

## Doctrinal Statement

### Section 1. The Word of God.

We believe that the bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscript, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

### Section 2. The Trinity.

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (II John 5:7).

### Section 3. God, the Father.

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and life. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, and that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 4:24; John 3:16, 17; John 17:24).

### Section 4. Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into Heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and His personal, pre-millennial and imminent return for His church. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; John 8:58; I Corinthians 15:3-6; I John 1:7; II Corinthians 5:21; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 7:25; I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

### Section 5. The Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, a person who came forth from the Father and Son to convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit baptizes and indwells every believer in Christ (I Corinthians 12:13) and that He is their abiding helper, guide, teacher, seal and interpreter of the Word. (John 16:8-11; 13-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13, 14).

Section 6.           Man.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12).

Section 7.           Regeneration.

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God eternally. This acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior is a definite act of the will and is not the result of works, baptism, or church membership. (II Thessalonians 2:7-12; Acts 20:21).

Section 8.           The Church.

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a local church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these local churches are committed, for perpetual observance the ordinances of baptism and our Lord's Supper; and that God has laid upon these churches the task of persuading a lost world to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and to enthrone Him as Lord and Master. We believe that all human betterment and social improvement are the inevitable products of such a Gospel. (Ephesians 5:22-32; Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:38-41).

Section 9.           Christian Conduct.

We believe in the need of a holy walk and conversation on the part of every member and in his separation from worldly and questionable habits and amusements, that he may live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellowmen; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. We believe that only a pure church membership can promote a Christ-honoring program and, therefore, desire that all leaders and officers of this Church shall be exemplary in the very minutest details of their lives. (Colossians 3:17; Philippians 2:14-16; II Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16).

Section 10.          The Ordinances.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church - baptism and the Lord's Supper - to be observed and administered until His return.

Section 10. The Ordinances (continued)

- a. Baptism. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water: ". . . in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).
- b. The Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial service setting forth, in a sacred and symbolical manner, the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. The emblems used are not literally the body and blood of Christ, nor do they contain His flesh and blood, but are simply symbols. Participation is for all believers who, after self-examination in the light of the Word, combined with confession (I John 1:9), seek to obey the Lord in this observance. (I Corinthians 11:23-30).

Section 11. Religious Liberty.

We believe that every human being has direct relations to God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority; that, therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duty free from the dictation or patronage of the other.

Section 12. Church Cooperation.

We believe that the local church can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with other churches of like faith and order. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the church. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

Section 13. Satan.

We believe in the distinct personality of the fallen angel Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-17). We believe that Satan and all unbelievers of all ages will have their final destiny in the lake of fire, that is Hell, for eternity. (Revelation 20:10-15).

Section 14. The Last Things.

We believe in the personal, pre-millennial and imminent return of Jesus Christ to rapture the church. (I Thessalonians 4:16; II Thessalonians 2:7-12; I Corinthians 15:50-58). We believe in the second advent of Christ, at which time He will establish His kingdom and reign in power and glory. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the final judgment; the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the endless suffering of the lost. (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:11-19).

Section 15.            Sexual Immorality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; I Cor. 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

Section 16.            Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)