

Statement OF FAITH

THE SCRIPTURE:

We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testament, to be the inspired, authoritative Word of God and that it is infallible, inerrant, and eternally reliable in all matters of Christian faith and practice.

THE TRINITY:

We believe it is the testimony of both the Old and New Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both One and Triune. The biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God and that He is eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

A God the Father.

God the Father is the creator and sustainer of all things. He created the universe in love. He created man in His own image for fellowship and called man back to Himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man.

B The Son.

Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. For man's redemption, He left heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary; henceforth, He is forever one Christ with two natures—God and man—in one person.

C The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life, who was active in the Old Testament and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness, cleanses man from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced by the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, ascension to the right hand of God the Father, His soon return to gather His saints and His physical, visible return to earth to reign in power and glory.

THE FALL OF MAN:

We believe man was created good and upright in the image of God to have fellowship with Him, but became alienated from that relationship through an act of sin. As a result, man is totally incapable of coming back into a right relationship with God by his own effort. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

SALVATION:

The Bible declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death of His Son, Jesus Christ and is appropriated by faith. Salvation is brought about by personal repentance, belief in the Lord Jesus, and personal acceptance of Him into one's life as Lord and Savior. The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

Salvation is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for mankind. It is predestined only in the sense that God, through His omniscience, foreknew those who would choose Him. It is secure in the eternal, unchanging commitment of God who does not lie and is forever the same. Salvation should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior.

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH:

A Baptism in Water

The scripture teaches that all that repent and believe in Christ are to be baptized. Baptism is a public profession of faith in Christ and identification with the body of Christ. We perform water baptism by immersion, as it is spiritually symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is a declaration to all that we have died to sin and have been raised with Christ to walk in newness of life.

B Communion

The Lord's Supper consists of two elements: the bread and cup. These elements are symbolic of the body and blood of Christ and when we receive these elements, we are remembering Christ's death and payment for our sin. Communion is a memorial of Christ's sufferings on the cross, a celebration of our salvation and a prophecy of His second coming.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as: an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, a deepened reverence for God, an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost.

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit may be witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance. The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use.

SANCTIFICATION:

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and ongoing work in the life of the believer. Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and a dedication unto God. This work is realized in the life of the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

THE CHURCH:

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. We believe the local church is the hope of the world and the true purpose of the church is to glorify God, evangelize the lost and equip God's people for ministry.

THE BLESSED HOPE:

We believe in the resurrection of those who have died in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive at the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.

THE LAST THINGS:

We believe in the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. We believe in the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth for one thousand years and the establishment of universal peace. We believe in the final judgment which will determine the separate, eternal destiny of both saints and the unbelievers. We believe in the final state of the New Heavens and the New Earth.