



## Table of Contents

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1. Statement of Faith Preface
  - 1.1 About God
  - 1.2 About Jesus Christ
  - 1.3 About the Holy Spirit
  - 1.4 About the Bible
  - 1.5 About Humans and Salvation

### 1. Statement of Faith Preface

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The Bible, God's word to us, is central to our relationship with God and each other. While there are some areas where sincere Christians agree to disagree (Romans 14:1-15:7; 2 Timothy 2:23-24; Titus 3:9), the Bible makes clear that certain truths are essential convictions of the Christian faith. We adopted our own statement of faith based on the convictions we consider.

#### 1.1 About God

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God is the loving Creator of all that exists, both seen and unseen. God is eternal and completely good, knowing all things, having all power and majesty. God exists as the Trinity, in three distinct persons, yet one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God passionately desires a relationship with us and towards this end continually invites us into a relationship of faith, friendship, learning, and service.

(Genesis 1:1; John 14:6-9; 15-17; 16:7-15; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:9-10)

#### 1.2 About Jesus Christ

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God expressed himself in human form through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus Christ is fully man and fully God. He is the perfect reflection of God's character and glory. Born of the Virgin Mary, he lived an exemplary, sinless life and offered himself as the only perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. All who believe in him are made righteous on the basis of his death and resurrection.

He rose physically from the dead, ascended to heaven and will return again, to earth to reign forever with those who are his.

(Colossians 1:13-23; 2:8-14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Matthew 22:36-40; 1:18-25; John 1:1; 8:40,58; 11:33; 14:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-8; Acts 1:9-11; 10:42-43; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 5:8-10)

### 1.3 About the Holy Spirit

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The Holy Spirit, sent from God to live inside all who believe in Jesus Christ, teaches, comforts, and empowers us, giving each follower diverse gifts, fostering unity, interdependence, productivity, Christ-like character, love among Christians and charity towards those in our communities.

The believer receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The empowering of the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, is available for every Christian. The Holy Spirit has been given to believers in Jesus, both to communicate God's life to his people and to empower his people with the gifts of the Spirit. As such, supernatural gifts of the Spirit, such as healing and prophecy (to name just two), continue to this day and are a means by which God builds up the Church and brings joy and healing to the world.

(Acts 1:8; 2:4; Romans 5:5; 8; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 3:16; 4:3-4; 5:18; John 14:26; 16:7-14, Heb. 2:4)

### 1.4 About the Bible

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We believe that the Bible is the authoritative word of God and that God speaks to us in the Bible. It is our privilege to seek to understand God's message and we are blessed by applying it responsibly to our lives. We believe the Bible consists of both the Old and New Testaments, and that both testaments were inspired by God. Being inspired by God, we believe the Bible is without error in all that it affirms.

We believe that God's unchangeable revelation of Jesus and his salvation ought to be presented in relevant and contemporary ways, free of religious jargon and understandable to the people of our community.

(Matthew 5:17-19; 2 Timothy 3:16; 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2; Peter 1:16-21; 2 Peter 3:14-18; Joshua 1:7-8; Acts 17:11; Psalms 19:7-11; 119:9-16,105)

## 1.5 About Humans and Salvation

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All people are created in the image of God at conception, to live in a vital, intimate relationship with God and are by their very nature deserving of the utmost dignity and respect. Through our sin (failing to live by God's moral standards), we break our intended Relationship with God and experience the destructive consequences of that broken relationship, spiritually and socially, in this life and beyond. However, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from those consequences and to restore our broken relationships with God and others, through Christ's death on the cross, a perfect act of redemption for each of us.

Salvation comes to people through faith in Jesus Christ alone. By God's grace, through faith, we receive the free gift of forgiveness and a renewed and restored relationship with God. Marriage is authored by God and in its deepest sense points to the mystery of the relationship between Jesus and his people; the focus of salvation is always on the loving relationship between God and his people. After creating humans as male and female, God established marriage to be a close and loving covenant between one man and one woman and sexual intimacy is only to be expressed within this sacred union.

(I Peter 2:24; 3:7, 18; Romans 3:9-28, 8:26; 6:23; 10:9-10; John 3:16; 5:24; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-8; James 2:14-26, Gen. 1:27, 2:23-24, Prov. 31:10-12, Mk. 10:6-9, Lk 1:39-43)

*I agree with this Statement of Faith and endeavor to live my life in keeping with the Bible in its' entirety with God's help.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_