

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) **CONCERNING THE SCRIPTURES** – We believe that the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments is the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore, wholly without error as originally given by God, and altogether sufficient in itself as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim.3:16)

(B) **CONCERNING THE TRUE GOD** – There is one true living God; He is an infinite Spirit – self-existent, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, good, wise, just and merciful. He is the creator, preserver and sovereign of the universe; He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all honour, confidence and love. In the Godhead there are three persons in one – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are equal in every divine perfection, and who execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6)

(C) **CONCERNING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in a supernatural manner and born of the Virgin Mary; He is very God, of very God, being “God manifest in the flesh.” He lived a life of absolute sinlessness, and in His death He made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not a martyr’s death, but a voluntary substitute in the sinner’s place. He rose again bodily from the dead the third day and ascended bodily to the right hand of God in Heaven where He now sits as our great High Priest “ever living to make intercession for us.” We believe in the premillennial, pretribulation rapture of the Church and the return of Christ. (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Jude 14; I Thes. 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7; Rev. 22:20)

(D) **CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT** – We believe in the absolute essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit who convinces the unbeliever of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates, guides, comforts and indwells those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:16-17; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:14; 2 Thes. 2:13)

1. His Baptism – We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole body of believers on the day of Pentecost, it was the fulfillment of the announcement made by John the Baptist, and the promise of Christ to individually endue them with power to witness, and collectively baptize into one body, which was the formation of the Church, which is His body. We further believe that since the time the gospel went forth to the Gentiles, we receive the Holy Spirit without delay, tarrying, praying, laying on of hands, or any other condition save faith. All who believe in Christ are born of the Spirit, sealed by Him, and by the Spirit baptized into the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30). We also believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. There is one baptism of the spirit, but many fillings. (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Luke 24:46-49; John

1:33; John 14:16, 18, 36; John 15:26-27; John 16:7-15; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-4, 47).

2. Spiritual Gifts – We believe that God gives spiritual gifts to all believers for the building up of the body of Christ. Some gifts of the Holy Spirit are permanent and are to be used throughout the Church age. (Romans 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:13, 14; 2 Cor. 12:12; Hebrews 1:1, 2:3,4; 1 Cor. 13:8-13). We believe that divine healing of the body is not in the atonement. During the present age the Lord heals the body in answer to believing prayer, but only according to His own Sovereign will, and for His glory. (Romans 8:18-19; I Cor. 15:3; I Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18).

(E) **CONCERNING MAN** – We believe that man was divinely made in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in his total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. (Gen. 1:27; Romans 3:10-18; Romans 5: 12-19; Isaiah 53:6)

(F) **CONCERNING SALVATION** – We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of God’s grace through the mediatorial work of the Lord Jesus Christ; It is wholly apart from man’s works and is upon the sole condition of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that in order to be saved the sinner must be born again, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit and thus becoming a recipient of a new nature called the Divine Nature. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification which includes pardon of sin and the imputing of divine righteousness and sanctification solely through faith in the Redeemer’s shed blood; that having exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the believer is completely justified and is in possession of salvation which is eternally secure. (Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5-7; 2 Peter 1:4; John 3:3-6; Acts 13:38,39; John 10:28,29)

(G) **CONCERNING SATAN** – We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a personal devil who is “the god of this age; the prince of power of the air” who is full of all subtlety, the father of all liars, accuser of the brethren, who seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare the sons of man. (Eph. 2:2; Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Cor. 11:13-15)

(H) **CONCERNING THE RAPTURE** – We believe that at the Rapture of the Church, Christ will raise from among the dead those who have died in Christ, this being the first resurrection and that after the millennium He will raise them that have died in unbelief from their graves to appear before Him at the judgment of the Great White Throne.

(I) **CONCERNING THE ETERNAL STATE** – We believe that the Scriptures teach that all who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in full enjoyment of God’s presence in a literal place called Heaven, and that those who through impenitence and rejection of

Jesus Christ as Saviour refuse to accept God's offer of mercy and salvation will spend eternity in everlasting punishment in the literal place the Bible calls Hell. (John 14:2; 2 Cor. 5: 6-8; Matt. 25: 41-46; Rev. 20: 12-15; Rev. 21:8)

(J) **CONCERNING THE LOCAL CHURCH** – We believe that our church is composed of born-again, immersed believers called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe the local church is a sovereign independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church. (Acts 2:41, 42, 47; 1 Cor. 11:2)

(K) **CONCERNING THE ORDINANCES** – We believe that there are only two ordinances for the Church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order; (1) *Baptism*, which is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whereby they obey Christ's command and set forth his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Matt. 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6: 3-5). (2) The Lord's Supper which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and wine, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes. (Matt 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-28).

(L) **CONCERNING SEPARATION** – We believe in Ecclesiastical separation of the Church from combined meetings with any and all organizations or groups who deny the inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Jesus Christ, and who repudiate or deny the general principles and practices expressed in this statement of doctrinal basis. (Romans 16:17,18; 2 Cor. 6:1-18; 2 Thess. 3:6; Eph 5:11; Titus 3:11; 2 John 9-11). We believe the Scriptures clearly teach nonconformity to the world of every believer that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from worldly, sinful and doubtful practices and associations unto Christ. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:1-3; Romans 1:26,27)

(M) **CONCERNING CHURCH AND STATE** – We believe in the separation of Church and State. (Matt. 22:21)

(N) **CONCERNING THE LORD'S DAY** – We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that, in a special sense it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise. (Acts 20:7; Mark 16:9; John 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10)

(O) **CONCERNING CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP** – We believe that the stewardship for the believer consists of time, talents and treasures. We believe in personal, voluntary, regular, systematic and proportionate giving to the support of the local church and the spreading of the gospel to the regions beyond. This is

best accomplished as the Scriptures teach by tithing of our income and the presenting of an offering unto the Lord. (Gen. 14:20; Malachi 3:8-10; Matt. 6:3; Matt 23:23; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-15; Hebrews 7:1,2,6,9)

(P) **CONCERNING CIVIL GOVERNMENT** – We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society, that all in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of Kings of the earth. (Matt. 22:21; Romans 13:1-5; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29)

(Q) **CONCERNING MARRIAGE** – We believe that God, in His sovereign plan, created both male and female for their mutual help, comfort and for procreation, and that the union between a man and a woman was ordained of God from the beginning as a holy institution (Gen 2:21-24). Furthermore, we believe that the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the writers of the New Testament (Matt. 19: 4,5; Mark 10:7-9) is that the marriage covenant is the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others so long as they both shall live.