



## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **ARTICLE I - THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe the 66 books of Scripture, comprising the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God, are inerrant, are infallible, and are the only criterion by which truth can be known. We believe that the 66 books of Scripture are the sole and final authority in faith and practice and is sufficient for all doctrine and authority in everything it addresses. We believe that later revelation makes explicit what is implicit in earlier revelation and that both Old and New Testaments center on the Lord Jesus Christ as the revelation of the whole Triune Godhead. We believe accurate biblical interpretation always leads to the knowledge of God, revealed in Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, John 20:31, 1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

### **ARTICLE II - THE GODHEAD**

We believe that God is the Supreme Being who has the ground of His existence in himself (Exodus 3:14, Romans 1:20, Matthew 28:18-20); that He possesses the attributes of omnipotence (Isaiah 40, Psalms 62:11); omniscience (Psalms 139); and omnipresence (Psalms 139, Matthew 28:18-20); that He is the one God (Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29, John 10:30, 1 Timothy 2:5); that He eternally exists in three persons (Psalms 90:2, 1 Timothy 1:17); The Father recognized as God (John 6:27, 1 Peter 1:2), The Son Jesus Christ recognized as God (John 1:1), and The Holy Spirit recognized as God (Acts 5:3-4). God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit each have the same nature (Romans 1:20), qualities of character, and perfections (Romans 11:33-36) including, but not limited to, perfection in holiness (Isaiah 57:15, 1 Peter 1:16), justice (John 5:30, Psalms 89:14), goodness (Psalms 31:19, 145:9), mercy (Psalms 145:8-9, Ephesians 2:4), faithfulness (Psalms 119:90), and truth (John. 1:14).

#### **A. GOD THE FATHER**

We believe God eternally decreed all things in creation and providence for his own glory. We believe that God the Father concerns himself mercifully in the affairs of men and that in love He planned the salvation of sinners before the foundation of the world and at that time He chose individuals unto salvation and made provision so that trusting in Christ they are made holy and blameless before him; and that He presently and eternally blesses them with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3-12, 1 Peter 1:3-5, John 14:6, Matthew 5:45).

#### **B. GOD THE SON**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God, the only begotten Son, and always existed with the Father (John 1:1); that He is the agent of creation (Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16) and the only Lord and Savior (Acts 4:12); that He is the fulfillment of the Father's will (Psalms 40:7-8, Hebrews 10:5-7), was conceived of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20) and manifested in the flesh through the Virgin Birth (Matthew 1:23, I John 1:2, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6); that He freely gave His righteous life for the sins of His people (1 Peter 3:18, 2 Corinthians

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5:21, Matthew 20:28), was buried and rose from the dead bodily (1 Corinthians. 15:3-4); that He intercedes for believers today at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 7:25, 12:2, 1 John 2:1) and is coming again to reign over his creation (Mark 14:62).

### **C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that God the Holy Spirit reveals the character of the Father and the work and words of the Son, that His ministry is to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; that He effects the new birth baptizing believers into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13), sealing (Ephesians 4:30, 2:18, 1:13), indwelling (1 Corinthians 6:19, 3:16), and interceding for them (Romans 8:26); that he produces growth and fruit by comforting (Acts 9:31), empowering (Ephesians 3:16, Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:7), filling (Ephesians 3:16, 5:18), instructing (John 14:26, Romans 8:14, 1 John 2:27), and unifying (1 Corinthians 12:13, 26; Ephesians 4:3) believers, who are abiding in the Word.

### **ARTICLE III - MAN CREATED AND FALLEN**

We believe God created mankind in His image, male and female (Genesis 1:26-27). We believe that the first man, Adam, sinned against God and lost his spiritual life (Genesis 2:17), became dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-3), subject to the power of the Devil (Ephesians 6:11-12, 2:2), and incapable of doing anything to please God (Romans 8:8). We believe this depraved condition has been transmitted to the entire human race (Romans 3:23, 1 Corinthians 15:22), the man (2 Corinthians 5:21) Christ Jesus alone being excepted (Romans 5:18-19). Hence, every child is born (Romans 5:12, Psalms 51:5) into the world with a nature (Romans 3:10-18) which does not possess divine life, and is essentially and unchangeably (John 3:6) alienated from God (Colossians 1:21, Romans 6:23) apart from divine grace (Titus 3:7, Ephesians. 2:8-10).

### **ARTICLE IV - SATAN**

We believe in the reality and the personality of a most evil spirit called Lucifer and various other descriptive titles, Devil, Satan, Beelzebub (Isaiah 14:12, Zechariah 3:1, Matthew 4:10, 12:24, Revelation 12:9-10). He was created a glorious angel but rebelled against God (Isaiah 14:12-14), and so became the originator of evil (1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14). He was cast out of Heaven (Luke 10:18, Revelation 12:9-10) with the other sinning angels (2 Peter 2:4). Satan has ever been an enemy of Jesus Christ and his people (Ephesians 6:11-12), the deceiver (Revelation. 12:9-10, John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:13-14) of the whole world and the unholy god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4). His doom was sealed through Christ's death on the cross (1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14) and will be consummated in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

### **ARTICLE V – THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**

We believe that sin is missing the mark or standard set by God. When we do not meet that standard, we have sinned against God (Psalms. 51:4 Romans 3:10, 23). When Adam, the first man, sinned in disobeying God (Romans 5:12) all his descendants inherited the sin in him and the

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human race became sinful. Sin is rebellion (Job 13:23) against God, resulting in disobedience to His commands (Mark 7:20-23) in thought (Matthew 5:28), word (Romans 3:13-14), deed (James 4:17), or omissions (James 4:17) of duty. Sin is, ultimately, failure to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:18) and to “love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and “to love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-40).

We believe in a literal hell and that those who do not receive God’s remedy for their sin and the provision of redemption in Jesus Christ, are eternally lost. We believe the soul of the sinner that has not put on the salvation freely offered by Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:28), will not be annihilated but will be punished by eternal destruction away in isolation, darkness, and torment from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power (1 John 5:1-3,10; Romans 1:18-32; Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 25:30, 46; Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

#### **ARTICLE VI - ATONEMENT**

Atonement is a part of the ‘all-inclusive work’ but not all-inclusive of the work God performs to save sinners. The Atoning work of Jesus Christ is part of the gospel and is a work required for salvation. Atonement is satisfaction or payment for a wrong which was paid for by the life, suffering, and culminating in the death of Christ. Christ’s death is the completion of atonement, the payment for the sinner’s unpayable offense, forgiveness applied to one’s debt (justification) resulting in everlasting life. Jesus’s resurrected life is our life eternal. We believe that the atonement secured by Christ for His own comprises the all-inclusive work of the Godhead in the salvation of sinners. This salvation is wholly by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9) through the mediatorial offices of prophet (Matthew 21:11), priest (Hebrews 7:21-25, 2:17), and king (1 Timothy 1:16-17, John 18:33-39) by the Son of God (Hebrews 1) who by the appointment of the Father (1 John 4:9-10) freely took upon Himself our nature (Philippians 2:7-8), yet without sin (2 Corinthians 5:21), honored the divine law by His personal obedience (1 Peter 2:24, Romans 10:4, Acts 3:22) and by His sacrifice (1 Peter 1:18-21, 2:24) for the sins of His people (Col. 1:21-22), which was proven acceptable to God (Acts 17:30-31, 1 Timothy 6:15-16) by His bodily resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Now He has united in His person tender sympathies with divine perfection and is in every way qualified (Hebrews 2:16-18) to be a sufficient savior (Hebrews 7:21-25, 2:14, 15, 17) to those who trust in Him (Hebrews 4:14-16, 2 Timothy 1:12, Romans 3:21-26, 5:1, John 3:16, Isaiah 53:4-7).

#### **ARTICLE VII - SALVATION**

We believe that God the Father planned the salvation of His people before the world was created (Ephesians 1:3-6), that the Son became incarnate (Galatians 4:4-5) to fulfill that plan (Ephesians. 1:7-12), and that the Holy Spirit indwells (Ephesians 1:13-14) the individual the moment the person believes. By faith in the person and substitutionary work of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26, 5:1; Hebrews 9:21-29) and by God's perfect righteousness being imputed to His people (1 Corinthians

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1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21) they are justified. Though repentance accompanies saving faith, no ritual or work can be added to believing (Acts 20:21, Romans 12:2, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9). The person who trusts Christ for their salvation has been born again (Ephesians 1:13-14) and made a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 1:12-13) by the spirit and is complete in Christ forever (*Romans 8:28-39*, John 5:24, Ephesians 1).

### **ARTICLE VIII - THE CHURCH**

We believe Jesus Christ instituted the Church as a means to bring glory to Himself through Christians gathering together in community to worship God, to build each other up, to live out the Christian life, to enable believers to more effectively reach non-believers with the good news of Jesus Christ, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

We believe the Church, the bride of Christ (John 3:29, Ephesians 5:21-23), was formed at Pentecost (Acts 1 & 2) and is composed of individuals from all races cultures and creeds who are called of God to faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4-5, 2:8-9) and are baptized by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:4-5) into one living body of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18). The Church, His body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), is the abode of God (2 Corinthians 6:16) and; therefore, occupies a relationship with Him (Romans 8) which is distinct from all other systems of religion or worship (Roman 12:1-5, Titus 3:5, Acts 4;12, Gal. 1:8) and will be translated into the presence of God at the end of the age (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15). We believe the Local Church (Hebrews 10:25) is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who have been baptized on a credible profession of faith, who gather for worship, work, and fellowship (1 Timothy. 3:15). We believe a primary task of the local church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19). Each gathered group of believers (Hebrews 10:25) performing in accordance with New Testament directions forms the local church declared to be the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15) through which the wisdom of God is made known (Ephesians 3:10).

### **ARTICLE IX - THE ORDINANCES**

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are New Testament ordinances of the church, and are acts of obedience to the Lord's command though not essential to salvation.

We believe water baptism by immersion is the biblical method of baptism as it symbolic represent the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We believe baptism is a testimony of the believer's identification (Galatians 3:27) with the death (Colossians 2:12), burial (Romans 6:1-7), and resurrection of Christ. Baptism by immersion in water (Acts 8:12, 36-39; 10:47, 48) is to be administered in the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, 20).

The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is partaken together by believers (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 21) of bread and wine (Luke. 22:19-20), represents a spiritual feeding upon Christ's body and blood

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(John 6:35, 48-58), and is looking to the past in thankful remembrance of his substitutionary atonement and looking forward to the future in joyful expectation of the wedding feast to come (Matthew 26:29). The frequency of observing this ordinance is to be determined by each local church (1 Corinthians 11:25-26) and is to be taken by believers who are admonished to examine themselves to assure that they are harboring no unconfessed sin (1 Corinthians.11:27-29)

#### **ARTICLE X - THE GREAT COMMISSION**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ commanded those whom he has saved to make disciples throughout the world (Matthew 28:18, 20; Acts 1:8).

#### **ARTICLE XI - THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

There are many aspects to the second coming of Christ, end times, or last days that Christians will continue to explore until Christ returns. Given the many areas of interpretations, we hold these two beliefs to be self-evident and must be held to, unyieldingly, if we are to be regarded as holding to the Christian faith and the Biblical standards of truth.

We believe the return of Jesus Christ will happen at a time when we do not expect, that it will be a visible and bodily return. His return will occur in a similar manner as His ascension (Matthew 24: 44 Acts 1:10-11 Titus 2:11-14).

We believe in the physical resurrection of all people from every age. There is coming a day of wrath when God's righteous judgement will be revealed and all who do evil will be required to face God's justice (Romans 2:5 Matthew 11:20-24 Revelation 20:11-15 1Corinthians 4:5).

#### **ARTICLE XII - THE ETERNAL STATE**

When Christ returns the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then those who are alive will also be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and all shall be changed into his likeness. In the consummation of all things the redeemed will live with God forever in fullness of perfection giving full glory to God (1 Corinthians 15:51-53, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17, Revelation 1:7, 5:13, 14; 1 John 3:2-3, 1 Peter 5:10).

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