

## Statement of Faith.

### *The Word of God*

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, the infallible and perfect Word of God, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation, and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak. (Duet 4:2; Psalm 119:160; Matt. 5:18; John 10:35; 1 Cor. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Rev 22:18-22).

### *The Trinity*

We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these are equal in every divine perfection and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Gen. 1:26; Deut 6:4; Isa 48: 16; Matt 28: 19; John 1:1,2; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Cor 13:14).

### *God the Father*

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, justice, righteousness, and love. He is transcendent, and not of the same essence as His creation. We believe 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. (Matt 6:26; John 4:24; John 17:13; 1 Tim 6:15-16; James 1:17).

### *Jesus Christ*

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and has precisely the same nature and attributes as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His death, burial, and bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, and His priestly intercession and mediation on behalf of His people. He is seated at the right hand of God and will return soon to judge the living and the dead and establish His kingdom, a kingdom that will endure forever. (Matt. 1:18-25; Matt 26:38; John 1:14; John 8:40; John 8:42; John 11:33; Heb 2:14, Heb 2:15; I Tim 2:5).

### *Holy Spirit*

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality, and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation of the Saints. He reveals the Son and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost and empowering the believer for godly living and service. (Psalm 139:7; Isa 40:13,14; John 3:5-7; John 14:16,17; John 16:8; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 2:10-11; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 1:13; Titus 3:5).

### *Man*

We believe God created man, the first male and female, in His image and that He gave them authority over all the earth. Adam and Eve were joined in marriage from the start to reflect the future union of Christ and the Church. Man and woman, joined in marriage, reflect the image of God in a unique manner. Marriage between man and man or woman and woman is contrary to God's creation of the institution of marriage. In the beginning, man sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death, but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin effect the entire human race. All human beings are born with a sinful nature resulting in acts of sin in word, thought, and deed. And while they are able to do some good works in the eyes of other humans, yet as to their spiritual standing before God, all are lost apart from the atoning work of Christ. Although man is a sinner, being created in the image of God means he is more valued than all other life forms on earth. (Gen 1:26-27; Gen 2:17; Gen 3:6; Gen 9; Mark 7:20-23; John 2:24-25; Romans 5:12-19; Eph 2:1-3; Eph 4:18).

### *Satan*

We believe in the existence of Satan, a created being, who accuses the brethren and opposes God. He is still working in the world to destroy the souls of men; and he, all his angels, and all humans who do not receive Christ as their Savior, will eternally perish in the lake of fire. (Matt 25:41; Rev 12:9; Rev 19:20; Rev 20:10, 14, 15).

### *Resurrection*

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. The wicked are resurrected for eternal judgment in the lake of fire. (Dan 12:2; Matt 25:46; John 5:28,29; I Cor 15:52; 1 Thes 4:16; Rev 20:4-6; Rev 20:12-15; Rev 21:1-8).

### *Salvation*

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; "and there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Christ's shed blood on the cross, and is received by man through faith, apart from any human merit, work or ritual. We further believe that salvation results in repentance from sin and obedience to Christ's commands to love God and love your neighbor. (John I: 12; Acts 4: 12; Romans 3:28; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 2:11; Titus 3:5; I John 1:17).

### *The Church*

We believe that the Church in its invisible form is universal, the true body of Christ. The Holy Church is the one institution specifically ordained of God to function in the furthering of the Kingdom until Christ comes again. It consists of all those regenerated by the Spirit of God, in spiritual union and communion both with Christ, the head of the Body, and with fellow-believers. Each member of the Church is gifted by God to build up the collective body and to be an ambassador of Christ. The Church is Christ's Bride and will be presented by Him holy and spotless before His Father in Heaven. The Church will not be conquered by even hell itself. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Matt 16:18; Matt 28:19; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:15-16; Eph 4:4-6; I Cor 12:13; I Cor 15:51-53; Col 1:18; I Thes 4:13-17; Titus 2:13).

### *Christian Life*

God commands the believer to be Spirit-filled; the Holy Spirit leads the believer in prayer, understanding of Scriptures, worship, fellowship, service, and enables the believer to have victory over temptation and sin. We believe that all true believers are kept by God, have the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and have the intercession of Christ. We do not believe perfection is attainable in this life; however all believers are, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, to make progressive steps of growth toward spiritual maturity and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. (Isa 45:22; Isa 49:6; Matt 28:18-20; John 10:28-30; John 14:16-17; John 17:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:12-15; Rom 5:12-19; Rom 6:1-11; Rom 8:1-11; Rom 8:38-39; Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:1-31; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Gal 6:1-2; Eph 2:1-3; Eph 2:10; Eph 4:11-16; Eph 4:30; Phil 2:12-13; Phil 3:12-16; Col 1:28; 1 Tim 3:11; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:1).