

Article 3: Statement of Faith

The ultimate authority in all matters of faith and practice, belief and behavior is and must always be the Bible alone. Believers are bound by the Scripture and by the whole Scripture. In these Articles of Faith, we have sought to give a clear statement of what the Bible teaches in those areas thought most crucial to our fellowship.

Section A: The Scripture

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God and are the infallible and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. We believe that all Scripture is, in its original manuscripts, the very Word of God, and is therefore without error and utterly reliable with regard to fact and teaching. Since the Scriptures form our only source of authority, there is no need to add to them by apostles and prophets, since they, with the miraculous signs given them, were provided to establish the foundations of the church and seal the revelation of God.

2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; John 10:35; Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:20-21; Hebrews 2:3-4

Section B: God

We believe that there is but one God, the Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections and being infinite in them all. We believe that all people owe to Him the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 115:3; 2 Chronicles 20:6; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:3; Colossians 1:15-17

Section C: The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. We believe that God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

Matthew 28:19; John 1:14, 18; 14:9-11; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:6

Section D: God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He mercifully concerns Himself in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Isaiah 44:6; 46:9; Exodus 3:14; 1 Timothy 6:16; Psalm 147:5; Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Job 36:5; Jeremiah 10:12; Exodus 34:6-7; Acts 17:28; Romans 11:33-36

Section E: Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal visible return to earth. We believe that He is the only Mediator, Prophet, Priest, and King of the Church and Sovereign of the universe.

Matthew 1:23; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; John 1:14; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; 4:15; 7:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 3:16; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 1:2-3; Acts 3:22; Hebrews 5:5-6; 1 Timothy 6:15; Isaiah 9:7; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:22

Section F: The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

John 15:26; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9; John 16:7-13; Titus 3:5; John 3:3-7; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:14-16; John 14:16-17; Galatians 5:22-23

Section G: The Fall of Man

We believe that our first parents, Adam and Eve, by disobedience lost the righteousness in which they were created and became corrupt. We believe that the guilt of Adam's first sin is imputed to all men, who, being his descendents, are born in a sinful state and condition. We believe that from this corrupt nature all transgressions proceed, all men being inclined to evil and opposed to all that is spiritually good in the sight of God and alienated from his Creator.

Genesis 3:1-13; Romans 5:12-21; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; 8:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-3

Section H: Regeneration

We believe that all men, being sinners by nature and by choice, are dead in trespasses and sins, and unless they are born again, they can never enter the kingdom of heaven. We believe that in the new birth (regeneration), the Holy Spirit enlightens the sinner's mind and renews his will and affections so that, believing the gospel and repenting of his sin, he is made a child of God.

John 1:12-13; 3:3; 5:21; 6:63; Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; James 1:18; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 John 4:2; Galatians 5:22-25

Section I Justification

We believe that justification is an act of God's free grace whereby He pardons our sins and accounts us righteous in His sight. We believe that this is based not on anything we have done but only on the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone.

Romans 3:20-26; 4:5; 5:1; 8:33; Philippians 3:9; Luke 18:13-14; Acts 13:39; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 3:24; Romans 8:33 J

Section J: Sanctification

We believe that those who are united to Jesus Christ are by regeneration renewed in their whole nature after the image of God and are set apart by God to share His holiness; but, because of the remaining effects of the former corrupt nature, there is a progressive aspect to sanctification, whereby the Holy Spirit, indwelling the believer, promotes growth in grace and true holiness of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Peter 1:2; Galatians 5:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Philippians 2:12-13; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26

Section K: Perseverance

We believe that those whom God has justified and regenerated by His Spirit will never totally or finally fall away from the state of grace but are eternally secure. The believer is kept by the power of God and will persevere to the end. Yet, the security of the believer's salvation does not rest on his ability to persevere, but on the promise of God to preserve him.

Romans 8:28-39; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; John 10:27-29; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Hebrews 10:39; 13:5; Jude 24, 25; 1 John 2:19; 4:4; 5Section L

Section L: The Church

We believe in the universal Church, a living and spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and associated for worship, fellowship, and service. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. We believe that the local church is to depend primarily upon the tithes and offerings of those who attend to sustain it financially.

Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:23, 27, 32; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23; Acts 2:41-42, 46-47; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Sections M: Christian Conduct

We believe that Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society, and as such, should live for the glory of God and the good of their fellow man. We believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions, that their conduct should be blameless before the world, that they should seek to preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions, and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 4:12-16; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Philippians 4:5-7; James 2:1-4; 1 John 3:16-17; Philippians 4:8-9

Section N: Spiritual Gifts

We believe that all believers have received the Holy Spirit and have been placed into the Body of Christ and that all believers have been given, at the sovereign discretion of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts so that they might minister for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:1-13; Romans 6:1-10; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:6-10; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 13:8-12; Hebrews 13:7; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Ephesians 4:7-13; Hebrews 2:3-4; Romans 12:3-10; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 John 4:1; Joel 2:28-32

Section O: Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, who is real, a created being, the open and declared enemy of God and man and that he is able to work through his angels, individual men, and the institutions of men. We believe that Satan is a defeated foe, and will ultimately be consigned, with his angels, to eternal damnation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Job 1:6-7; Matthew 4:1-11; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:14-18; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 12:26; Ephesians 2:2-3; 6:12; Colossians 2:14-15; Revelation 20:7-10; Matthew 25:41n P

Section P: The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, those being Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death and remembrance of His return. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38, 41; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 22:19-20 Q

Section Q: Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has a direct relationship with God and is ultimately responsible to God alone in all matters of faith. We believe that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that, therefore, church and state must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage from the other.

1 Peter 2:5; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:16; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Section R: Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the final judgment, the eternal blessedness of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Matthew 24:27, 30; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7; 1 Corinthians 15:35-54; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Acts 17:31; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 14:10, 12; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:1-15

Section S: Evangelism and Missions

We believe that it is the duty of every church and every Christian to extend the gospel to all men everywhere. As faith comes by hearing the Word of God, we are to seek by all methods sanctioned in the Word of God to persuade men to seek Jesus Christ and His salvation.

Matthew 28:18-19; Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 9:22