

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the **BIBLE** to be God-breathed (2 Tim.3:16), which imbues it with God's life (Heb.4:12). We believe it to be free from error (inerrant) and also incapable of causing error when correctly interpreted and applied (infallible). It is complete in every respect. It is to be believed fully, read daily, and practiced continuously.

We believe in one **GOD** Who is immeasurably perfect, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, Who everlastingly abides in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Who are one substance and equal in power and glory.

We believe that **JESUS CHRIST** is the mirror image of the invisible God, which means that He Himself is fully God. He also took our human nature, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Thus He is very God and very Man. He died on the cross as the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, bodily rose up from the grave, and ascended into heaven, where as High Priest at the right hand of God the Father, He continually makes intercession for us. Moreover, "If we confess our sins [to our Savior and Intercessor] He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We believe that the **HOLY SPIRIT** was sent into the world to convict mankind of sin. He indwells all believers at their new birth and gives them eternal life. His ongoing mission is to instruct, guide, and empower all God's people for holy living and effective service. He accomplishes this as the believer walks daily with Him, yielding to His leadership. Further, we believe that without His enlightenment, power, and guidance all endeavors are in vain.

We believe that **MAN** did not spring from the ground by some evolutionary process but was directly created in God's Own image—a unique and special person different and distinct from animals—and that through disobedience he fell into sin and is lost.

We believe that God has provided **SALVATION** for all who repent of their sin and by faith receive Jesus Christ as their crucified and risen Lord. This new birth is brought about solely by man's repentance and faith, which are initiated and finalized by the Holy Spirit, God's Word, and God's grace. The Scriptures truly say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31).

We believe in the power and necessity of **PRAYER**. The Larger Catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith answers the question, "How are we to pray?": "We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon Him, with humble submission to His will." We believe that to try to do God's work without God's power is foolish and worthless, and that the only way to have God's power is through prayer.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head and Lord of the **CHURCH**, which is composed of all races of mankind who through repentance and faith in the crucified and risen Lord have been given eternal life through the Holy Spirit and God's Word. We believe that the Church is one body manifested in local bodies throughout the world. It is as a Church that baptized believers gather to worship, to adore and praise God, to pray, and to take the Lord's Supper. Further, it is in the Church that believers are to be strengthened spiritually by instruction from the Bible, by enlightenment from the Spirit, by edification from God-called pastors and teachers, and in this manner built up in the faith. Lastly, the Church is to train God's people: in doctrine, in holy living at home and abroad, and in Spirit-filled service—especially teaching, preaching, and personal evangelism.

We believe in the **BODILY RESURRECTION** of believers and unbelievers: of believers to eternal bliss and joy, of unbelievers to a judgment of eternal conscious torment.

We believe in the personal and visible **SECOND COMING** of the Lord Jesus Christ Who will judge believers—some will receive rewards for their good and faithful conduct and service; others although eternally saved will suffer real loss because of unfaithfulness.

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