



# Statement of Faith

## **I. The Bible**

The Bible is God's message to us, His creation. It is His revelation of Himself to all mankind. Written by authors directly inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is absolute truth, God-breathed, and without error. All Scripture is trustworthy, useful for teaching, and is the standard by which all morals, principles, and conduct are measured. In the Bible, we find God's message of love and His plan for the world.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

## **II. God**

There is one true God—the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is omniscient, omnipresent, immutable, and personal. He is without beginning and without end, living outside of space and time—He is infinite. This eternal God reveals Himself to us in three distinct personalities—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—yet exists as One in nature, essence, and being.

### **A. God the Father**

God the Father, Ruler of the Universe and all that exists, enacts His plan of love, grace, redemption, and restoration throughout human history. Perfect in knowledge, love, and wisdom, He is the true Father of all who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

## **B. God the Son**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; He has always existed as God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and became a human being. Being fully God and fully man, Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, living completely without sin. His perfection satisfying the law, He gave Himself up to death on the cross, as the perfect sacrifice to pay the price the sins of all mankind. He was raised from the dead by the power of God and appeared to His followers in His glorified body. He ascended into heaven and is now at the right hand of God where He makes intercession for His people. He lives within His followers as their Lord and Savior.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

## **C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the fully divine Spirit of God, the very One who inspired those who wrote the words of the Bible. He now enables people to understand His Word and guides us into all truth. The Holy Spirit points to and uplifts Jesus Christ . He convicts people of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He comforts believers, helps them grow in Christian character, and gives spiritual gifts through which believers serve the church.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

## **III. Mankind**

### **A. Identity**

Mankind is God's special creation—created in His very image. The first two people walked in close personal relationship with God. God created all mankind in His image and Christ died for all people, so we affirm that every

single person, regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality, is worthy of dignity, respect, and love. Every person ever created is equal in value.

*Genesis 1:26–28; Acts 10:34, 35; Romans 2:11; Colossian 3:10, 11; Galatians 3:26–29*

### **B. Purpose**

Our purpose, as God's special creation, is to love, worship, and fear God with our whole being.

### **C. Marriage**

God created humans in His image; He created male and female for the primary purpose of populating the earth through sexual intimacy. God's good and intentional design for sexual intimacy is between male and female in the context of marriage (the union of one man and one woman who enter into a covenant between themselves and God). This truth does not align with any movement or theology that denies or abandons God's good and intentional design.

*Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 2:15–25; Matthew 19:3–9*

### **D. Gender**

There are only two genders in God's design—male and female. Each gender is of equal value and worth. Gender is not to be altered, as God is perfect and makes no mistakes. Any theology or movement that would seek to correct an implied mistake by God or would place human opinion over God's Word is not aligned with this Biblical truth. Any theology or movement that promotes active lifestyles of homosexuality or transgenderism is not aligned with this Biblical truth.

We believe true identity is found in Christ and in becoming who the Creator designed each of us to be. True identity is not found in our sexual urges, attractions, or other temptations. When we find our identity in Christ, we view every other area of our lives, including sexuality, through the lens of His Word and truth. In His great love, He seeks to help any person struggling with these issues to find wholeness through their relationship with Him. We seek to follow Him in sharing His truth and His love.

*Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 2:15–25; Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 18:22–24; 1 Kings 15:12; Psalm 139:13–16; Mark 10:6–12; John 8:7–11; Romans 1:18–32; 1 Corinthians 6:9–20; 1 Corinthians 7:1–16; 1 Timothy 1:8–11; Hebrews 13:1–5; Jude 1:5–8*

## **IV. Sin**

The first two people God created were innocent of sin and had been given free will. Being tempted by Satan, they chose to disobey God causing that close, personal relationship with God to be broken. Sin and death entered the world, and every person born since that time has been born with a sin nature. Only the grace of God, through the blood of Christ, can reconnect people to God in close, personal relationship.

*Genesis 1:26–30; 2:5,7,18–22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3–6; 32:1–5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26–31; Romans 1:19–32; 3:10–18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14–25; 8:14–18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21–31; 15:19,21–22; Ephesians 2:1–22; Colossians 1:21–22; 3:9–11*

## **V. Salvation**

Through Jesus' sacrifice, salvation is available to mankind—redemption from our sins and restoration of close relationship with God. Salvation is available to all who repent of their sins, accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and follow Him with their lives. The eternal life with God made available through salvation is not only about living forever in heaven after physical death. Eternal life with and through Christ begins at the moment of salvation.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14–17; 6:2–8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21–26; 27:22–28:6; Luke 1:68–69; 2:28–32; John 1:11–14,29; 3:3–21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28–29; 15:1–16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30–31; 17:30–31; 20:32; Romans 1:16–18; 2:4; 3:23–25; 4:3ff.; 5:8–10; 6:1–23; 8:1–18,29–39; 10:9–10,13; 13:11–14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19–20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22–25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8–22; 4:11–16; Philippians 2:12–13; Colossians 1:9–22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11–14; Hebrews 2:1–3; 5:8–9; 9:24–28; 11:1–12:8,14; James 2:14–26; 1 Peter 1:2–23; 1 John 1:6–2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1–22:5*