

## Statement of Faith

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### I. The Bible

We believe that the Bible, comprising the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired by God, is without error in the original writings and is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21.

### II. The True God

We believe there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in unity of the Godhead there are three Persons; the Father, The Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every Divine perfection, and executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption, Deuteronomy 6:4; I John 5:7; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 8:6.

### III. Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Matthew 1:20-23; Luke 1:35 that he lived a sinless life, Hebrews 4:15, that he died as a perfect substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all men. Isaiah 53:5-6; John 1:29; I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9; I John 2:2.

### IV. The Resurrection, Return of Christ, and Related Events

We believe in:

- A. The Bodily Resurrection. Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6.
- B. The Ascension. Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; Revelations 3:21; Hebrews 8:1; 12:2.
- C. The High Priesthood. Hebrews 8:6; Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; Hebrews 5:9-10; Hebrews 9:28.
- D. The Second Coming. Acts 1:11; John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:16; James 5:8; Hebrews 9:28; Matthew 24:42.
- E. The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44, 52.
- F. The Changes of the Living in Christ. I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20-21.
- G. The Throne of David. Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 2:29-30.
- H. The Millennial Reign. (His Reign on Earth). I Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 11:4-5; Psalms 72:8; Revelations 20:1-4,6; Isaiah 32:1.

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### V. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father, and God the Son, and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in the relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

And that the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance is the evidence of His indwelling rather than the speaking in tongues and other spectacular demonstrations.

John 1:33; 3:5-6; 16:8-11; 14:16-17; Mark 1:8; Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16.

### VI. The Fall of Men

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, Genesis 1:27, but that by voluntary transgression he incurred upon himself physical death and spiritual death, which is separation from God, Romans 5:12, that all human beings have subsequently been born with an inherent sinful nature, Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:21; 6:17, and that as they attain the age of moral responsibility they become sinners in thought, word, and conduct, Romans 3:23.

### VII. Salvation

We believe in salvation by divine grace alone, Ephesians 2:8-9; and that men are saved only by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:18-19; Romans 5:9.

We believe that personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31.

### VIII. Eternal Security of the Believer

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God's power and have full assurance of salvation for time and eternity. John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6.

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### IX. Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy, the Lord of the Antichrist and the author of all powers of darkness and is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell – (Lake of Fire) a place prepared for him and his angels. Matthew 4:1,3,4; 25:41; II Corinthians 4:4; 11:13-15; Isaiah 14:12-15; John 14:30; Jude 6; Revelation 13:13-14; 20:1-2; 20:10.

### X. The Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel observing the Ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by God's Holy Word, that its officers are Pastor and deacons, whose qualifications, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for the true churches to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its co-operation; on all matters of membership; of policy; Acts 2:41-42; 1:8; 5:4; 20:28; I Corinthians 11:2; I Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-24.

### XI. Marriage and the Home

We believe that the home was the first institution God provided for man Genesis 2:12-24; that marriage is a sacred relationship and honorable for all Hebrews 13:4; I Corinthians 7:2; that marriage is used as the emblem of the union of Christ and His church, Ephesians 5:21-23; and what therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder. Mark 10:9.

We believe that mixed marriages of believer and unbeliever are forbidden in the Holy Scriptures. I Corinthians 6:14; Galatians 6:7.

### Human Sexuality

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a MAN & WOMAN. We

believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, 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; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one MAN & one WOMAN. Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22 & 23;
3. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in 2.02 (P) or files a lawsuit in violation of 2.02 (U)
4. Effective April 20, 2005.

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XII. Ordinances

A. Baptism

We believe that Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion in water; in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effects in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; and that it is a prerequisite for church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:22; 8:13; 10:48; I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27.

B. The Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, remind us of the love of God in Jesus Christ, "who spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all", that the ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His coming and should be preceded by a self-examination. I Corinthians 11:26-29; Acts 2:42; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20.

XIII. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the "Blessed Hope" the personal, imminent pre-tribulation, and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones and in His return to earth after the tribulation with his saints to establish the

Millennial Kingdom. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Revelation 20:1-6.

XIV. The Judgment Seat of Christ

We believe that every saved person will appear before the judgment Seat of Christ to be judged by the Lord in regard to faithful service. I Corinthians 3:11-15; II Corinthians 5:10.

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XV. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to eternal, everlasting punishment. 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, where spirit and body are reunited to be forever glorified with the Lord. The souls of the unbelievers after death remain in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when the spirit, soul, and body reunited shall appear before the Lord at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not for annihilation, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-26; John 5:28-29; II Corinthians 5:8, 10; Revelation 20:1-6; 12-15.