

Statement of Faith

Introduction:

This document sets out our statement of faith. Its purpose is to explain and clarify the foundations of our convictions. It contains brief summaries of biblical truths, with the entire Bible serving as the foundation of the Christian faith.

Our statement of faith does not claim to be complete or infallible. It is therefore not itself an object of faith or a binding law of belief. Rather, it serves as instruction within the church and as a testimony of faith to the outside world.

1 THE BIBLE

The Bible, with its 66 books, is God's written revelation to mankind. It is fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and, in its original manuscripts, absolutely infallible and without error. It is the binding authority, foundation, and standard in all matters of faith, doctrine, service, and personal conduct. The Word of God is sufficient for everything necessary for salvation, saving faith, and obedience in faith. God's Word endures forever, is universally valid, and may not be altered by anyone.

DEUT. 4:2; MATT. 5:17–18; 2 TIM. 3:16–17; HEB. 1:1; HEB. 4:12; 1 PET. 1:23–25; 2 PET. 1:19–21; REV. 22:18–19

2 THE TRIUNE GOD

There is only one living and true God, who exists from eternity in absolute independence, without beginning and without end. God reveals Himself as the Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is the Creator, Sustainer, Savior, and Judge of this world. He is almighty, omnipresent, and omniscient, perfect in all His attributes. God is absolutely holy and just, love and truth personified, and He does not change. In great grace, mercy, and care, He turns toward mankind.

GEN. 1:1; DEUT. 6:4; ISA. 45:5–7; MATT. 5:48; MATT. 28:19; JOHN 1:1,18; ROM. 1:20; ROM. 11:36; 2 COR. 13:13; EPH. 3:9B; 1 TIM. 2:5; HEB. 13:8; JAS. 1:17; 1 JOHN 4:12; REV. 4:3–11; REV. 20:11

2.1 GOD—THE FATHER

God the Father reveals Himself as the Creator of all things, visible and invisible. Everything originates from Him. He is the Father of lights and Father of all families. God is Spirit. Man cannot see God with his eyes and must not make images of Him. God the Father is hidden, yet He reveals Himself through creation, His Word (the Bible), and Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. He desires that none be lost, but that all should come to repentance. Therefore, He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world—not to condemn it, but to save it through Him. God is a loving Father to all who receive Jesus Christ by faith and love Him. He cares for them, shows mercy, disciplines them, forgives their sins, blesses them, and will honor them as they serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

GEN. 1:1; MATT. 6:18; MARK 11:25; JOHN 1:12; JOHN 3:16–17; JOHN 4:24; JOHN 12:26; JOHN 14:8–9,21; ACTS 17:24–29; ROM. 1:20; ROM. 8:32; ROM. 11:34–36; 1 COR. 8:6; EPH. 3:9B,14–15; COL. 1:13–14; HEB. 12:6–7; JAS. 1:17; REV. 4:11

2.2 GOD – THE SON (JESUS CHRIST)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the incarnate Word of God, and the image of the invisible God. He came from God to mankind, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as true man. As both true God and true man, He lived a sinless life on earth. Through His substitutionary, eternally valid sacrifice on the cross, He obtained salvation for mankind. After His death He was buried, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God, interceding for believers before the Father. According to His promise, He will come again.

MATT. 1:18–23; LUKE 24:26–43; JOHN 1:1–3; JOHN 10:30; ACTS 1:9–11; ROM. 8:24; 2 COR. 5:21; COL. 1:15–17; 1 TIM. 2:5–6; HEB. 4:15; HEB. 7:25; 1 JOHN 2:1; 1 JOHN 5:20

2.3 GOD – THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is, alongside the Father and the Son, the third divine Person and true God. At the same time, He is the Spirit of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and brings about true faith and repentance. He is the Comforter sent by God, who leads into all truth and enables fellowship with God. In those who believe in Jesus Christ, He brings about new birth, gives new life from God, dwells within them, and gives assurance of salvation. The Holy Spirit grants various gifts, ministries, workings, and power for the edification of believers and for service in the world. A life led by the Spirit results in character transformation and the visible fruit of the Spirit. Although the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, the Bible provides no basis for worshipping Him or addressing prayers directly to Him.

JOHN 3:5; JOHN 16:7–11; ROM. 8:9,16; 1 COR. 12:8–10; 2 COR. 3:17–18; GAL. 5:22; EPH. 1:13–14

3 CREATION

The Triune God created the world in six days out of nothing by His spoken word, to glorify Himself. The first six chapters of the Bible report historical facts.

GEN. 1:1; PS. 33:6; JER. 32:17; JOHN 1:1–3; EPH. 3:9B; COL. 1:16

4 THE FALLEN HUMAN BEING

Man was created by God in His image and for His glory, and was loved by Him. Since the Fall, mankind is spiritually dead, separated from God, and on the path to eternal destruction. Every person is born a lost sinner and is evil by nature. From this state, man cannot save himself through religion, philosophy, or personal effort. He needs to be born anew from God.

GEN. 1:26–27; GEN. 2:17; GEN. 3:1–24; GEN. 8:21; JOHN 3:16; ROM. 3:22–23; EPH. 2:1

5 SALVATION / REDEMPTION

It is God's will that all people be saved. The only way to receive personal salvation is through sincere repentance of one's sins and faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. New birth is the work of the Holy Spirit and happens solely by God's grace. Therefore, man is not justified by good works and cannot achieve salvation by his own effort. Because of the weakness of sinful flesh, he cannot fully obey God's holy law.

Out of great love and mercy, the righteous God sent His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered a substitutionary, atoning, and reconciling death on the cross for all people. The blood of Jesus Christ is thus the only means of cleansing and freedom from sin. All who believe in Jesus receive, through Him, the righteousness required by the law. The believer is credited only with the righteousness of Christ, because Christ, through His perfect obedience, has accomplished atonement on the cross. The Holy Spirit dwells in believers and testifies to them that they are children of God.

MATT. 7:13–14; JOHN 3:3–18; ROM. 1:17; ROM. 2:4; ROM. 3:21–26; ROM. 8:11–17; 2 COR. 5:21; GAL. 3:10–14; EPH. 2:8–9; 1 TIM. 2:4–6; 1 PET. 1:18–21; 1 JOHN 1:7–9

6 THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The New Testament Church of Jesus Christ was established through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and has, ever since, consisted of all people reborn by God throughout the world. The Church is open to all nations, regardless of cultural or geographical background.

Anyone who places their trust in Jesus Christ by faith is immediately added to the spiritual body of the universal Church after conversion and new birth by the Holy Spirit. Members of the universal Church gather in local congregations for worship, fellowship, mutual encouragement, correction, assistance, and strengthening of faith; for celebrating the Lord's Supper; for prayer; and for proclaiming the Word of God.

Every Christian should be actively involved in a local congregation, to bear and be supported, and to contribute their gifts and abilities to build God's kingdom in this world. The Holy Spirit grants every believer spiritual gifts for service within the Church. By exercising these gifts, each person can serve God, grow in faith, honor God, and support the Church.

Every local congregation is directly under the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and is led by elders empowered by the Holy Spirit who meet the requirements of God's Word. We therefore reject all institutions, organizations, or offices that seek to rule over or control the Church. Each local church is encouraged to cooperate with other local churches of Jesus Christ.

ACTS 2; ACTS 4:32; ROM. 12:3–8; 1 COR. 12, 14; 1 COR. 12:13; EPH. 1:20–23; EPH. 2:13–22; EPH. 3:20; EPH. 4:8–12; EPH. 5:25–32; COL. 1:18; 1 THESS. 1:8; 1 TIM. 2:12–3:13; 1 TIM. 3:15; TITUS 1:5–9; 1 PET. 4:10–12

6.1 THE CHURCH AND THE STATE

The state is established by God to maintain public order. Every Christian should be a model citizen and submit to civil laws and obligations, as long as these do not contradict God's commandments or biblical principles. The functions and responsibilities of the church and the state are distinct and must not be mixed. Prayer for governing authorities is a serious duty of every Christian.

ACTS 5:29; ROM. 13:1–7; 1 TIM. 2:2; 1 PET. 2:13–17

6.2 THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL

The nation of Israel is God's chosen people and has a unique relationship with Him. We distinguish between the ethnic people of Israel and the Church. Israel holds a central place in God's plan of salvation for humanity, in the past, present, and future. God is already gathering Israel in its homeland. The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 shows that biblical prophecies spanning thousands of years are being fulfilled. Israel will recognize Jesus as the Messiah, be saved, and receive the promises God made in the Old Testament that have not yet been fulfilled at His glorious return. At the same time, we believe that Jews, just like all people, can already be saved today through faith in Jesus Christ and become part of the Church.

ISA. 11:11–12; JER. 31; EZEK. 22:17–22; EZEK. 36:22–24; EZEK. 37:1–13; ZEPH. 2:1–2; ROM. 2:17–29; ROM. 5:11; ROM. 11; GAL. 6:16; EPH. 2:11–18; REV. 21:5–6

7 BAPTISM

Baptism is a public confession of personal faith in Jesus Christ and is performed by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This symbolic immersion in water points to the crucified, buried, and risen Savior.

We baptize only those who have testified to their faith in Christ and repentance, and who consciously choose to live under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Baptism is an outward expression of the inner reality of the believer's heart. It symbolizes dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ.

MATT. 28:19; ACTS 2:38; ACTS 8:12,37; ACTS 9:18–19; ACTS 16:14–15; ACTS 18:8; ROM. 6:3–11

8 THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a memorial meal commemorating the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The bread, which is broken, symbolizes the Lord's body that was broken through suffering and crucifixion. The cup of wine symbolizes the blood of the Lord, shed for us.

The Lord's Supper is also a fellowship meal. We eat from one bread and share one cup as a symbol that the Lord's sacrificial death unites us as one body. It is also a proclamation meal. Each participant testifies through partaking that the Lord died personally for them. In this way, we proclaim the Lord's death until He returns.

Prerequisites for participation in the Lord's Supper are new birth, baptism by faith, and self-examination. The Lord's Supper does not grant forgiveness of sins, but strengthens God's children by reminding them of God's wonderful love and Jesus Christ's self-sacrificial obedience..

MATT. 26:26–29; MARK 14:22–25; LUKE 22:14–20; 1 COR. 10:16–17; 1 COR. 11:17–34

9 THE GOSPEL AND MISSION

The command of our Lord Jesus Christ to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world applies at all times and to every local congregation. It is therefore the duty and privilege of every believer, and of the entire Church, to strive to spread the Gospel and make disciples of Jesus.

No regard should be given to social status or position. This mission is not to be carried out through violence, coercion, or deception, but through verbal witness, supported by a godly Christian lifestyle.

MATT. 28:18–20; MARK 16:15; JOHN 17:18; ACTS 1:8; ROM. 10:14–15; 1 COR. 2:4; 1 THESS. 1:8; 1 PET. 3:15

10 THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Christian life is a life of active following of Jesus. It means orienting one's life toward God and following the example of Jesus Christ. Although the reborn Christian has died to sin, he is not sinless and can still sin throughout his life.

Awareness of sin, repentance, and devotion to God are therefore necessary for a Christian to stand firm in faith. This lifelong process is called sanctification in the Bible. By putting off the old self with its sinful desires and putting on the new self, created in God's image and bearing holy traits, the Christian becomes more like his example, the Lord Jesus.

The Christian life is possible only through connection with the Lord Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is expressed in love for God and fellow believers, as well as in the fruit of the Spirit, which manifests as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The heart and mind of a follower of Jesus are focused on the divine and heavenly, not on earthly, perishable things.

MATT. 6:33; JOHN 13:35; JOHN 15:1-17; ROM. 8:29; 1 COR. 13; GAL. 5:22; EPH. 2:10; EPH. 4:1-2; COL. 3:2,10; 1 THESS. 4:3; HEB. 12:14; JAMES 2:17; 1 PET. 1:13-17; 1 PET. 2:21; 2 PET. 1:7

11 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

God created man as male and female. There are only these two genders, which reflect God's wonderful nature. Rejecting biological gender is rebellion against God.

Marriage is a God-created institution, which can be entered into only between one man and one woman. This holy and divine order was established in the Garden of Eden, remains valid to this day, and is intended for life. Marriage reflects the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Therefore, we reject marriage between a child of God and a non-believer.

Husband and wife are called to be aware of their biblically defined roles and responsibilities within the family and to support one another in these areas. Sexuality was created exclusively for marriage, and any sexual relationship outside of marriage is sin. Children are a gift and a work of God, and life begins at conception. We therefore reject abortion at any stage. Parents bear a special responsibility to raise their children in the fear of God and instruct them in God's Word.

GEN. 1:27-28; GEN. 2:18-24; GEN. 9:1; DEUT. 11:19; DEUT. 32:39; MATT. 19:3-9; 1 COR. 7:38-40; 2 COR. 6:14-15; EPH. 5:21-33; EPH. 6:1-4; COL. 3:18-21

12 LIFE AFTER DEATH

Every person has an immortal soul and an eternal spirit, which leave the body at the moment of death. The souls of reborn believers rest in Christ, while the souls of the unsaved are kept for the day of the Final Judgment.

Every human being will be resurrected from the dead. The redeemed believers will rise first when Christ returns to take His Church into His eternal glory. Those who have not believed the Gospel will rise later, but for judgment and eternal separation from God in Hell, a place of unbearable torment.

DAN. 12:2-3; JOHN 5:28-29; ROM. 2:6-10; 1 COR. 15; 2 THESS. 1:5-10; 2 PET. 1:11; REV. 20:5, 11-15

13 THE RAPTURE

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return to take His Church to Himself. The exact timing of the Rapture is unknown, requiring Christians to always remain ready. Nevertheless, signs have been given that announce the coming of our Lord.

The event of the Rapture will occur suddenly, like lightning, after the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God sound. The bodies of deceased believers in Christ will be resurrected and, together with living believers, transformed into heavenly bodies. Together they will be caught up to meet Christ in the clouds and will be with Him forever.

MATT. 24:3–51; MATT. 25:13; MARK 13:3–37; LUKE 21:7–36; LUKE 18:8; JOHN 14:2; ACTS 1:11; 1 COR. 15:50–52; 2 TIM. 4:8; 1 THESS. 4:13–18; 1 THESS. 5:4–10; 2 THESS. 1:7–10; HEB. 9:28; JAMES 5:8; REV. 1:7; REV. 3:10–11; REV. 22:20

14 THE END OF SATAN

Satan is the originator of sin. Originally, he was a powerful angel created by God. Since his rebellion against God and his fall, he exists as an evil personality, the great adversary of God, and the accuser of all believers. He rules over a host of demons who serve him.

Through the death and resurrection of Christ, Satan has already been defeated, and all powers of darkness await their final destruction. At the end of the world, Satan, along with his followers and the realm of the dead, will be cast by God into the lake of fire and sulfur, where he will be tormented forever.

ISA. 14:12–14; EZEK. 28:13–17; JOHN 8:44; EPH. 6:11–12; REV. 12:7–12; REV. 20:10–15

15 THE FINAL JUDGEMENT AND GOD'S NEW WORLD

God will judge all creation through Jesus Christ because of sinfulness. This judgment will not, as in the time of Noah, occur by water but by fire. The heavens will pass away with a great roar, the elements will melt with fire, and the present earth will no longer exist.

According to His promise, God will create new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. God Himself will dwell among people and rule over them. In God's new world, there will be no death, suffering, crying, or pain, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

GEN. 9:11; ACTS 17:31; 1 PET. 4:7; 2 PET. 3:10–13; REV. 21:1–5

Concluding Remarks:

We encourage personal study of the Holy Scriptures and prayer for divine understanding. We are aware that different theological interpretations exist, but we confess the foundation of the Christian faith as presented in this statement of faith and the authority of the Bible as God's infallible revelation to humanity.

May God, in His grace and love, grant us all insight and understanding of His truth, and may He guide and preserve us on the path of faith to eternity.