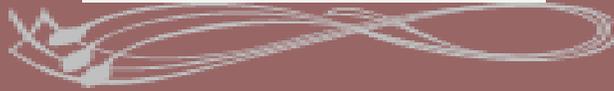


# Statement of Faith



## **A. The Authority of Scripture**

We believe that Scripture, comprised of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God. We also believe that Scripture was given to humanity through the instrument of divinely chosen human agents. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible and inerrant in their original manuscripts. We believed that, since it is inspired, Scripture is the final authority on all matters of faith, practice, and life for the Christian (*2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; Matt 5:18*).

## **B. God**

There is only one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Who are co-equal in their essential nature, attributes, and perfection; and each of Whom is to be honored and worshiped as God (*Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 18:30-31, 147:5; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29; Luke 3:22; John 4:24, 5:23, 10:30, 14:9; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3*).

## **C. The Person of Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal second person of the Godhead who became incarnate through a miraculous conception and a correspondingly miraculous virgin birth. Christ is therefore both true God and true man. We believe that Christ lived a perfect, sinless life, was crucified on a Roman cross to atone for sin, and was resurrected from the dead on the third day showing his triumph over death and the penalties of sin. Christ subsequently ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father where He continually makes intercession for His people as mediator between God and man. Christ will return to earth again, bodily and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plans of God (*Luke 1:30–35; John 1:18; 3:16; Heb. 1:3; 4:14-15; Eph 1:22-23*).

## **D. Humanity**

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God and was meant to enjoy a life in relationship with God. Through humanity's disobedience this relationship was lost thereby separating men and women from their creator. Therefore humanity stands condemned in God's court of law.

Humanity is lost because of their rejection of God's natural revelation. As a result everybody needs a Savior (*Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 18-24, 3:1-24, 9:6; Romans 1:19-20; 3:10-19, 23; John 3:36*).

### **E. The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-head with a distinct role in the earth and the life of every believer. The Holy Spirit baptizes all believers and the purpose of such baptism is to bring a person into the body of Christ. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit seals believers as God's initial investment in the life of the believer which guarantees the fulfillment of His promise. The Spirit also indwells all believers. Believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit which enables him/her to live in obedience to God and bear fruit. The filling may not happen at the time of Salvation and is the only act of the Spirit that can occur repetitively (*Matt. 3:11; Jn. 14:17; Acts 1:5; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 12:13; Gal. 5:16-24; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18*).

### **F. Salvation**

Since humanity alienated their self from God, God alone can restore fellowship with humanity. Consequently we believe that salvation is entirely a work of God done on man's behalf, resulting from God's grace, and is not the result in whole or in part of any human effort or work. We also believe that this salvation must be individually appropriated by an individual to his/her own life through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation cannot be lost after one is saved (*Is. 64:6; Jn 3:7-18; 6:39; Rom. 10:9-13; Eph. 2:8-9; Ti. 3:5*).

### **G. Ordinances**

We believe that there are two symbolic practices that Jesus instituted and commanded to be carried out until His return: baptism and communion. Water baptism is a symbolic gesture that re-enacts the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and demonstrates to the believer that he/she has died with Christ to sin, was buried with him, and now has been raised with him in a new life. Water baptism is not necessary for salvation nor is communion. The communion was to serve as a memorial that called to mind the ultimate act of sacrifice Jesus would perform on the cross (*Matt. 28:18-20; Lk. 22:19; Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 11:23-25; Eph. 4:5*).