth and rule in Jerusalem for 1,000 years.

Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham, descendent of King David, from the tribe of Judah, was born of the virgin Mary, and lived a perfect sinless life. He was unjustly condemned and crucified on a cross and became the propitiation for the sins of all mankind. On the cross of Calvary, God the Father poured out the punishment for the sins of all mankind on Jesus. Because Jesus was sinless, He became the sacrificial Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. Upon His death on the cross, God the Father raised Him from the dead, death had no power over Him because He was sinless. Jesus' death on the cross took the sting out of death for all humanity. Now, our sins can be forgiven by God and blotted out forever.

- A.** Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Word of God. He is eternal – He is, was, and always will be.
- B.** The resurrected Christ has ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of all believers.

One's sins are forgiven and salvation is attained through repentance and faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

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- A. Upon experiencing a conviction of one's sinful state, through repentance (a renouncing of one's own sinful behavior and godless self-rule in order to be led by God), a person is spiritually born again from above by the divine work and immediate indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Upon being born again by the Holy Spirit, redeemed man now has the ability to live in perfect, unbroken, spiritual fellowship with God as He originally intended before the fall of man.

The Church / Body of Christ

The Holy Spirit, who is fully God and equal in all ways to God the Father and God the Son, is sent from heaven to indwell all those who have been born again by a saving, repentant, faith in the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

- A. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts to all believers for the growth of the body of Christ (the church). A person does not choose which gifts they operate in, they are freely given by the Holy Spirit as He wills.
- B. It is intended for all believers to operate in spiritual gifts – (apostle, prophet, teacher, pastor, evangelist, miracles, healings, helps, administration, tongues, interpretation of tongues, service, giving, mercy, wisdom, faith, distinguishing of spirits, miracles, and helps)
- C. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to overcome sin, renew their minds, and become progressively sanctified as they walk by faith according to the commands and will of Jesus Christ.
- D. Believers are expected to overcome the sin nature which seeks to rule and reign in their lives. They are called to 'be perfect, as their heavenly Father is perfect' ([Matthew 5:48](#)). They are instructed to forsake their innate pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness, and covetousness. They are commanded to not chase after the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.
- E. Those born again from above by the Holy Spirit are all members of God's family, and are called the "body of Christ", or the "church".
- F. The church's mission is to spread the gospel and make disciples.
- G. Members of the church are commanded to be baptized. Baptism is only for those confessing a repentant and saving faith in Jesus Christ. Babies or unbelievers should never be baptized. Baptism does not save a person; it is an outward demonstration of a believer's death to self in order to live in obedience to Christ.

Leadership (Church & Family)

Jesus Christ is the head of all churches, families, and individuals. Leadership within the church and family is male. Only men are allowed to teach, pastor, and be elders within a congregation. Men are also the head of the household.

- A. All leadership begins with Christ as the head. Christ is the head of the church and ordains men to lead within the body of Christ. The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is head of the church. Wives are to submit to their husbands and the elders within a church. Children are to submit to their

parents and church leadership.

- B.** Women can be deacons (servants, helpers) in a congregation but not leaders, pastors, or elders.
- C.** Women are never to be in a leadership position over males in the church or household.
- D.** Women can teach other women and children, and should always do so under the covering of male leadership.

Marriage

God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24)

- A.** Divorce is only allowed on the grounds of sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32) and abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:12-16).
- B.** The Scriptures strictly prohibit homosexual relationships (Romans 1:26-27)
- C.** The Scriptures strictly prohibit polygamous relationships (Genesis 2:24)
- D.** Believers are only to marry other believers (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- E.** If someone becomes born again after marrying an unbeliever then they should commit to stay married to that person so long as their spouse consents to remain married to them. (1 Corinthians 7:12-16)
- F.** A spouse is to honor the sexual needs of their partner, and should never deny their partner's physical/ sexual needs. (1 Corinthians 7:2-5)
- G.** If a spouse dies a believer is free to marry again, as long as they marry a believer.
- H.** Singleness is a gift given by God to certain believers. Those whom God has given the grace to remain single are to be concerned about things of the Lord, how to serve and please the Lord in all they do. They are to serve the Lord in purity of mind, body, and spirit (1 Corinthians 7:32-38).

Death / The Millennial Reign / Eternity

When a believer dies, they are immediately ushered into the presence of God and will spend eternity in heaven with Him.

- A.** When someone dies without being born again, they will spend eternity in hell.
- B.** Jesus Christ will one day return in bodily form on earth with His redeemed saints to rule and reign for 1,000 years.
- C.** After the 1,000-year reign believers will live with God forever in a new heaven and new earth.