



## **What We Believe (a brief doctrinal statement)**

**Section 1. The Holy Scriptures.** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God: complete, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts; written by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (Amos 3:7; Romans 1:2-3; II Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:19-21)

**Section 2. The Trinity.** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons--- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Together they constitute the Godhead and are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 6:3; 11:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1; 10:30; 14:16-17)

**Section 3. God the Father.** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. Further, we believe that He concerns Himself mercifully 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. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:18-31; John 4:24; 17:1-26; Ephesians 3:14-19; 4:24)

**Section 4. God the Son.** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, eternally coexistent with the Father and equal in every divine distinction. Without any essential change in His divine Person, He became man in the "fullness of time" by the miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true Man, one Person with two natures. This Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Christ, has been manifested by His miraculous and super-natural birth, by His holy and supernatural life on earth, by His suffering, death according to the Scriptures, bodily resurrection, and bodily ascension into heaven where He now intercedes for His own. (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53:5-6; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:26-38; 24:5-8 &

36-43; John 1:14; Acts 1:9-11; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-13; 4:14-15; 9:24; I John 2:1)

**Section 5. God the Holy Spirit.** We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Triune God, equal in every divine perfection with the Father and the Son. He was active in the creation. We believe that He came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, to convict and regenerate sinners who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and the work of Calvary; to in-dwell, baptize, seal, empower, guide, teach, and sanctify all who become children of God through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; John 3:5; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-11; Romans 8:14-16; I Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18; I Peter 1:2)

**Section 6. Man.**

**a. Creation:**

We believe that man was the direct creation of God; that man is body, soul and spirit; that God created man in His likeness and divine image for fellowship and communion with Himself; that man was created without sin. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7)

**b. The Fall:**

We believe that Adam, the first man, disobeyed God's explicit command and thereby fell into sin through transgression; that Adam thus became a sinful creature and the forefather of a fallen race who are universally sinful in both nature and practice; that man, therefore, is totally depraved in the sense that his whole being is affected and cursed by sin so that he cannot in this state please God. He is unrighteous and lost. He is unrighteous in an absolute sense and can only accomplish relative good. He is guilty and condemned in his natural state and completely lost apart from God's intervention. (Genesis 3:1-24; 5:3; Romans 3:23; 3:10-15; 5:6-12; Ephesians 2:3)

**c. Redemption:**

We believe that:

1. Man's redemption is accomplished only through the complete, sufficient, vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ, Who shed His blood for our sin, the Just for the unjust. (Romans 3:21-27; I Peter 2:24)
2. The Holy Spirit convicts and regenerates man so that there is an immediate turning in faith to Christ Jesus for pardon and redemption. Salvation is the free gift of God to man, received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 5:24; 6:63; Ephesians 2:8-9)

3. Man, justified by faith in Christ Jesus, is saved and has a new position of righteous and holy standing before God in which he is called a son of God by virtue of his having become a new creation in Christ Jesus through spiritual regeneration. (John 1:12; Romans 5:2; 8:14; 10:10; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 3:1-2)

4. Redeemed man, thus placed before God in Christ, is to walk in newness of life through the power and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (John 15:1-16; Romans 6:1-18; Ephesians 4:27; 5:2)

5. At death, the spirit and soul of those who have trusted Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory. (Luke 6:19-26; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Colossians 1:5)

**Section 7. Salvation.** We believe that the salvation of sinners is solely initiated and only by the grace shown through the work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus Christ, by the will of the Father, took upon Himself the nature of man, yet without sin. He fulfilled the law by and through His obedience. He fully satisfied the demands of a holy, righteous and just God by the shedding of His blood in His death. He paid the penalty for the sins of man by His death. Having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven (Luke 13:3-5; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Acts 15:11; Philippians 2:7-8; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 John 4:10; Hebrews 2:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24)

**Section 8. The Church.** We believe in the universal church of believers, a living 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 on a credible profession of faith, and united together for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of equipping and discipling believers for giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. (Matthew 16:16-18; Romans 12:5; II Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 1:18; I Peter 1:13-19; 2:9)

**Section 9. Christian Character.** We believe that a Christian should live in a manner that glorifies and gives credit to Christ and pleases the Father; that he should strive to become blameless in all his conduct before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his life and possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and

others the full stature of maturity in Christ. Further, we believe that the Scriptures are the sole guide for what this conduct should be and therefore strive to live the principles taught therein. (Romans 4:6; I Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 4; I Peter 1:13-19; II Timothy 3:16-17)

**Section 10. Future Events.** We believe in the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal blessings of the righteous, and the eternal damnation and separation from God of the unbeliever as stated in the Holy Scriptures. (Matthew 24-26; Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15; I Thessalonians 4:13-16; Revelation 20, 21)